

4 January 2016

Market Announcements Office

ASX Limited

**ANNUAL UPDATED STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

FOR RELEASE TO ALL FUNDS LISTED BELOW

Attached is the annual updated United States ("US") issued '*Statement of Additional Information*' ("SAI"), which has been filed with the US Securities Exchange Commission in regards to certain iShares funds quoted on the ASX and listed in the table below:

ASX Code	Issuer	Fund
IBK	iShares, Inc.	iShares MSCI BRIC ETF
IEM	iShares, Inc.	iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF
IKO	iShares, Inc.	iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF
ITW	iShares, Inc.	iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF

An annual updated US prospectus for each of the above funds was also lodged with the ASX today.

Disclaimer: Before investing in an iShares fund, you should carefully consider the appropriateness of such products to your circumstances, read the applicable Australian prospectus and ASX announcements relating to the fund and consult an investment adviser.

For more information about iShares funds go to [www.blackrock.com/au/ishares](http://www.blackrock.com/au/ishares) or call 1300 474 273.

\*\*\* END \*\*\*

# iShares<sup>®</sup>, Inc.

## Statement of Additional Information

Dated December 31, 2015

This combined Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) is not a prospectus. It should be read in conjunction with the current prospectuses (each, a “Prospectus” and collectively, the “Prospectuses”) for the following funds of iShares, Inc. (the “Company”):

<u>Funds</u>	<u>Ticker</u>	<u>Stock Exchange</u>
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	IEMG	NYSE Arca
iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF	ACWV	NYSE Arca
iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF	EWZ	NYSE Arca
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF	BKF	NYSE Arca
iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF	ECH	NYSE Arca
iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF	ICOL	NYSE Arca
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF	EEMA	NASDAQ
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	EEM	NYSE Arca
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF	EMHZ	BATS
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF	EEMV	NYSE Arca
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF	EEMS	NYSE Arca
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF	FM	NYSE Arca
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF	VEGI	NYSE Arca
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF	FILL	NYSE Arca
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF	PICK	NYSE Arca
iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF	EWM	NYSE Arca
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF	EWY	NYSE Arca
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF	EWT	NYSE Arca

The Prospectuses for the above-listed funds (each, a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”) are dated December 31, 2015, as amended and supplemented from time to time. Capitalized terms used herein that are not defined have the same meaning as in the applicable Prospectus, unless otherwise noted. The Financial Statements and Notes contained in the applicable Annual Report and Semi-Annual Report of the Company for the Funds are incorporated by reference into and are deemed to be part of this SAI. A copy of each Fund’s Prospectus, Annual Report and Semi-Annual Report may be obtained without charge by writing to the Company’s distributor, BlackRock Investments, LLC (the “Distributor” or “BRIL”), 1 University Square Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540, calling 1-800-iShares (1-800-474-2737) or visiting [www.iShares.com](http://www.iShares.com). Each Fund’s Prospectus is incorporated by reference into this SAI.

References to the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Investment Company Act” or the “1940 Act”), or other applicable law, will include any rules promulgated thereunder and any guidance, interpretations or modifications by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), SEC staff or other authority with appropriate jurisdiction, including court interpretations, and exemptive, no action or other relief or permission from the SEC, SEC staff or other authority.

iShares<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of BlackRock Fund Advisors and its affiliates.

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# General Description of the Company and the Funds

The Company currently consists of more than 55 investment series or portfolios. The Company was organized as a Maryland corporation on September 1, 1994 and is authorized to have multiple series or portfolios. The Company is an open-end management investment company registered with the SEC under the 1940 Act. The offering of the Company's shares is registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "1933 Act"). This SAI relates to the following Funds:

- iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF
- iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF
- iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF
- iShares MSCI BRIC ETF
- iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF
- iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF
- iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF
- iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF
- iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF
- iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF
- iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF
- iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF
- iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF
- iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF
- iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF
- iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF
- iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF
- iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF

Each Fund is managed by BlackRock Fund Advisors ("BFA"), an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of BlackRock, Inc., and generally seeks to track the investment results of the specific benchmark index identified in the applicable Prospectus for that Fund (each, an "Underlying Index").

Each Fund offers and issues shares at their net asset value per share ("NAV") only in aggregations of a specified number of shares (each, a "Creation Unit"), generally in exchange for a designated portfolio of securities (including any portion of such securities for which cash may be substituted) included in its Underlying Index (the "Deposit Securities"), together with the deposit of a specified cash payment (the "Cash Component"). Shares of the Funds are listed for trading on national securities exchanges such as BATS Exchange, Inc. ("BATS"), The NASDAQ Stock Market, LLC ("NASDAQ") or NYSE Arca, Inc. ("NYSE Arca") (each, a "Listing Exchange"). Shares of each Fund are traded in the secondary market and elsewhere at market prices that may be at, above or below the Fund's NAV. Shares are redeemable only in Creation Units, and, generally, in exchange for portfolio securities and a Cash Component (other than the iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF, iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF and iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF, which generally redeem Creation Units of their shares solely for cash). Creation Units typically are a specified number of shares, generally ranging from 50,000 to 450,000 shares or multiples thereof.

The Company reserves the right to permit or require that creations and redemptions of shares are effected fully or partially in cash. Shares may be issued in advance of receipt of Deposit Securities, subject to various conditions, including a requirement that the Authorized Participant maintain with the Company a cash deposit equal to at least 105% and up to 115%, which percentage BFA may change from time to time, of the market value of the omitted Deposit Securities. The Company may use such cash deposit at any time to purchase Deposit Securities. See the *Creation and Redemption of Creation Units* section of this SAI. Transaction fees and other costs associated with creations or redemptions that include a cash portion may be



higher than the transaction fees and other costs associated with in-kind creations or redemptions. In all cases, conditions with respect to creations and redemptions of shares and fees will be limited in accordance with the requirements of SEC rules and regulations applicable to management investment companies offering redeemable securities.

## Exchange Listing and Trading

A discussion of exchange listing and trading matters associated with an investment in each Fund is contained in the *Shareholder Information* section of each Fund's Prospectus. The discussion below supplements, and should be read in conjunction with, that section of the applicable Prospectus.

Shares of each Fund are listed for trading, and trade throughout the day, on the Listing Exchange and in other secondary markets. Shares of the Funds may also be listed on certain non-U.S. exchanges. There can be no assurance that the requirements of the Listing Exchange necessary to maintain the listing of shares of any Fund will continue to be met. The Listing Exchange may, but is not required to, remove the shares of a Fund from listing if, among other things: (i) following the initial 12-month period beginning upon the commencement of trading of Fund shares, there are fewer than 50 record and/or beneficial owners of shares of the Fund for 30 or more consecutive trading days, (ii) the value of the Underlying Index on which a Fund is based is no longer calculated or available, or (iii) any other event shall occur or condition shall exist that, in the opinion of the Listing Exchange, makes further dealings on the Listing Exchange inadvisable. The Listing Exchange will also remove shares of a Fund from listing and trading upon termination of the Fund.

As in the case of other publicly-traded securities, when you buy or sell shares through a broker, you may incur a brokerage commission determined by that broker, as well as other charges.

In order to provide additional information regarding the indicative value of shares of the Funds, the Listing Exchange or a market data vendor disseminates information every 15 seconds through the facilities of the Consolidated Tape Association, or through other widely disseminated means, an updated "indicative optimized portfolio value" ("IOPV") for the Funds as calculated by an information provider or market data vendor. The Company is not involved in or responsible for any aspect of the calculation or dissemination of the IOPV and makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy of the IOPV.

An IOPV has an equity securities component and a cash component. The equity securities values included in an IOPV are the values of the Deposit Securities for a Fund. While the IOPV reflects the current value of the Deposit Securities required to be deposited in connection with the purchase of a Creation Unit, it does not necessarily reflect the precise composition of the current portfolio of securities held by the Fund at a particular point in time because the current portfolio of the Fund may include securities that are not a part of the current Deposit Securities. Therefore, a Fund's IOPV disseminated during the Listing Exchange trading hours should not be viewed as a real-time update of the Fund's NAV, which is calculated only once a day.

The cash component included in an IOPV consists of estimated accrued interest, dividends and other income, less expenses. If applicable, each IOPV also reflects changes in currency exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and the applicable currency.

The Company reserves the right to adjust the share prices of the Funds in the future to maintain convenient trading ranges for investors. Any adjustments would be accomplished through stock splits or reverse stock splits, which would have no effect on the net assets of the Funds or an investor's equity interest in the Funds.

## Investment Strategies and Risks

Each of the iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF, iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF, iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF, iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF, iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF, iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF, iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF, iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF and iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF seeks to achieve its objective by investing primarily in securities issued by issuers that comprise its relevant Underlying Index and through transactions that provide substantially similar exposure to securities in the relevant Underlying Index.

Each of the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF seeks to achieve its objective by investing all its assets that are invested in Indian securities in a wholly owned subsidiary located in the Republic of Mauritius (each, a “Subsidiary”). The remaining assets will be invested directly by each Fund. Each Subsidiary and Fund will collectively invest at least 90% (for the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF) of each Fund’s total assets in securities that comprise its relevant Underlying Index and depositary receipts representing securities of the relevant Underlying Index.

Each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, generally will invest at least 90% of its assets in the component securities of its Underlying Index and in investments that have economic characteristics that are substantially identical to the component securities of its Underlying Index (*i.e.*, depositary receipts representing securities of the Underlying Index) and may invest up to 10% of its assets in certain futures, options and swap contracts, cash and cash equivalents, including shares of money market funds advised by BFA or its affiliates, as well as in securities not included in its Underlying Index, but which BFA believes will help the Fund track its Underlying Index. Each Fund invests all of its assets that are invested in India in a Subsidiary (collectively, with each Subsidiary referenced above, the “Subsidiaries”).

BFA serves as investment adviser to both the Funds and the Subsidiaries. Unless otherwise indicated, references made in this SAI to the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF refer to each Subsidiary and/or each Fund, as applicable. Each Fund operates as an index fund and will not be actively managed. Adverse performance of a security in a Fund’s portfolio will ordinarily not result in the elimination of the security from the Fund’s portfolio.

Each Fund engages in representative sampling, which is investing in a sample of securities selected by BFA to have a collective investment profile similar to that of the Fund’s Underlying Index. Securities selected have aggregate investment characteristics (based on market capitalization and industry weightings), fundamental characteristics (such as return variability, earnings valuation and yield) and liquidity measures similar to those of the Underlying Index. A fund that uses representative sampling generally does not hold all of the securities that are in its Underlying Index.

Although the Funds do not seek leveraged returns, certain instruments used by the Funds may have a leveraging effect as described below.

In order to permit investments by Chilean pension fund managers (Administradoras de Fondos de Pensiones) (“Chilean fund managers”) in the iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF, the iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF expects to restrict investments in issuances by such Chilean fund managers. This may result in tracking error because the iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF may not be able to invest in certain securities included in the Underlying Index.

**Borrowing.** Each Fund may borrow for temporary or emergency purposes, including to meet payments due from redemptions or to facilitate the settlement of securities or other transactions. Under normal market conditions, any borrowing by a Fund (except for the iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF) will not exceed 10% of the Fund’s net assets; however, each Fund (except for the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF and iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF) generally does not intend to borrow money.

The purchase of securities while borrowings are outstanding may have the effect of leveraging a Fund. The incurrence of leverage increases a Fund’s exposure to risk, and borrowed funds are subject to interest costs that will reduce net income. Purchasing securities while borrowings are outstanding creates special risks, such as the potential for greater volatility in the net asset value of Fund shares and in the yield on a Fund’s portfolio. In addition, the interest expenses from borrowings may exceed the income generated by a Fund’s portfolio and, therefore, the amount available (if any) for distribution to shareholders as dividends may be reduced. BFA may determine to maintain outstanding borrowings if it expects that the benefits to a Fund’s shareholders will outweigh the current reduced return.

Certain types of borrowings by a Fund must be made from a bank or may result in a Fund being subject to covenants in credit agreements relating to asset coverage, portfolio composition requirements and other matters. It is not anticipated that observance of such covenants would impede BFA’s management of a Fund’s portfolio in accordance with a Fund’s

investment objectives and policies. However, a breach of any such covenants not cured within the specified cure period may result in acceleration of outstanding indebtedness and require a Fund to dispose of portfolio investments at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so.

**Currency Transactions.** The Funds do not expect to engage in currency transactions for the purpose of hedging against declines in the value of the Funds’ assets that are denominated in a non-U.S. currency. A Fund may enter into non-U.S. currency forward and non-U.S. currency futures contracts to facilitate local securities settlements or to protect against currency exposure in connection with its distributions to shareholders, but may not enter into such contracts for speculative purposes.

A forward currency contract is an obligation to purchase or sell a specific currency at a future date, which may be any fixed number of days from the date of the contract agreed upon by the parties, at a price set at the time of the contract. A currency futures contract is a contract involving an obligation to deliver or acquire the specified amount of a specific currency, at a specified price and at a specified future time. Currency futures contracts may be settled on a net cash payment basis rather than by the sale and delivery of the underlying currency. To the extent required by law, liquid assets committed to futures contracts will be maintained.

Foreign exchange transactions involve a significant degree of risk and the markets in which foreign exchange transactions are effected may be highly volatile, highly specialized and highly technical. Significant changes, including changes in liquidity and prices, can occur in such markets within very short periods of time, often within minutes. Foreign exchange trading risks include, but are not limited to, exchange rate risk, counterparty risk, maturity gap, interest rate risk, and potential interference by foreign governments through regulation of local exchange markets, foreign investment or particular transactions in non-U.S. currency. If BFA utilizes foreign exchange transactions at an inappropriate time or judges market conditions, trends or correlations incorrectly, foreign exchange transactions may not serve their intended purpose of improving the correlation of a Fund’s return with the performance of its Underlying Index and may lower the Fund’s return. Each Fund could experience losses if the value of its currency forwards, options or futures positions were poorly correlated with its other investments or if it could not close out its positions because of an illiquid market or otherwise. In addition, a Fund could incur transaction costs, including trading commissions, in connection with certain non-U.S. currency transactions.

**Diversification Status.** The following table sets forth the diversification status of each Fund:

Diversified Funds	Non-Diversified Funds
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF
iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF	iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF	iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF	iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF	iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF	iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF	iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF
	iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF
	iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF

With respect to 75% of a Fund’s total assets, a “diversified” fund is limited by the 1940 Act such that it may not invest more than 5% of its total assets in securities of any one issuer and does not acquire more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any one issuer (excluding cash and cash items, government securities, and securities of other investment companies). The remaining 25% of the fund’s total assets may be invested in a single issuer or a number of issuers.

A “non-diversified” fund is a fund that is not limited by the 1940 Act with regard to the percentage of its assets that may be invested in the securities of a single issuer. The securities of a particular issuer (or securities of issuers in particular industries) may dominate the underlying index of such a fund and, consequently, the fund’s investment portfolio. This may adversely affect a fund’s performance or subject the fund’s shares to greater price volatility than that experienced by more diversified investment companies.

Each Fund intends to maintain the required level of diversification and otherwise conduct its operations so as to qualify as a regulated investment company (“RIC”) for purposes of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Internal Revenue Code”), and to relieve the Fund of any liability for U.S. federal income tax to the extent that its earnings are distributed to shareholders, provided that the Fund satisfies a minimum distribution requirement. Compliance with the diversification requirements of the Internal Revenue Code may limit the investment flexibility of the Funds and may make it less likely that the Funds will meet their respective investment objectives.

**Futures, Options on Futures and Securities Options.** Futures contracts and options on futures may be used by a Fund to simulate investment in its Underlying Index, to facilitate trading or to reduce transaction costs. Each Fund may enter into futures contracts and options that are traded on a U.S. or non-U.S. futures exchange. Each Fund will not use futures or options on futures for speculative purposes. Each Fund intends to use futures and options on futures in accordance with Rule 4.5 of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the “CFTC”) promulgated under the Commodity Exchange Act (“CEA”). BFA, with respect to certain Funds, has claimed an exclusion from the definition of the term “commodity pool operator” in accordance with Rule 4.5 so that BFA, in respect of such Funds, is not subject to registration or regulation as a commodity pool operator under the CEA. See the *Regulation Regarding Derivatives* section of this SAI for more information.

Futures contracts provide for the future sale by one party and purchase by another party of a specified amount of a specific instrument or index at a specified future time and at a specified price. Stock index contracts are based on investments that reflect the market value of common stock of the firms included in the investments. Each Fund may enter into futures contracts to purchase securities indexes when BFA anticipates purchasing the underlying securities and believes prices will rise before the purchase will be made. Upon entering into a futures contract, a Fund will be required to deposit with the broker an amount of cash or cash equivalents known as “initial margin,” which is in the nature of a performance bond or good faith deposit on the contract and is returned to the Fund upon termination of the futures contract, assuming all contractual obligations have been satisfied. Subsequent payments, known as “variation margin,” to and from the broker will be made daily as the price of the instrument or index underlying the futures contract fluctuates, making the long and short positions in the futures contract more or less valuable, a process known as “marking-to-market.” At any time prior to the expiration of a futures contract, each Fund may elect to close the position by taking an opposite position, which will operate to terminate the Fund’s existing position in the contract. To the extent required by law, each Fund will segregate liquid assets in an amount equal to its delivery obligations under the futures contracts. An option on a futures contract, as contrasted with the direct investment in such a contract, gives the purchaser the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a position in the underlying futures contract at a specified exercise price at any time prior to the expiration date of the option. Upon exercise of an option, the delivery of the futures position by the writer of the option to the holder of the option will be accompanied by delivery of the accumulated balance in the writer’s futures margin account that represents the amount by which the market price of the futures contract exceeds (in the case of a call) or is less than (in the case of a put) the exercise price of the option on the futures contract. The potential for loss related to the purchase of an option on a futures contract is limited to the premium paid for the option plus transaction costs. Because the value of the option is fixed at the point of sale, there are no daily cash payments by the purchaser to reflect changes in the value of the underlying contract; however, the value of the option changes daily and that change would be reflected in the NAV of each Fund. The potential for loss related to writing call options is unlimited. The potential for loss related to writing put options is limited to the agreed upon price per share, also known as the “strike price,” less the premium received from writing the put. Each Fund may purchase and write put and call options on futures contracts that are traded on an exchange as a hedge against changes in value of its portfolio securities, or in anticipation of the purchase of securities, and may enter into closing transactions with respect to such options to terminate existing positions. There is no guarantee that such closing transactions can be effected.

Securities options may be used by a Fund to obtain access to securities in its Underlying Index or to dispose of securities in its Underlying Index at favorable prices, to invest cash in a securities index that offers similar exposure to that provided by its Underlying Index or otherwise to achieve the Fund’s objective of tracking its Underlying Index. A call option gives a holder the right to purchase a specific security at a specified price (“exercise price”) within a specified period of time. A put option gives a holder the right to sell a specific security at an exercise price within a specified period of time. The initial purchaser of a call option pays the “writer” a premium, which is paid at the time of purchase and is retained by the writer whether or not such

option is exercised. Each Fund may purchase put options to hedge its portfolio against the risk of a decline in the market value of securities held and may purchase call options to hedge against an increase in the price of securities it is committed to purchase. Each Fund may write put and call options along with a long position in options to increase its ability to hedge against a change in the market value of the securities it holds or is committed to purchase. Each Fund may purchase or sell securities options on a U.S. or non-U.S. securities exchange or in the over-the-counter market through a transaction with a dealer. Options on a securities index are typically settled on a net basis based on the appreciation or depreciation of the index level over the strike price. Options on single name securities may be cash- or physically-settled, depending upon the market in which they are traded. Options may be structured so as to be exercisable only on certain dates or on a daily basis. Options may also be structured to have conditions to exercise (*i.e.*, “Knock-in Events”) or conditions that trigger termination (*i.e.*, a “Knock-out Event”). Investments in futures contracts and other investments that contain leverage may require each Fund to maintain liquid assets in an amount equal to its delivery obligations under these contracts and other investments. Generally, each Fund maintains an amount of liquid assets equal to its obligations relative to the position involved, adjusted daily on a marked-to-market basis. With respect to futures contracts that are contractually required to “cash-settle,” each Fund maintains liquid assets in an amount at least equal to the Fund’s daily marked-to-market obligation (*i.e.*, each Fund’s daily net liability, if any), rather than the contracts’ notional value (*i.e.*, the value of the underlying asset). By maintaining assets equal to its net obligation under cash-settled futures contracts, each Fund may employ leverage to a greater extent than if the Fund were required to set aside assets equal to the futures contracts’ full notional value. Each Fund bases its asset maintenance policies on methods permitted by the SEC and its staff and may modify these policies in the future to comply with any changes in the guidance articulated from time to time by the SEC or its staff. Changes in SEC guidance regarding the use of derivatives by registered investment companies may adversely impact a Fund’s ability to invest in futures, options or other derivatives or make investment in such instruments more expensive.

**Illiquid Securities.** Each Fund may invest up to an aggregate amount of 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities (calculated at the time of investment). Illiquid securities may include securities subject to contractual or other restrictions on resale and other instruments that lack readily available markets, as determined in accordance with SEC staff guidance. The liquidity of a security relates to the ability to readily dispose of the security and the price to be obtained upon disposition of the security, which may be lower than the price that would be obtained for a comparable, more liquid security. Illiquid securities may trade at a discount to comparable, more liquid securities and a Fund may not be able to dispose of illiquid securities in a timely fashion or at their expected prices.

**Lending Portfolio Securities.** Each Fund may lend portfolio securities to certain borrowers determined to be creditworthy by BFA, including borrowers affiliated with BFA. The borrowers provide collateral that is maintained in an amount at least equal to the current market value of the securities loaned. No securities loan shall be made on behalf of a Fund if, as a result, the aggregate value of all securities loaned by the particular Fund exceeds one-third of the value of such Fund’s total assets (including the value of the collateral received). A Fund may terminate a loan at any time and obtain the return of the securities loaned. Each Fund receives the value of any interest or cash or non-cash distributions paid on the loaned securities.

With respect to loans that are collateralized by cash, the borrower may be entitled to receive a fee based on the amount of cash collateral. The Funds are typically compensated by the difference between the amount earned on the reinvestment of cash collateral and the fee paid to the borrower. In the case of collateral other than cash, a Fund is typically compensated by a fee paid by the borrower equal to a percentage of the market value of the loaned securities. Any cash collateral may be reinvested in certain short-term instruments either directly on behalf of each lending Fund or through one or more joint accounts or money market funds, including those affiliated with BFA; such investments are subject to investment risk.

Each Fund conducts its securities lending pursuant to an exemptive order from the SEC permitting it to lend portfolio securities to borrowers affiliated with the Fund and to retain an affiliate of the Fund as lending agent. To the extent that a Fund engages in securities lending, BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A. (“BTC”) acts as securities lending agent for the Fund, subject to the overall supervision of BFA. BTC administers the lending program in accordance with guidelines approved by the Company’s Board of Directors (the “Board” or the “Directors”).

Each Fund retains a portion of the securities lending income and remits the remaining portion to BTC as compensation for its services as securities lending agent. Securities lending income is generally equal to the total of income earned from the reinvestment of cash collateral (and excludes collateral investment fees as defined below), and any fees or other payments to and from borrowers of securities. As securities lending agent, BTC bears all operational costs directly related to securities lending. Each Fund is responsible for fees in connection with the investment of cash collateral received for securities on loan in a money market fund managed by BFA however, BTC has agreed to reduce the amount of securities lending income it



receives in order to effectively limit the collateral investment fees the Fund bears to an annual rate of 0.04% (the “collateral investment fees”). Such money market fund shares will not be subject to a sales load, redemption fee, distribution fee or service fee.

Pursuant to the securities lending agreement dated January 1, 2015:

(i) International equity funds retain 80% of securities lending income (which excludes collateral investment fees) and (ii) this amount can never be less than 70% of the sum of securities lending income plus collateral investment fees.

Under the securities lending program, the Funds are categorized into one of several specific asset classes. The determination of a Fund’s asset class category (fixed income, domestic equity, international equity or fund-of-funds), each of which may be subject to a different fee arrangement, is based on a methodology agreed to by the Company and BTC.

In addition, commencing the business day following the date that the aggregate securities lending income (which includes, for this purpose, collateral investment fees) earned across the Exchange-Traded Fund Complex (as defined under “Management — Directors and Officers”) in a calendar year exceeds the aggregate securities lending income earned across the Exchange-Traded Fund Complex in calendar year 2013 (the “Hurdle Date”), each applicable international equity fund, pursuant to the securities lending agreement, will receive for the remainder of that calendar year securities lending income as follows:

(i) 85% of securities lending income (which excludes collateral investment fees) and (ii) this amount can never be less than 70% of the sum of securities lending income plus collateral investment fees.

Securities lending involves exposure to certain risks, including operational risk (*i.e.*, the risk of losses resulting from problems in the settlement and accounting process), “gap” risk (*i.e.*, the risk of a mismatch between the return on cash collateral reinvestments and the fees a Fund has agreed to pay a borrower), and credit, legal, counterparty and market risk. If a securities lending counterparty were to default, a Fund would be subject to the risk of a possible delay in receiving collateral or in recovering the loaned securities, or to a possible loss of rights in the collateral. In the event a borrower does not return a Fund’s securities as agreed, the Fund may experience losses if the proceeds received from liquidating the collateral do not at least equal the value of the loaned security at the time the collateral is liquidated, plus the transaction costs incurred in purchasing replacement securities. This event could trigger adverse tax consequences for a Fund. A Fund could lose money if its short-term investment of the collateral declines in value over the period of the loan. Substitute payments for dividends received by a Fund for securities loaned out by the Fund will not be considered qualified dividend income. BTC will take into account the tax effects on shareholders caused by this difference in connection with a Fund’s securities lending program. Substitute payments received on tax-exempt securities loaned out will not be tax-exempt income.

**Non-U.S. Securities.** Each Fund intends to purchase publicly-traded common stocks of non-U.S. issuers. To the extent a Fund invests in stocks of non-U.S. issuers, the Fund’s investment in such stocks may be in the form of American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”), Global Depositary Receipts (“GDRs”) and European Depositary Receipts (“EDRs”) (collectively, “Depositary Receipts”). Depositary Receipts are receipts, typically issued by a bank or trust issuer, which evidence ownership of underlying securities issued by a non-U.S. issuer. For ADRs, the depository is typically a U.S. financial institution and the underlying securities are issued by a non-U.S. issuer. For other forms of Depositary Receipts, the depository may be a non-U.S. or a U.S. entity, and the underlying securities may be issued by a non-U.S. or a U.S. issuer. Depositary Receipts are not necessarily denominated in the same currency as their underlying securities. Generally, ADRs, issued in registered form, are designed for use in the U.S. securities markets, and EDRs, issued in bearer form, are designed for use in European securities markets. GDRs are tradable both in the United States and in Europe and are designed for use throughout the world.

The Funds will not invest in any unlisted Depositary Receipt or any Depositary Receipt that BFA deems illiquid at the time of purchase or for which pricing information is not readily available. In general, Depositary Receipts must be sponsored, but a Fund may invest in unsponsored Depositary Receipts under certain limited circumstances. The issuers of unsponsored Depositary Receipts are not obligated to disclose material information in the United States. Therefore, there may be less information available regarding such issuers and there may be no correlation between available information and the market value of the Depositary Receipts.

Investing in the securities of non-U.S. issuers involves special risks and considerations not typically associated with investing in U.S. issuers. These include differences in accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards, the possibility of expropriation or confiscatory taxation, adverse changes in investment or exchange control regulations, political instability

which could affect U.S. investments in non-U.S. countries, and potential restrictions on the flow of international capital. Non-U.S. issuers may be subject to less governmental regulation than U.S. issuers. Moreover, individual non-U.S. economies may differ favorably or unfavorably from the U.S. economy in such respects as growth of gross domestic product (“GDP”), rate of inflation, capital reinvestment, resource self-sufficiency and balance of payment positions.

**Regulation Regarding Derivatives.** The CFTC subjects advisors to registered investment companies to regulation by the CFTC if a fund that is advised by the advisor either (i) invests, directly or indirectly, more than a prescribed level of its liquidation value in CFTC-regulated futures, options and swaps (“CFTC Derivatives”), or (ii) markets itself as providing investment exposure to such instruments. The CFTC also subjects advisors to registered investment companies to regulation by the CFTC if the registered investment company invests in one or more commodity pools. To the extent a Fund uses CFTC Derivatives, it intends to do so below such prescribed levels and intends not to market itself as a “commodity pool” or a vehicle for trading such instruments.

BFA has claimed an exclusion from the definition of the term “commodity pool operator” under the CEA pursuant to Rule 4.5 under the CEA with respect to the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF, iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF, iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF, iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF, iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF, iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF and iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF. BFA is not, therefore, subject to registration or regulation as a “commodity pool operator” under the CEA with respect to the Funds.

The iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF (the “No-Action Letter Funds”) may also have investments in “underlying funds” (and such underlying funds themselves may invest in underlying funds) not advised by BFA (which for purposes of the no-action letter referenced below may include certain securitized vehicles, mortgage real estate investment trusts and/or investment companies that may invest in CFTC Derivatives), and therefore may be viewed by the CFTC as commodity pools. BFA has no transparency into the holdings of these underlying funds because they are not advised by BFA. To address this issue of lack of transparency, the CFTC staff issued a no-action letter on November 29, 2012 permitting the advisor of a fund that invests in such underlying funds and that would otherwise have filed a claim of exclusion pursuant to CFTC Rule 4.5 to delay registration as a “commodity pool operator” until six months from the date on which the CFTC issues additional guidance on the treatment of CFTC Derivatives held by underlying funds. BFA, the advisor of the No-Action Letter Funds, has filed a claim with the CFTC for such Funds to rely on this no-action relief. Accordingly, BFA is not subject to registration or regulation as a “commodity pool operator” under the CEA in respect of such Funds.

Derivative contracts, including, without limitation, swaps, currency forwards, and non-deliverable forwards, are subject to regulation under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (“Dodd-Frank Act”) in the U.S. and under comparable regimes in Europe, Asia and other non-U.S. jurisdictions. Under the Dodd-Frank Act, swaps, non-deliverable forwards and certain other derivatives traded in the over-the-counter market will become subject to margin requirements when regulations are finalized, which is anticipated to be in the next year or two. Implementation of regulation under the Dodd-Frank Act regarding clearing, mandatory trading and margining of swaps and other derivatives may increase the costs to a fund trading in these instruments and, as a result, may affect returns to investors in a Fund.

As a result of regulatory requirements under the 1940 Act, each Fund is required to maintain an amount of liquid assets, accrued on a daily basis, having an aggregate value at least equal to the value of a Fund’s obligations under the applicable derivatives contract. To the extent that derivatives contracts are settled on a physical basis, a Fund will generally be required to maintain an amount of liquid assets equal to the notional value of the contract. On the other hand, in connection with derivatives contracts that are performed on a net basis, a Fund will generally be required to maintain liquid assets, accrued daily, equal only to the accrued excess, if any, of a Fund’s obligations over those of its counterparty under the contract. Accordingly, reliance by a Fund on physically-settled derivatives contracts may adversely impact investors by requiring a Fund to set aside a greater amount of liquid assets than would generally be required if a Fund were relying on cash-settled derivatives contracts.

**Repurchase Agreements.** A repurchase agreement is an instrument under which the purchaser (*i.e.*, a Fund) acquires the security and the seller agrees, at the time of the sale, to repurchase the security at a mutually agreed upon time and price, thereby determining the yield during the purchaser’s holding period. Repurchase agreements may be construed to be

collateralized loans by the purchaser to the seller secured by the securities transferred to the purchaser. If a repurchase agreement is construed to be a collateralized loan, the underlying securities will not be considered to be owned by a Fund but only to constitute collateral for the seller's obligation to pay the repurchase price, and, in the event of a default by the seller, the Fund may suffer time delays and incur costs or losses in connection with the disposition of the collateral.

In any repurchase transaction, the collateral for a repurchase agreement may include: (i) cash items; (ii) obligations issued by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities; or (iii) obligations that, at the time the repurchase agreement is entered into, are determined to (A) have exceptionally strong capacity to meet their financial obligations and (B) are sufficiently liquid such that they can be sold at approximately their carrying value in the ordinary course of business within seven days.

Repurchase agreements pose certain risks for a Fund that utilizes them. Such risks are not unique to the Funds, but are inherent in repurchase agreements. The Funds seek to minimize such risks, but because of the inherent legal uncertainties involved in repurchase agreements, such risks cannot be eliminated. Lower quality collateral and collateral with a longer maturity may be subject to greater price fluctuations than higher quality collateral and collateral with a shorter maturity. If the repurchase agreement counterparty were to default, lower quality collateral may be more difficult to liquidate than higher quality collateral. Should the counterparty default and the amount of collateral not be sufficient to cover the counterparty's repurchase obligation, a Fund would likely retain the status of an unsecured creditor of the counterparty (*i.e.*, the position a Fund would normally be in if it were to hold, pursuant to its investment policies, other unsecured debt securities of the defaulting counterparty) with respect to the amount of the shortfall. As an unsecured creditor, a Fund would be at risk of losing some or all of the principal and income involved in the transaction.

**Reverse Repurchase Agreements.** Reverse repurchase agreements involve the sale of securities with an agreement to repurchase the securities at an agreed-upon price, date and interest payment and have the characteristics of borrowing. Generally, the effect of such transactions is that a Fund can recover all or most of the cash invested in the portfolio securities involved during the term of the reverse repurchase agreement, while in many cases the Fund is able to keep some of the interest income associated with those securities. Such transactions are advantageous only if a Fund has an opportunity to earn a rate of interest on the cash derived from these transactions that is greater than the interest cost of obtaining the same amount of cash. Opportunities to realize earnings from the use of the proceeds equal to or greater than the interest required to be paid may not always be available and a Fund intends to use the reverse repurchase technique only when BFA believes it will be advantageous to the Fund. The use of reverse repurchase agreements may exaggerate any increase or decrease in the value of a Fund's assets. A Fund's exposure to reverse repurchase agreements will be covered by liquid assets having a value equal to or greater than the Fund's obligations under such commitments. The use of reverse repurchase agreements is a form of leverage, and the proceeds obtained by a Fund through reverse repurchase agreements may be invested in additional securities.

**Securities of Investment Companies.** Each Fund may invest in the securities of other investment companies (including money market funds) and real estate investment trusts ("REITs") to the extent permitted by law. Pursuant to the 1940 Act, a Fund's investment in registered investment companies is generally limited to, subject to certain exceptions: (i) 3% of the total outstanding voting stock of any one investment company; (ii) 5% of a Fund's total assets with respect to any one investment company; and (iii) 10% of a Fund's total assets with respect to investment companies in the aggregate. To the extent allowed by law or regulation, each Fund intends from time to time to invest its assets in the securities of investment companies, including, but not limited to, money market funds, including those advised by or otherwise affiliated with BFA, in excess of the general limits discussed above. The iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, in order to improve its portfolio liquidity and its ability to track the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, may invest up to 10% of its assets in shares of other iShares funds that invest in securities in the MSCI Emerging Markets ETF. BFA will not charge advisory fees on that portion of the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF's assets invested in shares of other iShares funds. Other investment companies in which a Fund may invest can be expected to incur fees and expenses for operations, such as investment advisory and administration fees, which would be in addition to those incurred by the Fund. Pursuant to guidance issued by the SEC staff, fees and expenses of money market funds used for cash collateral received in connection with loans of securities are not treated as Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, which reflect a Fund's *pro rata* share of the fees and expenses incurred by investing in other investment companies (as disclosed in the Prospectus, as applicable).

**Short-Term Instruments and Temporary Investments.** Each Fund may invest in short-term instruments, including money market instruments, on an ongoing basis to provide liquidity or for other reasons. Money market instruments are generally short-term investments that may include but are not limited to: (i) shares of money market funds (including those advised by



BFA or otherwise affiliated with BFA); (ii) obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities (including government-sponsored enterprises); (iii) negotiable certificates of deposit (“CDs”), bankers’ acceptances, fixed-time deposits and other obligations of U.S. and non-U.S. banks (including non-U.S. branches) and similar institutions; (iv) commercial paper rated, at the date of purchase, “Prime-1” by Moody’s® Investors Service, Inc., “F-1” by Fitch Ratings, Inc., or “A-1” by Standard & Poor’s® Financial Services LLC, a subsidiary of McGraw Hill Financial, Inc. (“Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services”), or if unrated, of comparable quality as determined by BFA; (v) non-convertible corporate debt securities (e.g., bonds and debentures) with remaining maturities at the date of purchase of not more than 397 days and that satisfy the rating requirements set forth in Rule 2a-7 under the 1940 Act; (vi) repurchase agreements; and (vii) short-term U.S. dollar-denominated obligations of non-U.S. banks (including U.S. branches) that, in the opinion of BFA, are of comparable quality to obligations of U.S. banks which may be purchased by a Fund. Any of these instruments may be purchased on a current or forward-settled basis. Time deposits are non-negotiable deposits maintained in banking institutions for specified periods of time at stated interest rates. Bankers’ acceptances are time drafts drawn on commercial banks by borrowers, usually in connection with international transactions.

**Swap Agreements.** Swap agreements are cash-settled contracts between parties in which one party agrees to make periodic payments to the other party based on the change in market value or level of a specified rate, index or asset. In return, the other party agrees to make periodic payments to the first party based on the return of a different specified rate, index or asset. Swap agreements will usually be performed on a net basis, with a Fund receiving or paying only the net amount of the two payments. The net amount of the excess, if any, of a Fund’s obligations over its entitlements with respect to each swap is accrued on a daily basis and an amount of liquid assets having an aggregate value at least equal to the accrued excess will be maintained by the Fund.

The use of interest rate, credit default, index, commodity and currency or other asset-based swaps is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. These transactions do not involve the delivery of securities or other underlying assets.

**Tracking Stocks.** A tracking stock is a separate class of common stock whose value is linked to a specific business unit or operating division within a larger company and is designed to “track” the performance of such business unit or division. The tracking stock may pay dividends to shareholders independent of the parent company. The parent company, rather than the business unit or division, generally is the issuer of tracking stock. However, holders of the tracking stock may not have the same rights as holders of the company’s common stock.

**Future Developments.** The Board may, in the future, authorize each Fund to invest in securities contracts and investments, other than those listed in this SAI and in the applicable Prospectuses, provided they are consistent with each Fund’s investment objective and do not violate any of its investment restrictions or policies.

## General Considerations and Risks

A discussion of some of the principal risks associated with an investment in a Fund is contained in the applicable Prospectus.

An investment in a Fund should be made with an understanding that the value of the Fund’s portfolio securities may fluctuate in accordance with changes in the financial condition of the issuers of the portfolio securities, the value of stocks in general, and other factors that affect the market.

**Borrowing Risk.** Borrowing may exaggerate changes in the net asset value of Fund shares and in the return on a Fund’s portfolio. Borrowing will cost a Fund interest expense and other fees. The costs of borrowing may reduce a Fund’s return. Borrowing may cause a Fund to liquidate positions when it may not be advantageous to do so to satisfy its obligations.

**Commodities Investment Risk.** Exposure to commodities markets may subject a Fund to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities. The commodities markets have experienced periods of extreme volatility. Similar future market conditions may result in rapid and substantial valuation increases or decreases in a Fund’s holdings.

The commodities markets may fluctuate widely based on a variety of factors. Movements in commodity investment prices are outside of a Fund’s control and may not be anticipated by Fund management. Price movements may be influenced by, among other things: governmental, agricultural, trade, fiscal, monetary and exchange control programs and policies; changing market and economic conditions; market liquidity; weather and climate conditions, including droughts and floods;

livestock disease; changing supply and demand relationships and levels of domestic production and imported commodities; changes in storage costs; the availability of local, intrastate and interstate transportation systems; energy conservation; the success of exploration projects; changes in international balances of payments and trade; domestic and foreign rates of inflation; currency devaluations and revaluations; domestic and foreign political and economic events; domestic and foreign interest rates and/or investor expectations concerning interest rates; foreign currency/exchange rates; domestic and foreign governmental regulation and taxation; war, acts of terrorism and other political upheaval and conflicts; governmental expropriation; investment and trading activities of mutual funds, hedge funds and commodities funds; and changes in philosophies and emotions of market participants. The frequency and magnitude of such changes cannot be predicted.

The prices of commodities can also fluctuate widely due to supply and demand disruptions in major producing or consuming regions. Certain commodities or natural resources may be produced in a limited number of countries and may be controlled by a small number of producers or groups of producers. As a result, political, economic regulator and supply-related events in such countries could have a disproportionate impact on the prices of such commodities.

A decrease in the production of a physical commodity or a decrease in the volume of such commodity available for transportation, mining, processing, storage or distribution may adversely impact the financial performance of a commodity or commodity-related company that devotes a portion of its business to that commodity. Production declines and volume decreases could be caused by various factors, including catastrophic events affecting production, depletion of resources, labor difficulties, environmental proceedings, increased regulations, equipment failures and unexpected maintenance problems, import supply disruption, governmental expropriation, political upheaval or conflicts or increased competition from alternative energy sources or commodity prices. Agricultural commodities may be adversely affected by weather or other natural phenomena, such as drought, floods and pests.

A sustained decline in demand for such commodities could also adversely affect the financial performance of commodity-related companies. Factors that could lead to a decline in demand include economic recession or other adverse economic conditions, higher taxes on commodities or increased governmental regulations, increases in fuel economy, consumer shifts to the use of alternative commodities or fuel sources, changes in commodity prices, or weather.

The commodity markets are subject to temporary distortions and other disruptions due to, among other factors, lack of liquidity, the participation of speculators, and government regulation and other actions. U.S. futures exchanges and some foreign exchanges limit the amount of fluctuation in futures contract prices which may occur in a single business day (generally referred to as “daily price fluctuation limits”). The maximum or minimum price of a contract as a result of these limits is referred to as a “limit price.” If the limit price has been reached in a particular contract, no trades may be made beyond the limit price. Limit prices have the effect of precluding trading in a particular contract or forcing the liquidation of contracts at disadvantageous times or prices.

**Custody Risk.** Custody risk refers to the risks inherent in the process of clearing and settling trades and to the holding of securities, cash and other assets by local banks, agents and depositories. Low trading volumes and volatile prices in less developed markets make trades harder to complete and settle, and governments or trade groups may compel local agents to hold securities in designated depositories that may not be subject to independent evaluation. Local agents are held only to the standards of care of their local markets, and thus may be subject to limited or no government oversight. Communications between the United States and emerging market countries may be unreliable, increasing the risk of delayed settlements or losses of security certificates. In general, the less developed a country’s securities market is, the greater the likelihood of custody problems. Practices in relation to the settlement of securities transactions in emerging markets involve higher risks than those in developed markets, in part because of the use of brokers and counterparties that are often less well capitalized, and custody and registration of assets in some countries may be unreliable. The possibility of fraud, negligence or undue influence being exerted by the issuer or refusal to recognize ownership exists in some emerging markets, and, along with other factors, could result in ownership registration being lost. In addition, the laws of certain countries may put limits on a Fund’s ability to recover its assets if a foreign bank or depository or issuer of a security or an agent of any of the foregoing goes bankrupt. A Fund would absorb any loss resulting from such custody problems and may have no successful claim for compensation.

**Dividend Risk.** There is no guarantee that issuers of the stocks held by a Fund will declare dividends in the future or that, if declared, they will either remain at current levels or increase over time.

**Operational Risk.** BFA and a Fund's other service providers may experience disruptions or operating errors that could negatively impact the Funds. While service providers are required to have appropriate operational risk management policies and procedures, their methods of operational risk management may differ from a Fund's in the setting of priorities, the personnel and resources available or the effectiveness of relevant controls. BFA, through its monitoring and oversight of service providers, seeks to ensure that service providers take appropriate precautions to avoid and mitigate risks that could lead to disruptions and operating errors. However, it is not possible for BFA or the other Fund service providers to identify all of the operational risks that may affect a Fund or to develop processes and controls to completely eliminate or mitigate their occurrence or effects.

**Risk of Derivatives.** A derivative is a financial contract, the value of which depends on, or is derived from, the value of an underlying asset, a commodity (such as gold or silver), a currency or an index (a measure of value or rates, such as the S&P 500® or the prime lending rate). A Fund may invest in stock index futures contracts, securities options and other derivatives. Compared to conventional securities, derivatives can be more sensitive to changes in interest rates or to sudden fluctuations in market prices and thus a Fund's losses may be greater if it invests in derivatives than if it invests only in conventional securities. Derivatives are also subject to counterparty risk, which is the risk that the other party in the transaction will not fulfill its contractual obligations.

**Risk of Equity Securities.** An investment in a Fund should be made with an understanding of the risks inherent in an investment in equity securities, including the risk that the financial condition of issuers may become impaired or that the general condition of stock markets may deteriorate (either of which may cause a decrease in the value of the portfolio securities and thus in the value of shares of the Fund). Common stocks are susceptible to general stock market fluctuations and to increases and decreases in value as market confidence and perceptions of their issuers change. These investor perceptions are based on various and unpredictable factors, including expectations regarding government, economic, monetary and fiscal policies, inflation and interest rates, economic expansion or contraction, and global or regional political, economic or banking crises. Holders of common stocks incur more risks than holders of preferred stocks and debt obligations because common stockholders generally have rights to receive payments from stock issuers that are inferior to the rights of creditors, or holders of debt obligations or preferred stocks. Further, unlike debt securities, which typically have a stated principal amount payable at maturity (the value of which, however, is subject to market fluctuations prior to maturity), or preferred stocks, which typically have a liquidation preference and which may have stated optional or mandatory redemption provisions, common stocks have neither a fixed principal amount nor a maturity date.

Although most of the securities in each Underlying Index are listed on a securities exchange, the principal trading market for some of the securities may be in the over-the-counter market. The existence of a liquid trading market for certain securities may depend on whether dealers will make a market in such securities. There can be no assurance that a market will be made or maintained or that any such market will be or remain liquid. The price at which securities may be sold and the value of a Fund's shares will be adversely affected if trading markets for the Fund's portfolio securities are limited or absent, or if bid/ask spreads are wide.

**Risk of Futures and Options Transactions.** There are several risks accompanying the utilization of futures contracts and options on futures contracts. A position in futures contracts and options on futures contracts may be closed only on the exchange on which the contract was made (or a linked exchange). While each Fund plans to utilize futures contracts only if an active market exists for such contracts, there is no guarantee that a liquid market will exist for the contract at a specified time. Futures contracts, by definition, project price levels in the future and not current levels of valuation; therefore, market circumstances may result in a discrepancy between the price of the stock index future and the movement in a Fund's Underlying Index. In the event of adverse price movements, a Fund would continue to be required to make daily cash payments to maintain its required margin. In such situations, if a Fund has insufficient cash, it may have to sell portfolio securities to meet daily margin requirements at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so. In addition, a Fund may be required to deliver the instruments underlying the futures contracts it has sold.

The risk of loss in trading futures contracts or uncovered call options in some strategies (e.g., selling uncovered stock index futures contracts) is potentially unlimited. The Funds do not plan to use futures and options contracts in this way. The risk of a futures position may still be large as traditionally measured due to the low margin deposits required. In many cases, a relatively small price movement in a futures contract may result in immediate and substantial loss or gain to the investor relative to the size of a required margin deposit. The Funds, however, intend to utilize futures and options contracts in a manner designed to limit their risk exposure to levels comparable to a direct investment in the types of stocks in which they invest.

Utilization of futures and options on futures by a Fund involves the risk of imperfect or even negative correlation to its Underlying Index if the index underlying the futures contract differs from the Underlying Index. There is also the risk of loss of margin deposits in the event of bankruptcy of a broker with whom a Fund has an open position in the futures contract or option. The purchase of put or call options will be based upon predictions by BFA as to anticipated trends, which predictions could prove to be incorrect.

Because the futures market generally imposes less burdensome margin requirements than the securities market, an increased amount of participation by speculators in the futures market could result in price fluctuations. Certain financial futures exchanges limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in futures contract prices during a single trading day. The daily limit establishes the maximum amount by which the price of a futures contract may vary either up or down from the previous day's settlement price at the end of a trading session. Once the daily limit has been reached in a particular type of contract, no trades may be made on that day at a price beyond that limit. It is possible that futures contract prices could move to the daily limit for several consecutive trading days with little or no trading, thereby preventing prompt liquidation of futures positions and subjecting each Fund to substantial losses. In the event of adverse price movements, each Fund would be required to make daily cash payments of variation margin.

**Risk of Investing in Non-U.S. Equity Securities.** An investment in a Fund involves risks similar to those of investing in a portfolio of equity securities traded on foreign exchanges. These risks include market fluctuations caused by such factors as economic and political developments in those foreign countries, changes in interest rates and perceived trends in stock prices. Investing in securities issued by issuers domiciled in countries other than the domicile of the investor and denominated in currencies other than an investor's local currency entails certain considerations and risks not typically encountered by the investor in making investments in its home country and in that country's currency. These considerations include favorable or unfavorable changes in interest rates, currency exchange rates, exchange control regulations and the costs that may be incurred in connection with conversions between various currencies. Investing in any of the Funds also involves certain risks and considerations not typically associated with investing in a fund whose portfolio contains exclusively securities of U.S. issuers. These risks include generally less liquid and less efficient securities markets; generally greater price volatility; less publicly available information about issuers; the imposition of withholding or other taxes; the imposition of restrictions on the expatriation of funds or other assets of the Funds; restrictions on ownership of Indian and other foreign countries' securities by foreign entities; higher transaction and custody costs; delays and risks attendant in settlement procedures; difficulties in enforcing contractual obligations; lower liquidity and significantly smaller market capitalization; different accounting and disclosure standards; lower levels of regulation of the securities markets; more substantial government interference with the economy and businesses; higher rates of inflation; greater social, economic, and political uncertainty; the risk of nationalization or expropriation of assets; and the risk of war.

**Risk of Swap Agreements.** The risk of loss with respect to swaps is generally limited to the net amount of payments that a Fund is contractually obligated to make. Swap agreements are subject to the risk that the swap counterparty will default on its obligations. If such a default occurs, a Fund will have contractual remedies pursuant to the agreements related to the transaction. However, such remedies may be subject to bankruptcy and insolvency laws which could affect such Fund's rights as a creditor (e.g., a Fund may not receive the net amount of payments that it is contractually entitled to receive).

Regulators have proposed regulations that would require a Fund to post and collect initial and variation margin (comprised exclusively of cash, in the case of variation margin), in connection with trading of over-the-counter swaps. Adoption of these regulations is likely to raise the costs for a Fund of investment in swaps. In addition, the prudential regulators have indicated that they intend to adopt legislation requiring certain regulated counterparties to include in swap agreements terms that restrict the rights of counterparties, such as a Fund, to terminate swaps and foreclose upon collateral in the event that the counterparty and/or its affiliates are subject to certain types of insolvency proceedings.

**Treaty/Tax Risk.** Each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF operate, in part, through the Subsidiaries, which in turn invest in securities of Indian issuers. At this time, the Subsidiaries should be eligible to take advantage of the benefits of the Double Tax Avoidance Agreement between India and Mauritius ("DTAA"). Numerous investors have relied on the benefits of the DTAA to invest in India through Mauritius in the past. However, in the past 10-15 years a number of parties have challenged the DTAA or the interpretation of the DTAA. Circular 789, issued on April 13, 2000 by the Indian Central Board of Direct Taxes ("CBDT"), clarifies that whenever the Mauritius revenue authorities have issued a certificate of tax residence, such certificate would

constitute sufficient evidence for accepting the status of residence of Mauritius tax residents for purposes of applying the provisions of the DTAA. The Supreme Court of India in 2003 subsequently held and declared Circular 789 to be valid following litigation regarding Circular 789. As of the date of this SAI, Circular 789 is still valid and in force.

However, recently issued rulings suggest that the Indian tax administration's analysis may have changed, and that the tax authorities may now focus on a number of factors when assessing whether a foreign entity is eligible for the benefit of the provisions of a tax treaty, including, among others, the place of management of the foreign resident company and the level of substance in the jurisdiction in which it is incorporated. In addition, both the Indian tax administration and Indian courts seem now to be taking aggressive efforts to challenge structures involving offshore funds investing directly or indirectly in India, in particular those from Mauritius. Further, the Finance Act, 2013 ("FA 13") provides that an investor is required to submit the tax residency certificate ("TRC") as issued in the country of residence and provide other documents and information as prescribed by the Government of India to claim benefits under the DTAA.

It is possible that the governments of India and Mauritius may renegotiate the terms of the DTAA to include, among other things, a limitation of benefit clause. No assurance can be given that the terms of the DTAA will not be renegotiated or subject to a different interpretation in the future. Any change in the provisions of the DTAA or in its applicability to the Subsidiaries could result in the imposition of withholding and capital gains taxes and other taxes on the Subsidiaries by tax authorities in India. This could significantly reduce the return to each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF on its investments and the return received by each Fund's shareholders.

#### *Criteria for Residence of Companies in India.*

Under the Indian Finance Act 2015 ("FA 15"), a foreign company will be considered a resident in India if its place of effective management (defined as a place where key management and commercial decisions that are necessary for the conduct of the business of an entity as a whole are in substance made) is in India in the relevant financial year. This test is to be applied taking the relevant financial year as a whole into consideration. Under prior law, an offshore company was treated as a non-resident in India unless it was wholly controlled and managed from India.

#### *Indirect Transfers.*

The current legislation imposes Indian tax and withholding obligations with respect to the transfer of shares in an overseas company that derives its value substantially from assets situated in India ("indirect transfers"). Because certain Funds invest in Indian securities through Subsidiaries, this legislation by its terms subjects shareholder redemptions of Fund shares and sales of Fund investments to Indian tax and withholding obligations, both prospectively as well as retroactively. However, the CBDT issued a letter on May 29, 2012 clarifying the reopening of completed assessments as a result of the retrospective amendments introduced by the Finance Act. Under this letter, CBDT has directed Indian tax authorities to not reopen any assessment proceedings that were completed before April 1, 2012 and where no notice for reassessment has been issued prior to that date. It has also been clarified that any assessment or any other order which stands validated due to the amendments in the Finance Act would be enforced. Given this clarification issued by the CBDT, certain Funds do not expect that their respective shareholders or each Fund will become subject to tax or to withholding obligations with respect to completed assessments.

FA 15 has provided clarification with respect to the taxability of indirect transfers. It provides that the share or interest of the foreign entity shall be deemed to derive its value substantially from the assets located in India, if the value of such Indian assets exceeds INR 100 million, and represents at least 50% of the value of all the assets owned by the foreign entity. The value of an asset shall be the fair market value as of the specified date, of such an asset without reduction of liabilities. The fair market value will be determined in accordance with the rules to be prescribed. It also provides that where all the assets of the foreign entity are not located in India, only such part of the income as is reasonably attributable to the Indian assets shall be subject to capital gains tax in India.

- With respect to a foreign entity that holds the Indian assets directly, if the transferor of share or interest in such a foreign entity (along with its associated enterprises), at any time in the twelve months preceding the year of transfer neither holds the right of control or management in the foreign entity, nor holds voting power or share capital or interest exceeding 5% of the total voting power or total share capital in such foreign entity.
- With respect to a foreign entity that holds the Indian assets indirectly, if the transferor of share or interest in such



foreign entity (along with its associated enterprises), at any time in the twelve months preceding the year of transfer does not hold the right of control or management in relation to the foreign entity, which would entitle them to the right of control or management in the foreign entity which directly holds the Indian assets; or does not hold voting power or share capital or interest exceeding 5% of the total voting power or total share capital in the foreign entity, which results in holding the same share capital or voting power in the entity which directly holds the Indian assets.

If the gains arising from transfer of share or interest in a foreign entity are taxable in India in accordance with the aforementioned provisions of indirect transfer, the purchaser of the securities will be required to withhold applicable Indian taxes.

Under FA 15, gains realized when a non-resident acquires shares of a foreign company from another non-resident and the foreign company derives “substantial value” from Indian assets, (meaning that the value of Indian assets (i) exceeds INR 100 million, and (ii) represents at least 50% of the value the company’s assets), such gains are taxable in India and subject to withholding, to the extent that they are reasonably attributable to the Indian assets.

Each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF may be considered to derive “substantial value” from Indian assets, but shareholders of each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF who along with any related parties hold less than 5% of the Fund will be exempt from the tax on indirect transfers of Indian assets as long as such shareholders do not have management or control rights.

However, the above amendment does not override the provisions of DTAA which India has entered into with many countries. Hence, if a non-resident investor in the Fund is situated in a favorable tax jurisdiction (e.g., Mauritius or Singapore), then capital gains on such indirect transfer may not be chargeable to tax in view of the DTAA entered into between India and respective countries.

#### *General Anti-Avoidance Rules.*

The current legislation provides for the general anti-avoidance rules (“GAAR”) to curb aggressive tax planning with the use of sophisticated structures. GAAR would have been effective from the financial year beginning from April 1, 2015 onwards. However, under FA 15, the application of GAAR has been deferred by two years, i.e. GAAR will be applicable with effect from April 1, 2017. Further, investments made up until March 31, 2017 would be protected from the applicability of GAAR by amendment to the relevant rules in this regard.

As per the provisions of GAAR, an arrangement entered into by a taxpayer may be declared to be an impermissible avoidance arrangement, if the “main purpose” of the arrangement is to obtain a “tax benefit” and the arrangement:

- creates rights, or obligations, which are not ordinarily created between persons dealing at arm’s length;
- results, directly or indirectly, in the misuse, or abuse, of the provisions of IT Act;
- lacks commercial substance; or
- is entered into, or carried out, by means, or in a manner, which are not ordinarily employed for bona fide purposes.

Once an arrangement is declared to be an impermissible avoidance arrangement, wide powers have been granted to tax authorities to deny tax treaty benefits, disregard or re-characterize transactions, re-characterize equity into debt and vice versa.

The CBDT has notified the GAAR rules on September 23, 2013, for the application of GAAR. As per these rules, GAAR shall not apply in the following circumstances:

- any arrangement where the aggregate tax benefit to all the parties of the arrangement in the relevant financial year does not exceed INR 30 Million;
- foreign institutional investors (“FIIs”) that choose not to take any benefit under any tax treaty entered with India and has invested in listed or unlisted securities with prior permission of the competent authority in accordance with the applicable regulations;

- non-resident investor in an FII who has invested in an FII, directly or indirectly, by way of an offshore derivative instrument or otherwise; or
- any income derived from the transfer of investments made prior to August 30, 2010.

However, GAAR may prevent each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF from realizing the planned tax benefits of the Subsidiaries, irrespective of existing beneficial treaty provisions, may lead to the imposition of tax liabilities and withholding obligations, and may lead each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF to modify or disassemble its Subsidiaries structure.

FA 15 has amended the provisions of the Minimum Alternate Tax (“MAT”) to exclude the levy of MAT on foreign companies, on income from capital gains arising on transactions in securities as well as income from interest, royalty, or fees for technical services which are liable to tax at a lower rate, on a prospective basis (*i.e.* with effect from April 1, 2015). Thus, it is clear that MAT would not be applicable to the Subsidiary for the periods starting from April 1, 2015. With respect to notices already issued to foreign companies for the periods prior to April 1, 2015, their status continues to be uncertain because the matter is currently pending before the Supreme Court of India, the hearing for which has been expedited.

Provisions of indirect transfers, GAAR and MAT could change the manner in which Subsidiaries are currently taxed in India and could adversely impact the returns to each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF/Subsidiaries and its shareholders. Each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF will continue to monitor developments in India with respect to these matters. Investors are urged to consult their own tax advisers with respect to their own tax situations and the tax consequences of an investment in each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF.

**Volatility Risk.** The value of the securities in the iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF and the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF portfolios may fluctuate, sometimes rapidly and unpredictably. The value of a security may fluctuate due to factors affecting markets generally or particular industries. This volatility may affect the Fund’s NAV. Although the Underlying Indexes were created to seek lower volatility than the MSCI ACWI Index and the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, there is no guarantee that these strategies will be successful. The Index Provider may be unsuccessful in creating an index that minimizes volatility, and there is a risk that each Fund may experience more than minimum volatility. Securities in the Fund’s portfolios may be subject to price volatility and their prices may not be any less volatile than the market as a whole and could be more volatile. Events or financial circumstances affecting individual securities or sectors may increase the volatility of the Funds.

**Risk of Investing in Mid-Capitalization Companies.** Stock prices of mid-capitalization companies may be more volatile than those of large-capitalization companies and, therefore, a Fund’s share price may be more volatile than that of funds that invest a larger percentage of their assets in stocks issued by large-capitalization companies. Stock prices of mid-capitalization companies are also more vulnerable than those of large-capitalization companies to adverse business or economic developments, and the stocks of mid-capitalization companies may be less liquid, making it more difficult for the Funds to buy and sell them. In addition, mid-capitalization companies generally have less diverse product lines than large-capitalization companies and are more susceptible to adverse developments related to their products.

**Risk of Investing in Small-Capitalization Companies.** Stock prices of small-capitalization companies may be more volatile than those of larger companies and therefore a Fund’s share price may be more volatile than those of funds that invest a larger percentage of their assets in stocks issued by large-capitalization or mid-capitalization companies. Stock prices of small-capitalization companies are generally more vulnerable than those of large-capitalization or mid-capitalization companies to adverse business and economic developments. The stocks of small-capitalization companies may be thinly traded, making it difficult for the Funds to buy and sell them. In addition, small-capitalization companies are typically less

financially stable than larger, more established companies and may depend on a small number of essential personnel, making them more vulnerable to loss of personnel. Small-capitalization companies also normally have less diverse product lines than those of large-capitalization companies and are more susceptible to adverse developments concerning their products.

**Risk of Investing in Africa.** Investments in securities of issuers in certain African countries involve heightened risks including, among others, expropriation and/or nationalization of assets, confiscatory taxation, political instability, including authoritarian and/or military involvement in governmental decision-making, armed conflict, civil war, and social instability as a result of religious, ethnic and/or socio-economic unrest and, in certain countries, genocidal warfare.

Certain countries in Africa generally have less developed capital markets than traditional emerging market countries, and, consequently, the risks of investing in foreign securities are magnified in such countries. Because securities markets of countries in Africa are generally underdeveloped and are generally less correlated to global economic cycles than those markets located in more developed countries, securities markets in African countries are subject to greater risks associated with market volatility, lower market capitalization, lower trading volume, illiquidity, inflation, greater price fluctuations and uncertainty regarding the existence of trading markets. Moreover, trading on African securities markets may be suspended altogether.

Market volatility may also be heightened by the actions of a small number of investors. Brokerage firms in certain countries in Africa may be fewer in number and less established than brokerage firms in more developed markets. Since a Fund may need to effect securities transactions through these brokerage firms, the Fund is subject to the risk that these brokerage firms will not be able to fulfill their obligations to the Fund (i.e., counterparty risk). This risk is magnified to the extent that a Fund effects securities transactions through a single brokerage firm or a small number of brokerage firms.

Certain governments in African countries restrict or control to varying degrees the ability of foreign investors to invest in securities of issuers located or operating in those countries. Moreover, certain countries in Africa require governmental approval or special licenses prior to investment by foreign investors and may limit the amount of investment by foreign investors in a particular industry and/or issuer, and may limit such foreign investment to a certain class of securities of an issuer that may have less advantageous rights than the classes available for purchase by domestic investors of the countries and/or impose additional taxes on foreign investors. A delay in obtaining a government approval or a license would delay investments in a particular country, and, as a result, a Fund may not be able to invest in certain securities while approval is pending. The government of a particular country may also withdraw or decline to renew a license that enables a Fund to invest in such country. These factors make investing in issuers located or operating in countries in Africa significantly riskier than investing in issuers located or operating in more developed countries, and any one of these factors could cause a decline in the value of a Fund's investments. Issuers located or operating in countries in Africa are generally not subject to the same rules and regulations as issuers located or operating in more developed countries. Therefore, there may be less financial and other information publicly available with regard to issuers located or operating in countries in Africa and such issuers are generally not subject to the uniform accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards applicable to issuers located or operating in more developed countries.

In addition, governments of certain countries in Africa in which a Fund may invest may levy withholding or other taxes on income such as dividends, interest and realized capital gains. Although in certain countries in Africa a portion of these taxes are recoverable, the non-recovered portion of foreign withholding taxes will reduce the income received from investments in such countries.

Investment in countries in Africa may be subject to a greater degree of risk associated with governmental approval in connection with the repatriation of investment income, capital or the proceeds of sales of securities by foreign investors. In addition, there is the risk that if an African country's balance of payments declines, such African country may impose temporary restrictions on foreign capital remittances. Consequently, a Fund could be adversely affected by delays in, or a refusal to grant, required governmental approval for repatriation of capital, as well as by the application to the Fund of any restrictions on investments. Additionally, investments in countries in Africa may require a Fund to adopt special procedures, seek local government approvals or take other actions, each of which may involve additional costs to the Fund.

Securities laws in many countries in Africa are relatively new and unsettled and, consequently, there is a risk of rapid and unpredictable change in laws regarding foreign investment, securities regulation, title to securities and shareholder rights. Accordingly, foreign investors may be adversely affected by new or amended laws and regulations. In addition, there may be no single centralized securities exchange on which securities are traded in certain countries in Africa and the systems of



corporate governance to which issuers located in countries in Africa are subject may be less advanced than those systems to which issuers located in more developed countries are subject, and therefore, shareholders of issuers located in such countries may not receive many of the protections available to shareholders of issuers located in more developed countries. Even in circumstances where adequate laws and shareholder rights exist, it may not be possible to obtain swift and equitable enforcement of the law. In addition, the enforcement of systems of taxation at federal, regional and local levels in countries in Africa may be inconsistent and subject to sudden change.

Certain countries in Africa may be heavily dependent upon international trade and, consequently, have been and may continue to be negatively affected by trade barriers, exchange controls, managed adjustments in relative currency values and other protectionist measures imposed or negotiated by the countries with which they trade. These countries also have been and may continue to be adversely affected by economic conditions in the countries with which they trade. Certain countries in Africa depend to a significant extent upon exports of primary commodities such as gold, silver, copper and diamonds. These countries therefore are vulnerable to changes in commodity prices, which may be affected by a variety of factors. In addition, certain issuers located in countries in Africa in which a Fund invests may operate in, or have dealings with, countries subject to sanctions and/or embargoes imposed by the U.S. government and the United Nations, and/or countries identified by the U.S. government as state sponsors of terrorism. As a result, an issuer may sustain damage to its reputation if it is identified as an issuer which operates in, or has dealings with, such countries. A Fund, as an investor in such issuers, will be indirectly subject to those risks.

The governments of certain countries in Africa may exercise substantial influence over many aspects of the private sector and may own or control many companies. Future government actions could have a significant effect on the economic conditions in such countries, which could have a negative impact on private sector companies. There is also the possibility of diplomatic developments that could adversely affect investments in certain countries in Africa. Some countries in Africa may be affected by a greater degree of public corruption and crime, including organized crime.

Recent political instability and protests in North Africa and the Middle East have caused significant disruptions to many industries. In addition, the outbreak of Ebola in Western Africa severely challenged health care industries in those countries and adversely impacted the region's economy due to quarantines and disruptions of trade, which has further increased instability in the region. This instability has demonstrated that political and social unrest can spread quickly through the region, and that developments in one country can influence the political events in neighboring countries. Some protests have turned violent, and civil war and political reconstruction in certain countries such as Libya, Iraq and Syria pose a risk to investments in the region. Continued political and social unrest in these regions, including the ongoing warfare and terrorist activities in the Middle East and Africa, may negatively affect the value of an investment in a Fund.

**Risk of Investing in Asia.** Investments in securities of issuers in certain Asian countries involve risks not typically associated with investments in securities of issuers in other regions. Such heightened risks include, among others, expropriation and/or nationalization of assets, confiscatory taxation, piracy of intellectual property data and other security breaches (especially of data stored electronically), political instability, including authoritarian and/or military involvement in governmental decision-making, armed conflict and social instability as a result of religious, ethnic and/or socio-economic unrest. Certain Asian economies have experienced rapid rates of economic growth and industrialization in recent years, and there is no assurance that these rates of economic growth and industrialization will be maintained.

Certain Asian countries have democracies with relatively short histories, which may increase the risk of political instability. These countries have faced political and military unrest, and further unrest could present a risk to their local economies and securities markets. Indonesia and the Philippines have each experienced violence and terrorism, which has negatively impacted their economies. North Korea and South Korea each have substantial military capabilities, and historical tensions between the two countries present the risk of war; in the recent past, these tensions have escalated. Any outbreak of hostilities between the two countries could have a severe adverse effect on the South Korean economy and securities market. Increased political and social unrest in these geographic areas could adversely affect the performance of investments in this region.

Certain governments in this region administer prices on several basic goods, including fuel and electricity, within their respective countries. Certain governments may exercise substantial influence over many aspects of the private sector in their respective countries and may own or control many companies. Future government actions could have a significant effect on the economic conditions in this region, which in turn could have a negative impact on private sector companies. There is also the possibility of diplomatic developments adversely affecting investments in the region.

Corruption and the perceived lack of a rule of law in dealings with international companies in certain Asian countries may discourage foreign investment and could negatively impact the long-term growth of certain economies in this region. In addition, certain countries in the region are experiencing high unemployment and corruption, and have fragile banking sectors.

Some economies in this region are dependent on a range of commodities, including oil, natural gas and coal. Accordingly, they are strongly affected by international commodity prices and particularly vulnerable to any weakening in global demand for these products. The market for securities in this region may also be directly influenced by the flow of international capital, and by the economic and market conditions of neighboring countries. Adverse economic conditions or developments in neighboring countries may increase investors' perception of the risk of investing in the region as a whole, which may adversely impact the market value of the securities issued by companies in the region.

**Risk of Investing in Australasia.** The economies of Australasia, which include Australia and New Zealand, are dependent on exports from the agricultural and mining sectors. This makes Australasian economies susceptible to fluctuations in the commodity markets. Australasian economies are also increasingly dependent on their growing service industries. Australia and New Zealand are located in a part of the world that has historically been prone to natural disasters, such as drought and flooding. Any such event in the future could have a significant adverse impact on the economies of Australia and New Zealand and affect the value of securities held by a relevant Fund. The economies of Australia and New Zealand are dependent on trading with certain key trading partners, including Asia, Europe and the United States. The Australia–U.S. Free Trade Agreement has significantly expanded the trading relationship between the United States and Australia. Economic events in the United States, Asia, or in other key trading countries can have a significant economic effect on the Australian economy. The economies of Australia and New Zealand are heavily dependent on the mining sector. Passage of new regulations limiting foreign ownership of companies in the mining sector or imposition of new taxes on profits of mining companies may dissuade foreign investment, and as a result, have a negative impact on companies to which a Fund has exposure.

**Risk of Investing in Brazil.** Investment in securities of companies domiciled in Brazil involves a high degree of risk and special considerations not typically associated with investing in the U.S. securities markets. Such heightened risks include, among others, a high level of price volatility in the Brazilian equity and currency markets, chronic structural public sector deficits and disparities of wealth.

Brazil has historically experienced high rates of inflation and may continue to do so in the future. An increase in prices for commodities, the depreciation of the Brazilian currency (the real) and potential future governmental measures seeking to maintain the value of the real in relation to the U.S. dollar, may trigger increases in inflation in Brazil and may slow the rate of growth of the Brazilian economy. Inflationary pressures also may limit the ability of certain Brazilian issuers to access foreign financial markets and may lead to further government intervention in the economy, including the introduction of government policies that may adversely affect the overall performance of the Brazilian economy, which in turn could adversely affect a Fund's investments.

The Brazilian government has exercised, and continues to exercise, significant influence over the Brazilian economy, which may have significant effects on Brazilian companies and on market conditions and prices of Brazilian securities. The Brazilian economy has been characterized by frequent, and occasionally drastic, intervention by the Brazilian government. The Brazilian government has often changed monetary, taxation, credit, tariff and other policies to influence the core of Brazil's economy. The Brazilian government's actions to control inflation and affect other economic policies have involved, among others, the setting of wage and price controls, blocking access to bank accounts, fluctuation of the base interest rates, imposing exchange controls and limiting imports into Brazil. In the past, the Brazilian government has maintained domestic price controls, and no assurances can be given that price controls will not be re-imposed in the future.

Investments in Brazilian securities may be subject to certain restrictions on foreign investment. Brazilian law provides that whenever a serious imbalance in Brazil's balance of payments exists or is anticipated, the Brazilian government may impose temporary restrictions on the remittance to foreign investors of the proceeds of their investment in Brazil and on the conversion of Brazilian currency into foreign currency. The likelihood of such restrictions may be affected by the extent of Brazil's foreign currency reserves, the size of Brazil's debt service burden relative to the economy as a whole, and political constraints to which Brazil may be subject. There can be no assurance that the Brazilian government will not impose restrictions or restrictive exchange control policies in the future, which could have the effect of preventing or restricting access to foreign currency.

The market for Brazilian securities is directly influenced by the flow of international capital, and economic and market conditions of certain countries, especially other emerging market countries in Central and South America. Adverse economic conditions or developments in other emerging market countries have at times significantly affected the availability of credit in the Brazilian economy and resulted in considerable outflows of funds and declines in the amount of foreign currency invested in Brazil. Crises in neighboring emerging market countries also may increase investors' risk aversion, which may adversely impact the market value of the securities issued by Brazilian companies, including securities in which a Fund may invest.

**Risk of Investing in Central and South America.** The economies of certain Central and South American countries have experienced high interest rates, economic volatility, inflation, currency devaluations, government defaults, high unemployment rates and political instability which can adversely affect underlying issuers. In addition, commodities (such as oil, gas and minerals) represent a significant percentage of exports for the regions and many economies in these regions are particularly sensitive to fluctuations in commodity prices. Adverse economic events in one country may have a significant adverse effect on other countries of these regions.

The governments of certain countries in Central and South America may exercise substantial influence over many aspects of the private sector and may own or control many companies. Future government actions could have a significant effect on the economic conditions in such countries, which could have a negative impact on the securities in which the Fund invests. Diplomatic developments may also adversely affect investments in certain countries in Central and South America. Some countries in Central and South America may be affected by public corruption and crime, including organized crime.

Certain countries in Central and South America may be heavily dependent upon international trade and, consequently, have been and may continue to be negatively affected by trade barriers, exchange controls, managed adjustments in relative currency values and other protectionist measures imposed or negotiated by the countries with which they trade. These countries also have been and may continue to be adversely affected by economic conditions in the countries with which they trade. In addition, certain issuers located in countries in Central and South America in which the Fund invests may have dealings with countries subject to sanctions and/or embargoes imposed by the U.S. government and the United Nations and/or countries identified by the U.S. government as state sponsors of terrorism. An issuer may sustain damage to its reputation if it is identified as an issuer that has dealings with such countries. The Fund may be adversely affected if it invests in such issuers.

**Risk of Investing in Chile.** Investment in Chilean issuers involves risks that are specific to Chile, including, legal, regulatory, political, environmental and economic risks. Chile's economy is export-dependent and relies heavily on trading relationships with certain key trading partners, including China, Brazil, Japan, the United States and Netherlands. Future changes in the price or the demand for Chilean exported products by China, Brazil, Japan, the United States and Netherlands, changes in these countries' economies, trade regulations or currency exchange rates could adversely impact the Chilean economy and the issuer's to which the Fund has exposure.

**Risk of Investing in China.** Investments in securities of companies domiciled in China involve a high degree of risk and special considerations not typically associated with investing in the U.S. securities markets. Such heightened risks include, among others, an authoritarian government, popular unrest associated with demands for improved political, economic and social conditions, the impact of regional conflict on the economy and hostile relations with neighboring countries.

Military conflicts, either in response to internal social unrest or conflicts with other countries, could disrupt economic development. The Chinese economy is vulnerable to the long-running disagreements with Hong Kong related to integration and religious and nationalist disputes with Tibet and the Xinjiang region. China has a complex territorial dispute regarding the sovereignty of Taiwan that has included threats of invasion; Taiwan-based companies and individuals are significant investors in China. Military conflict between China and Taiwan may adversely affect securities of Chinese issuers. In addition, China has strained international relations with Japan, India, Russia and other neighbors due to territorial disputes, historical animosities and other defense concerns. China could be affected by military events on the Korean peninsula or internal instability within North Korea. These situations may cause uncertainty in the Chinese market and may adversely affect performance of the Chinese economy.

The Chinese government has implemented significant economic reforms in order to liberalize trade policy, promote foreign investment in the economy, reduce government control of the economy and develop market mechanisms. However, there can be no assurance that these reforms will continue or that they will be effective. Despite reforms and privatizations of companies in certain sectors, the Chinese government still exercises substantial influence over many aspects of the private sector and may own or control many companies. The Chinese government continues to maintain a major role in economic

policy making and investing in China involves risk of loss due to expropriation, nationalization, confiscation of assets and property or the imposition of restrictions on foreign investments and on repatriation of capital invested. In addition, there is less regulation and monitoring of Chinese securities markets and the activities of investors, brokers and other participants than in the United States. Accordingly, issuers of securities in China are not subject to the same degree of regulation as are U.S. issuers with respect to such matters as insider trading rules, tender offer regulation, stockholder proxy requirements and the requirements mandating timely and accurate disclosure of information. Stock markets in China are in the process of change and further development. This may lead to trading volatility, difficulty in the settlement and recording of transactions and difficulty in interpreting and applying the relevant regulation. The iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Energy Capped ETF and the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF invest in H-Shares (securities of companies incorporated in the People's Republic of China ("PRC") that are denominated in Hong Kong dollars and listed on the Hong Kong Exchange) and B-Shares (securities of companies incorporated in the PRC and listed for foreign investment on stock exchanges in the PRC). The iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Energy Capped ETF and the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF also invest in certain Hong Kong listed securities known as Red-Chips (securities issued by companies incorporated in certain foreign jurisdictions, which are controlled, directly or indirectly, by entities owned by the national government or local governments in the PRC and derive substantial revenues or allocate substantial assets in the PRC) and P-Chips (securities issued by companies incorporated in certain foreign jurisdictions, which are controlled, directly or indirectly, by individuals in the PRC and derive substantial revenues or allocate substantial assets in the PRC). The issuance of B-Shares and H-Shares by Chinese companies and the ability to obtain a "back-door listing" through Red-Chips or P-Chips is still regarded by the Chinese authorities as an experiment in economic reform. "Back-door listing" is a means by which a mainland Chinese company issues Red-Chips or P-Chips to obtain quick access to international listing and international capital. All of these share mechanisms are relatively untested and subject to political and economic policy in China. Chinese securities have recently experienced substantial volatility, which is expected to continue in the future.

While the Chinese economy has grown rapidly in recent years, there is no assurance that this growth rate will be maintained. China may experience substantial rates of inflation or economic recessions, causing a negative effect on the economy and securities market. China's economy is heavily dependent on export growth. Reduction in spending on Chinese products and services, institution of tariffs or other trade barriers or a downturn in any of the economies of China's key trading partners may have an adverse impact on the securities of Chinese issuers.

The tax laws and regulations in the People's Republic of China ("PRC") are subject to change, including the issuance of authoritative guidance or enforcement, possibly with retroactive effect. The interpretation, applicability and enforcement of such laws by PRC tax authorities are not as consistent and transparent as those of more developed nations, and may vary over time and from region to region. The application and enforcement of PRC tax rules could have a significant adverse effect on a Fund and its investors, particularly in relation to capital gains withholding tax imposed upon non-residents.

**Risk of Investing in Colombia.** Investments in Colombian issuers and companies that have significant operations in Colombia subject the Fund to legal, regulatory, political, currency and economic risks specific to Colombia. Economic reforms, including tax, pension and budget reforms, and the aggressive promotion of free trade agreements with a number of countries, including the United States, Canada, Chile, Mexico, Switzerland, the European Union countries, Venezuela, South Korea, Turkey, Japan and Israel, have led to recent economic growth in the Colombian economy. There can be no assurance that these economic reforms will continue or that they will be effective. There can also be no assurance that the economic growth rate will be maintained. The Colombian economy depends heavily on oil, coal and other commodity exports, making it vulnerable to commodity prices. High unemployment and underemployment, income disparity, currency devaluations and high levels of debt and public spending remain significant challenges to the Colombian economy. The level of violence associated with internal conflicts and drug trafficking has fallen but remains high by international standards. Colombia's infrastructure requires major improvements to sustain economic expansion. In addition, the market for Colombian issuers is directly influenced by the flow of international capital and economic and market conditions of certain countries, especially the United States and other countries in Central and South America.

**Risk of Investing in Eastern Europe.** Investing in the securities of issuers located or operating in Eastern Europe is highly speculative and involves risks not usually associated with investing in the more developed markets of Western Europe. Political and economic reforms are too recent to establish a definite trend away from centrally planned economies and state-owned industries. In the past, some Eastern European governments have expropriated substantial amounts of private property, and many claims of the property owners have never been fully settled.

Many Eastern European countries continue to move toward market economies at different paces with different characteristics. Most Eastern European securities markets suffer from thin trading activity, dubious investor protections, and often a dearth of reliable corporate information. Information and transaction costs, differential taxes, and sometimes political or transfer risk give a comparative advantage to the domestic investor rather than the foreign investor. In addition, these markets are particularly sensitive to social, political, economic, and currency events in Russia and may suffer heavy losses as a result of their trading and investment links to the Russian economy and currency. Russia also may attempt to assert its influence in the region through economic or even military measures, as it did with Georgia in the summer of 2008 and Ukraine beginning in 2014. Eastern European economies may also be particularly susceptible to changes in the international credit markets due to their reliance on bank related inflows of capital. The global economic crisis has restricted international credit supplies, and several Eastern European economies have faced significant credit and economic crises. Although some Eastern European economies are expanding again, major challenges are still present as a result of their continued dependence on the Western European zone for credit.

**Risk of Investing in Emerging Markets.** Investments in emerging market countries may be subject to greater risks than investments in developed countries. These risks include: (i) less social, political, and economic stability; (ii) greater illiquidity and price volatility due to smaller or limited local capital markets for such securities, or low or non-existent trading volumes; (iii) custodians, clearinghouses, foreign exchanges and broker-dealers may be subject to less scrutiny and regulation by local authorities; (iv) local governments may decide to seize or confiscate securities held by foreign investors and/or local governments may decide to suspend or limit an issuer's ability to make dividend or interest payments; (v) local governments may limit or entirely restrict repatriation of invested capital, profits, and dividends; (vi) capital gains may be subject to local taxation, including on a retroactive basis; (vii) issuers facing restrictions on dollar or euro payments imposed by local governments may attempt to make dividend or interest payments to foreign investors in the local currency; (viii) investors may experience difficulty in enforcing legal claims related to the securities and/or local judges may favor the interests of the issuer over those of foreign investors; (ix) bankruptcy judgments may only be permitted to be paid in the local currency; (x) limited public information regarding the issuer may result in greater difficulty in determining market valuations of the securities, and (xi) lack of financial reporting on a regular basis, substandard disclosure and differences in accounting standards may make it difficult to ascertain the financial health of an issuer.

Emerging market securities markets are typically marked by a high concentration of market capitalization and trading volume in a small number of issuers representing a limited number of industries, as well as a high concentration of ownership of such securities by a limited number of investors. In addition, brokerage and other costs associated with transactions in emerging markets securities markets can be higher, sometimes significantly, than similar costs incurred in securities markets in developed countries. Although some emerging markets have become more established and tend to issue securities of higher credit quality, the markets for securities in other emerging countries are in the earliest stages of their development, and these countries issue securities across the credit spectrum. Even the markets for relatively widely traded securities in emerging countries may not be able to absorb, without price disruptions, a significant increase in trading volume or trades of a size customarily undertaken by institutional investors in the securities markets of developed countries. The limited size of many of these securities markets can cause prices to be erratic for reasons apart from factors that affect the soundness and competitiveness of the securities issuers. For example, prices may be unduly influenced by traders who control large positions in these markets. Additionally, market making and arbitrage activities are generally less extensive in such markets, which may contribute to increased volatility and reduced liquidity of such markets. The limited liquidity of emerging market country securities may also affect a Fund's ability to accurately value its portfolio securities or to acquire or dispose of securities at the price and time it wishes to do so or in order to meet redemption requests.

Many emerging market countries suffer from uncertainty and corruption in their legal frameworks. Legislation may be difficult to interpret and laws may be too new to provide any precedential value. Laws regarding foreign investment and private property may be weak or non-existent. Sudden changes in governments may result in policies which are less favorable to investors such as policies designed to expropriate or nationalize "sovereign" assets. Certain emerging market countries in the past have expropriated large amounts of private property, in many cases with little or no compensation, and there can be no assurance that such expropriation will not occur in the future.

Investment in the securities markets of certain emerging countries is restricted or controlled to varying degrees. These restrictions may limit a Fund's investment in certain emerging market countries and may increase the expenses of the Fund. Certain emerging market countries require governmental approval prior to investments by foreign persons or limit investment by foreign persons to only a specified percentage of an issuer's outstanding securities or a specific class of securities which may have less advantageous terms (including price) than securities of the company available for purchase by nationals.



Many emerging market countries lack the social, political, and economic stability characteristic of the United States. Political instability among emerging market countries can be common and may be caused by an uneven distribution of wealth, social unrest, labor strikes, civil wars, and religious oppression. Economic instability in emerging market countries may take the form of: (i) high interest rates; (ii) high levels of inflation, including hyperinflation; (iii) high levels of unemployment or underemployment; (iv) changes in government economic and tax policies, including confiscatory taxation; and (v) imposition of trade barriers.

A Fund's income and, in some cases, capital gains from foreign securities will be subject to applicable taxation in certain of the emerging market countries in which it invests, and treaties between the United States and such countries may not be available in some cases to reduce the otherwise applicable tax rates.

Emerging markets also have different clearance and settlement procedures, and in certain of these emerging markets there have been times when settlements have been unable to keep pace with the volume of securities transactions, making it difficult to conduct such transactions.

In the past, certain governments in emerging market countries have become overly reliant on the international capital markets and other forms of foreign credit to finance large public spending programs, which in the past have caused huge budget deficits. Often, interest payments have become too overwhelming for a government to meet, representing a large percentage of total GDP. These foreign obligations have become the subject of political debate and served as fuel for political parties of the opposition, which pressure the government not to make payments to foreign creditors, but instead to use these funds for, among other things, social programs. Either due to an inability to pay or submission to political pressure, foreign governments have been forced to seek a restructuring of their loan and/or bond obligations, have declared a temporary suspension of interest payments or have defaulted. These events have adversely affected the values of securities issued by foreign governments and corporations domiciled in those countries and have negatively affected not only their cost of borrowing, but their ability to borrow in the future as well.

**Risk of Investing in Europe.** Investing in European countries may expose a Fund to the economic and political risks associated with Europe in general and the specific European countries in which it invests. The economies and markets of European countries are often closely connected and interdependent, and events in one European country can have an adverse impact on other European countries. A Fund makes investments in securities of issuers that are domiciled in, or have significant operations in, member countries of the Economic and Monetary Union of the European Union (the "EU"), which requires member countries to comply with restrictions on inflation rates, deficits, interest rates, debt levels and fiscal and monetary controls, each of which may significantly affect every country in Europe. Decreasing imports or exports, changes in governmental or EU regulations on trade, changes in the exchange rate of the euro (the common currency of certain EU countries), the default or threat of default by an EU member country on its sovereign debt, and/or an economic recession among EU member countries may have a significant adverse effect on the economies of EU member countries and their trading partners. Although certain European countries do not use the euro, many of these countries are obliged to meet the criteria for joining the euro zone. Consequently, these countries must comply with many of the restrictions noted above. The European financial markets have experienced volatility and adverse trends in recent years due to concerns about economic downturns, rising government debt levels and the possible default of government debt in several European countries, including Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain. In order to prevent further economic deterioration, certain countries, without prior warning, can institute "capital controls." Countries may use these controls to restrict volatile movements of capital entering and exiting their country. Such controls may negatively affect a Fund's investments. A default or debt restructuring by any European country would adversely impact holders of that country's debt and sellers of credit default swaps linked to that country's creditworthiness, which may be located in countries other than those listed above. In addition, the credit ratings of certain European countries were recently downgraded. These downgrades may result in further deterioration of investor confidence. These events have adversely affected the value and exchange rate of the euro and may continue to significantly affect the economies of every country in Europe, including countries that do not use the euro and non-EU member countries. Responses to the financial problems by European governments, central banks and others, including austerity measures and reforms, may not produce the desired results, may result in social unrest and may limit future growth and economic recovery or have other unintended consequences. Further defaults or restructurings by governments and other entities of their debt could have additional adverse effects on economies, financial markets and asset valuations around the world. In addition, one or more countries may abandon the euro and/or withdraw from the EU, including, with respect to the latter, the United Kingdom, which is a significant market in the global economy. The impact of these actions, especially if they occur in a disorderly fashion, is not clear but could be significant and far-reaching and could adversely impact the value of investments in the region.

**Risk of Investing in India.** India is an emerging market and demonstrates significantly higher volatility from time to time in comparison to more developed markets. Political, religious, and border disputes persist in India. India has recently experienced and may continue to experience civil unrest and hostilities with certain of its neighboring countries, including Pakistan, and the Indian government has confronted separatist movements in several Indian states, including Kashmir. Government control over the economy, currency fluctuations or blockage, and the risk of nationalization or expropriation of assets offer higher potential for losses. Governmental actions could have a negative effect on the economic conditions in India, which could adversely affect the value and liquidity of investments made by a Fund. The securities markets in India are comparatively underdeveloped and with some exceptions, consist of a small number of listed companies with small market capitalization, greater price volatility and substantially less liquidity than companies in more developed markets. Stockbrokers and other intermediaries in India may not perform as well as their counterparts in the United States or other, more developed countries. The limited liquidity of the Indian securities markets may also affect a Fund's ability to acquire or dispose of securities at the price or time that it desires or the Fund's ability to track its Underlying Index.

Global factors and foreign actions may inhibit the flow of foreign capital on which India is dependent to sustain its growth. In addition, the Reserve Bank of India has imposed limits on foreign ownership of Indian companies, which may decrease the liquidity of a Fund's portfolio and result in extreme volatility in the prices of Indian securities. These factors, coupled with the lack of extensive accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards and practices, as applicable in the United States, may increase the risk of loss for a Fund.

Securities laws in India are relatively new and unsettled and, as a result, there is a risk of significant and unpredictable change in laws governing foreign investment, securities regulation, title to securities and shareholder rights. Foreign investors in particular may be adversely affected by new or amended laws and regulations. Certain Indian regulatory approvals, including approvals from the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the central government and the tax authorities (to the extent that tax benefits need to be utilized), may be required before a Fund can make investments in Indian companies.

Technology and software sectors represent a significant portion of the total capitalization of the Indian securities markets. The value of these companies will generally fluctuate in response to technological and regulatory developments, and, as a result, a Fund's holdings are expected to experience correlated fluctuations.

Natural disasters, such as tsunamis, flooding or droughts, could occur in India or surrounding areas and could negatively affect the Indian economy or operations of a Subsidiary, and, in turn, could negatively affect a Fund.

**Risk of Investing in Kuwait.** Kuwait is highly reliant on income from the sale of oil and trade with other countries involved in the sale of oil, and its economy is therefore vulnerable to changes in the market for oil and foreign currency values. As global demand for oil fluctuates, Kuwait may be significantly impacted. Historically, tensions between Iraq and Kuwait have sometimes resulted in conflict. Any outbreak of hostilities between the two countries, or other countries in the region, could have a severe adverse effect on the Kuwaiti economy and its securities markets. Recently, Kuwait has experienced anti-government protests. If the current Kuwaiti government were to change or become unable to function normally, any resulting instability could adversely affect the Kuwaiti economy and could decrease the value of a Fund's investments.

**Risk of Investing in Malaysia.** Investments in Malaysian issuers involve risks that are specific to Malaysia, including legal, regulatory, political, currency and economic risks. The Malaysian economy, among other things, is dependent upon external trade with other economies, specifically the United States, China, Japan and Singapore. As a result, Malaysia is dependent on the economies of these other countries and any change in the price or demand for Malaysian exports may have an adverse impact on the Malaysian economy. In addition, the Malaysian economy is heavily focused on export of electronic goods. As a result, Malaysia's reliance on the electronics sector makes it particularly vulnerable to economic downturns in the technology sector.

**Risk of Investing in Mexico.** Investment in Mexican issuers involves risks that are specific to Mexico, including regulatory, political, and economic risks. The Mexican economy, among other things, is dependent upon external trade with other economies, specifically with the United States. As a result, Mexico is dependent on, among other things, the U.S. economy and any change in the price or demand for Mexican exports may have an adverse impact on the Mexican economy. Recently, Mexico has experienced an outbreak of violence related to drug trafficking. Incidents involving Mexico's security may have an adverse effect on the Mexican economy and cause uncertainty in its financial markets. Mexico has been destabilized by local insurrections, social upheavals, drug related violence, and the public health crisis related to the H1N1 influenza outbreak.

Recurrence of these or similar conditions may adversely impact the Mexican economy. Recently, Mexican elections have been contentious and have been very closely decided. Changes in political parties or other Mexican political events may affect the economy and cause instability.

**Risk of Investing in the Middle East.** Many Middle Eastern countries have little or no democratic tradition, and the political and legal systems in such countries may have an adverse impact on a Fund. Many economies in the Middle East are highly reliant on income from the sale of oil or trade with countries involved in the sale of oil, and their economies are therefore vulnerable to changes in the market for oil and foreign currency values. As global demand for oil fluctuates, many Middle Eastern economies may be significantly impacted.

In addition, many Middle Eastern governments have exercised and continue to exercise substantial influence over many aspects of the private sector. In certain cases, a Middle Eastern country's government may own or control many companies, including some of the largest companies in the country. Accordingly, governmental actions in the future could have a significant effect on economic conditions in Middle Eastern countries. This could affect private sector companies and a Fund, as well as the value of securities in a Fund's portfolio.

Certain Middle Eastern markets are in the earliest stages of development. As a result, there may be a high concentration of market capitalization and trading volume in a small number of issuers representing a limited number of industries, as well as a high concentration of investors and financial intermediaries. Brokers in Middle Eastern countries typically are fewer in number and less well capitalized than brokers in the United States.

The legal systems in certain Middle Eastern countries also may have an adverse impact on a Fund. For example, the potential liability of a shareholder in a U.S. corporation with respect to acts of the corporation generally is limited to the amount of the shareholder's investment. However, the notion of limited liability is less clear in certain Middle Eastern countries. Each Fund therefore may be liable in certain Middle Eastern countries for the acts of a corporation in which it invests for an amount greater than its actual investment in that corporation. Similarly, the rights of investors in Middle Eastern issuers may be more limited than those of shareholders of a U.S. corporation. It may be difficult or impossible to obtain or enforce a legal judgment in a Middle Eastern country. Some Middle Eastern countries prohibit or impose substantial restrictions on investments in their capital markets, particularly their equity markets, by foreign entities such as a Fund. For example, certain countries may require governmental approval prior to investment by foreign persons or limit the amount of investment by foreign persons in a particular issuer. Certain Middle Eastern countries may also limit investment by foreign persons to only a specific class of securities of an issuer that may have less advantageous terms (including price) than securities of the issuer available for purchase by nationals of the relevant Middle Eastern country.

The manner in which foreign investors may invest in companies in certain Middle Eastern countries, as well as limitations on those investments, may have an adverse impact on the operations of a Fund. For example, in certain of these countries, a Fund may be required to invest initially through a local broker or other entity and then have the shares that were purchased re-registered in the name of a Fund. Re-registration in some instances may not be possible on a timely basis. This may result in a delay during which a Fund may be denied certain of its rights as an investor, including rights as to dividends or to be made aware of certain corporate actions. There also may be instances where a Fund places a purchase order but is subsequently informed, at the time of re-registration, that the permissible allocation of the investment to foreign investors has already been filled and consequentially a Fund may not be able to invest in the relevant company.

Substantial limitations may exist in certain Middle Eastern countries with respect to a Fund's ability to repatriate investment income or capital gains. A Fund could be adversely affected by delays in, or a refusal to grant, any required governmental approval for repatriation of capital, as well as by the application to a Fund of any restrictions on investment.

Certain Middle Eastern countries may be heavily dependent upon international trade and, consequently, have been and may continue to be negatively affected by trade barriers, exchange controls, managed adjustments in relative currency values and other protectionist measures imposed or negotiated by the countries with which they trade. These countries also have been and may continue to be adversely impacted by economic conditions in the countries with which they trade. In addition, certain issuers located in Middle Eastern countries in which a Fund invests may operate in, or have dealings with, countries subject to sanctions and/or embargoes imposed by the U.S. government and the United Nations, and/or countries identified by the U.S. government as state sponsors of terrorism. As a result, an issuer may sustain damage to its reputation if it is identified as an issuer which operates in, or has dealings with, such countries. A Fund, as an investor in such issuers, will be indirectly subject to those risks.



Certain Middle Eastern countries have strained relations with other Middle Eastern countries due to territorial disputes, historical animosities, defense concerns or other reasons, which may adversely affect the economies of these Middle Eastern countries. Certain Middle Eastern countries experience significant unemployment, as well as widespread underemployment. There has also been a recent increase in recruitment efforts and an aggressive push for territorial control by terrorist groups in the region, which has led to an outbreak of warfare and hostilities. Warfare in Syria has spread to surrounding areas, including many portions of Iraq and Turkey. Such hostilities may continue into the future or may escalate at any time due to ethnic, racial, political, religious or ideological tensions between groups in the region or foreign intervention or lack of intervention, among other factors.

**Risk of Investing in North America.** A decrease in imports or exports, changes in trade regulations and/or an economic recession in any one North American country can have a significant economic effect on the entire North American region, and on some or all of the North American countries in which a Fund invests.

The United States is Canada's and Mexico's largest trading and investment partner. The Canadian and Mexican economies are significantly affected by developments in the U.S. economy. Since the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement ("NAFTA") in 1994 among Canada, the United States and Mexico, total merchandise trade among the three countries has increased. Policy and legislative changes in one country may have a significant effect on North American markets generally, as well as on the value of certain securities, including securities held by a Fund.

**Risk of Investing in Russia.** Investing in the Russian securities market involves a high degree of risk and special considerations not typically associated with investing in the U.S. securities market, and should be considered highly speculative. Risks include: the absence of developed legal structures governing private and foreign investments and private property; the possibility of the loss of all or a substantial portion of a Fund's assets invested in Russia as a result of expropriation; certain national policies which may restrict the Fund's investment opportunities, including, without limitation, restrictions on investing in issuers or industries deemed sensitive to relevant national interests; and potentially greater price volatility in, significantly smaller capitalization of, and relative illiquidity of, the Russian market. There can also be no assurance that a Fund's investments in the Russian securities market would not be expropriated, nationalized or otherwise confiscated. In the event of the settlement of any such claims or such expropriation, nationalization or other confiscation, a Fund could lose its entire investment. In addition, it may be difficult and more costly to obtain and enforce a judgment in the Russian court system.

Russia may also be subject to a greater degree of economic, political and social instability than is the case in other developed countries. Such instability may result from, among other things, the following: (i) an authoritarian government or military involvement in political and economic decision-making, including changes in government through extra-constitutional means; (ii) popular unrest associated with demands for improved political, economic and social conditions; (iii) internal insurgencies; (iv) hostile relations with neighboring countries; and (v) ethnic, religious and racial disaffection.

The Russian economy is heavily dependent upon the export of a range of commodities including most industrial metals, forestry products and oil and gas. Accordingly, it is strongly affected by international commodity prices and is particularly vulnerable to any weakening in global demand for these products. Any acts of terrorism or armed conflicts in Russia or internationally could have an adverse effect on the financial and commodities markets and the global economy. As Russia produces and exports large amounts of crude oil and gas, any acts of terrorism or armed conflict causing disruptions of Russian oil and gas exports could negatively affect the Russian economy and, thus, adversely affect the financial condition, results of operations or prospects of related companies.

The Russian government may exercise substantial influence over many aspects of the private sector and may own or control many companies. Future government actions could have a significant effect on the economic conditions in Russia, which could have a negative impact on private sector companies. There is also the possibility of diplomatic developments that could adversely affect investments in Russia. In recent years, the Russian government has begun to take bolder steps to re-assert its regional geopolitical influence (including military steps). Such steps may increase tensions between Russia and its neighbors and Western countries and may negatively affect economic growth.

The United States and the EU, along with the regulatory bodies of a number of countries including Japan, Australia, Norway, Switzerland and Canada (collectively, "Sanctioning Bodies"), have imposed economic sanctions, which consist of asset freezes and sectorial sanctions on certain Russian individuals and Russian corporate entities. The Sanctioning Bodies could also institute broader sanctions on Russia. These sanctions, or even the threat of further sanctions, may result in the decline of the value and liquidity of Russian securities, a weakening of the ruble or other adverse consequences to the Russian

economy. These sanctions could also result in the immediate freeze of Russian securities, impairing the ability of a Fund to buy, sell, receive or deliver those securities.

The sanctions against certain Russian issuers include prohibitions on transacting in or dealing in new debt of longer than 30 or 90 days maturity or new equity of such issuers. Securities held by a Fund issued prior to the date of the sanctions being imposed are not currently subject to any restrictions under the sanctions. However, compliance with each of these sanctions may impair the ability of a Fund to buy, sell, hold, receive or deliver the affected securities or other securities of such issuers. If it becomes impracticable or unlawful for a Fund to hold securities subject to, or otherwise affected by, sanctions (collectively, “affected securities”), or if deemed appropriate by the Fund’s investment adviser, the Fund may prohibit in-kind deposits of the affected securities in connection with creation transactions and instead require a cash deposit, which may also increase the Fund’s transaction costs.

Also, if an affected security is included in a Fund’s Underlying Index, the Fund may, where practicable, seek to eliminate its holdings of the affected security by employing or augmenting its representative sampling strategy to seek to track the investment results of its Underlying Index. The use of (or increased use of) a representative sampling strategy may increase a Fund’s tracking error risk. If the affected securities constitute a significant percentage of the Underlying Index, a Fund may not be able to effectively implement a representative sampling strategy, which may result in significant tracking error between the Fund’s performance and the performance of its Underlying Index.

Current or future sanctions may result in Russia taking counter measures or retaliatory actions, which may further impair the value and liquidity of Russian securities. These retaliatory measures may include the immediate freeze of Russian assets held by a Fund. In the event of such a freeze of any fund assets, including depositary receipts, a Fund may need to liquidate non-restricted assets in order to satisfy any fund redemption orders. The liquidation of fund assets during this time may also result in a Fund receiving substantially lower prices for its securities.

These sanctions may also lead to changes in a Fund’s Underlying Index. A Fund’s index provider may remove securities from the Underlying Index or implement caps on the securities of certain issuers that have been subject to recent economic sanctions. In such an event, it is expected that a Fund will rebalance its portfolio to bring it in line with the Underlying Index as a result of any such changes, which may result in transaction costs and increased tracking error. These sanctions, the volatility that may result in the trading markets for Russian securities and the possibility that Russia may impose investment or currency controls on investors may cause a Fund to invest in, or to increase a Fund’s investments in, depositary receipts that represent the securities of its Underlying Index. These investments may result in increased transaction costs and increased tracking error.

**Risk of Investing in South Africa.** South Africa’s two-tiered economy, with one rivaling developed countries and the other exhibiting many characteristics of developing countries, is characterized by uneven distribution of wealth and income and high rates of unemployment. Although economic reforms have been enacted to promote growth and foreign investments, there can be no assurance that these programs will achieve the desired results. In addition, South Africa’s inadequate currency reserves have left its currency vulnerable at times to devaluation. Despite significant reform and privatization, the South African government continues to control a large share of South African economic activity. Heavy regulation of labor and product markets is pervasive and may stifle South African economic growth or cause prolonged periods of recession. The agriculture and mining sectors of South Africa’s economy account for a large portion of its exports and, thus, the South African economy is susceptible to fluctuations in these commodity markets.

**Risk of Investing in South Korea.** Investments in South Korean issuers involve risks that are specific to South Korea, including legal, regulatory, political, currency, security and economic risks. Substantial political tensions exist between North Korea and South Korea and recently, these political tensions have escalated. The outbreak of hostilities between the two nations, or even the threat of an outbreak of hostilities will likely adversely impact the South Korean economy. In addition, South Korea’s economic growth potential has recently been on a decline, mainly because of a rapidly aging population and structural problems.

**Risk of Investing in Taiwan.** Investment in Taiwanese issuers may subject the Fund to loss in the event of adverse political, economic, regulatory and other developments that affect Taiwan, including fluctuations of the New Taiwan dollar versus the U.S. dollar. Taiwan has few natural resources. Any fluctuation or shortage in the commodity markets could have a negative impact on the Taiwanese economy. Appreciation of the New Taiwan dollar, rising labor costs, and increasing environmental consciousness have led some labor-intensive industries to relocate to other countries with cheaper work forces. Continued labor outsourcing may adversely affect the Taiwanese economy. Taiwanese firms are among the world’s largest suppliers of

computer monitors and leaders in personal computer manufacturing. A slowdown in global demand for these products will likely have an adverse impact on the Taiwanese economy. The Chinese government views Taiwan as a renegade province and continues to contest Taiwan's sovereignty. The outbreak of hostilities between the two nations, or even the threat of an outbreak of hostilities will likely adversely impact the Taiwanese economy. Such risks, among others, may adversely affect the value of a Fund's investments.

**Risk of Investing in the United Kingdom.** Investment in United Kingdom issuers may subject a Fund to regulatory, political, currency, security, and economic risks specific to the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom economy relies heavily on export of financial services to the United States and other European countries. A prolonged slowdown in the financial services sector may have a negative impact on the United Kingdom's economy. In the past, the United Kingdom has been a target of terrorism. Acts of terrorism in the United Kingdom or against United Kingdom interests abroad may cause uncertainty in the United Kingdom financial markets and adversely affect the performance of the issuers to which a Fund has exposure. The United Kingdom's economy, along with the United States and certain other European economies, experienced a significant economic slowdown during the recent financial crisis.

**Risk of Investing in the United States.** The United States is a significant, and in some cases the most significant, trading partner of or foreign investor in, certain emerging markets in which a Fund invests, the economic conditions of which may be particularly affected by adverse changes in the U.S. economy. A decrease in U.S. imports, new trade regulations, changes in the U.S. dollar exchange rate or an economic slowdown in the United States may have a material adverse effect on a country's economic conditions and, as a result, securities to which a Fund has exposure.

**Risk of Investing in the Agriculture Production Industry Group.** Companies engaged in agricultural production may be adversely affected by changes or trends in commodity prices and labor costs, which may be influenced by unpredictable factors. Many companies in the agricultural production industry are subject to government subsidy policies and environmental, health and safety laws and regulations. Any changes to these policies and regulations, or the imposition of tariffs or other trade restraints, may have a material adverse effect on companies operating in this industry. Agricultural production companies also may be at risk for environmental damage claims, worker safety liability and other types of litigation. Companies in this industry may be adversely affected by changes in commercial and consumer demand for their products. Adverse weather conditions (such as floods or droughts), natural disasters and other factors, such as disease outbreaks, also may adversely affect companies operating in this industry.

**Risk of Investing in the Automotive Sub-Industry.** The automotive sub-industry can be highly cyclical, and companies in the automotive sub-industry may suffer periodic losses. The automotive sub-industry is also highly competitive and there may be, at times, excess capacity in the global and domestic automotive sub-industry. Over the last few years, the U.S. automotive sub-industry experienced a significant downturn; certain automotive companies required stimulus from the U.S. government, while others formed strategic industry alliances in order to weather the substantially difficult market conditions. In general, the automotive sub-industry is susceptible to labor disputes, product defect litigation, patent expiration, increased pension liabilities, rise in material or component prices and changing consumer tastes.

**Risk of Investing in the Capital Goods Industry Group.** The capital goods industry group may be affected by fluctuations in the business cycle and by other factors affecting manufacturing demands. The capital goods industry group depends heavily on corporate spending. The capital goods industry group may perform well during times of economic expansion, and as economic conditions worsen, the demand for capital goods may decrease due to weakening demand, worsening business cash flows, tighter credit controls and deteriorating profitability. During times of economic volatility, corporate spending may fall and adversely affect the capital goods industry group. This industry group may also be affected by changes in interest rates, corporate tax rates and other government policies. Many capital goods are sold internationally and such companies are subject to market conditions in other countries and regions.

**Risk of Investing in the Consumer Discretionary Sector.** Companies engaged in the design, production or distribution of products or services for the consumer discretionary sector (including, without limitation, television and radio broadcasting, manufacturing, publishing, recording and musical instruments, motion pictures, photography, amusement and theme parks, gaming casinos, sporting goods and sports arenas, camping and recreational equipment, toys and games, apparel, travel-related services, automobiles, hotels and motels, and fast food and other restaurants) are subject to the risk that their products or services may become obsolete quickly. The success of these companies can depend heavily on disposable household income and consumer spending. During periods of an expanding economy, the consumer discretionary sector may outperform the consumer staples sector, but may underperform when economic conditions worsen. Moreover, the

consumer discretionary sector can be significantly affected by several factors, including, without limitation, the performance of domestic and international economies, exchange rates, changing consumer preferences, demographics, marketing campaigns, cyclical revenue generation, consumer confidence, commodity price volatility, labor relations, interest rates, import and export controls, intense competition, technological developments and government regulation.

**Risk of Investing in the Consumer Goods Industry.** The consumer goods industry includes companies involved in the design, production or distribution of goods for consumers, including food, household, home, personal and office products, clothing and textiles. The success of the consumer goods industry is tied closely to the performance of the domestic and international economy, interest rates, exchange rates, competition, consumer confidence and consumer disposable income. The consumer goods industry may be strongly affected by trends, marketing campaigns and other factors affecting consumer demand. Governmental regulation affecting the use of various food additives may affect the profitability of certain companies in the consumer goods industry. Moreover, international events may affect food and beverage companies that derive a substantial portion of their net income from foreign countries. In addition, tobacco companies may be adversely affected by new laws, regulations and litigation. Many consumer goods may be marketed globally, and consumer goods companies may be affected by the demand and market conditions in other countries and regions. Companies in the consumer goods industry may be subject to severe competition, which may also have an adverse impact on their profitability. Changes in demographics and consumer preferences may affect the success of consumer products.

**Risk of Investing in the Consumer Staples Sector.** Companies in the consumer staples sector may be adversely affected by changes in the global economy, consumer spending, competition, demographics and consumer preferences, and production spending. Companies in the consumer staples sector may also be affected by changes in global economic, environmental and political events, economic conditions, the depletion of resources, and government regulation. For instance, government regulations may affect the permissibility of using various food additives and production methods of companies that make food products, which could affect company profitability. In addition, tobacco companies may be adversely affected by the adoption of proposed legislation and/or by litigation. Companies in the consumer staples sector also may be subject to risks pertaining to the supply of, demand for and prices of raw materials. The prices of raw materials fluctuate in response to a number of factors, including, without limitation, changes in government agricultural support programs, exchange rates, import and export controls, changes in international agricultural and trading policies, and seasonal and weather conditions. Companies in the consumer staples sector may be subject to severe competition, which may also have an adverse impact on their profitability.

**Risk of Investing in the Energy Sector.** Companies in the energy sector are strongly affected by the levels and volatility of global energy prices, energy supply and demand, government regulations and policies, energy production and conservation efforts, technological change, and other factors that they cannot control. These companies may also lack resources and have limited business lines. Energy companies may have relatively high levels of debt and may be more likely to restructure their businesses if there are downturns in certain energy markets or in the global economy. If an energy company in a Fund's portfolio becomes distressed, a Fund could lose all or a substantial portion of its investment.

The energy sector is cyclical and is highly dependent on commodity prices; prices and supplies of energy may fluctuate significantly over short and long periods of time due to, among other things, national and international political changes, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries ("OPEC") policies, changes in relationships among OPEC members and between OPEC and oil-importing nations, the regulatory environment, taxation policies, and the economy of the key energy-consuming countries.

Companies in the energy sector may be adversely affected by terrorism, natural disasters or other catastrophes. Companies in the energy sector are at risk of civil liability from accidents resulting in injury, loss of life or property, pollution or other environmental damage claims. Disruptions in the oil industry or shifts in fuel consumption may significantly impact companies in this sector. Significant oil and gas deposits are located in emerging markets countries where corruption and security may raise significant risks, in addition to the other risks of investing in emerging markets. Additionally, the Middle East, where many companies in the energy sector may operate, has historically and recently experienced widespread social unrest.

Companies in the energy sector may also be adversely affected by changes in exchange rates, interest rates, economic conditions, tax treatment, government regulation and intervention, negative perception, efforts at energy conservation and world events in the regions in which the companies operate (e.g., expropriation, nationalization, confiscation of assets and property or the imposition of restrictions on foreign investments and repatriation of capital, military coups, social unrest,

violence or labor unrest). Because a significant portion of revenues of companies in this sector is derived from a relatively small number of customers that are largely composed of governmental entities and utilities, governmental budget constraints may have a significant impact on the stock prices of companies in this sector. The energy sector is highly regulated. Entities operating in the energy sector are subject to significant regulation of nearly every aspect of their operations by federal, state and local governmental agencies. Such regulation can change rapidly or over time in both scope and intensity. Stricter laws, regulations or enforcement policies could be enacted in the future which would likely increase compliance costs and may materially adversely affect the financial performance of companies in the energy sector.

**Risk of Investing in the Financials Sector.** Companies in the financials sector include regional and money center banks, securities brokerage firms, asset management companies, savings banks and thrift institutions, specialty finance companies (e.g., credit card, mortgage providers), insurance and insurance brokerage firms, consumer finance firms, financial conglomerates and foreign banking and financial companies.

Most financial companies are subject to extensive governmental regulation, which limits their activities and may affect their ability to earn a profit from a given line of business. Government regulation may change frequently and may have significant adverse consequences for companies in the financials sector, including effects not intended by the regulation. Direct governmental intervention in the operations of financial companies and financial markets may materially and adversely affect the companies in which a Fund invests, including legislation in many countries that may increase government regulation, repatriation and other intervention. The impact of governmental intervention and legislative changes on any individual financial company or on the financials sector as a whole cannot be predicted. The valuation of financial companies has been and continues to be subject to unprecedented volatility and may be influenced by unpredictable factors, including interest rate risk and sovereign debt default. Certain financial businesses are subject to intense competitive pressures, including market share and price competition. Financial companies in foreign countries are subject to market specific and general regulatory and interest rate concerns. In particular, government regulation in certain foreign countries may include taxes and controls on interest rates, credit availability, minimum capital requirements, bans on short sales, limits on prices and restrictions on currency transfers. In addition, companies in the financials sector may be the targets of hacking and potential theft of proprietary or customer information or disruptions in service, which could have a material adverse effect on their businesses.

The profitability of banks, savings and loan associations and financial companies is largely dependent on the availability and cost of capital funds and can fluctuate significantly when interest rates change; for instance, when interest rates go up, the value of securities issued by many types of companies in the financials sector generally goes down. In other words, financial companies may be adversely affected in certain market cycles, including, without limitation, during periods of rising interest rates, which may restrict the availability and increase the cost of capital, and during periods of declining economic conditions, which may cause, among other things, credit losses due to financial difficulties of borrowers.

In addition, general economic conditions are important to the operations of these companies, and financial difficulties of borrowers may have an adverse effect on the profitability of financial companies. Financial companies can be highly dependent upon access to capital markets and any impediments to such access, such as adverse overall economic conditions or a negative perception in the capital markets of a financial company's financial condition or prospects, could adversely affect its business. Deterioration of credit markets can have an adverse impact on a broad range of financial markets, causing certain financial companies to incur large losses. In these conditions, companies in the financials sector may experience significant declines in the valuation of their assets, take actions to raise capital and even cease operations. Some financial companies may also be required to accept or borrow significant amounts of capital from government sources and may face future government-imposed restrictions on their businesses or increased government intervention. In addition, there is no guarantee that governments will provide any such relief in the future. These actions may cause the securities of many companies in the financials sector to decline in value.

**Risk of Investing in the Healthcare Sector.** Companies in the healthcare sector are often issuers whose profitability may be affected by extensive government regulation, restrictions on government reimbursement for medical expenses, rising or falling costs of medical products and services, pricing pressure, an increased emphasis on outpatient services, limited number of products, industry innovation, changes in technologies and other market developments. Many healthcare companies are heavily dependent on patent protection and the actual or perceived safety and efficiency of their products.

Patents have a limited duration and, upon expiration, other companies may market substantially similar "generic" products that are typically sold at a lower price than the patented product, causing the original developer of the product to lose market



share and/or reduce the price charged for the product, resulting in lower profits for the original developer. As a result, the expiration of patents may adversely affect the profitability of these companies.

In addition, because the products and services of many companies in the healthcare sector affect the health and well-being of many individuals, these companies are especially susceptible to extensive litigation based on product liability and similar claims. Healthcare companies are subject to competitive forces that may make it difficult to raise prices and, in fact, may result in price discounting. Many new products in the healthcare sector may be subject to regulatory approvals. The process of obtaining such approvals may be long and costly, resulting in increased development costs, delayed cost recovery and loss of competitive advantage to the extent that rival companies have developed competing products or procedures, adversely affecting the company's revenues and profitability. In other words, delays in the regulatory approval process may diminish the opportunity for a company to profit from a new product or to bring a new product to market, which could have a material adverse effect on a company's business. Healthcare companies may also be strongly affected by scientific biotechnology or technological developments and their products may quickly become obsolete. Also, many healthcare companies offer products and services that are subject to governmental regulation and may be adversely affected by changes in governmental policies or laws. Changes in governmental policies or laws may span a wide range of topics, including cost control, national health insurance, incentives for compensation in the provision of healthcare services, tax incentives and penalties related to healthcare insurance premiums, and promotion of prepaid healthcare plans.

Additionally, the expansion of facilities by healthcare-related providers may be subject to "determinations of need" by certain government authorities. This process not only generally increases the time and costs involved in these expansions, but also makes expansion plans uncertain, limiting the revenue and profitability growth potential of healthcare-related facilities operators and negatively affecting the prices of their securities. Moreover, in recent years both local and national governmental budgets have come under pressure to reduce spending and control healthcare costs, which could both adversely affect regulatory processes and public funding available for healthcare products, services and facilities.

**Risk of Investing in the Industrials Sector.** The value of securities issued by companies in the industrials sector may be adversely affected by supply of and demand for both their specific products or services and for industrials sector products in general. The products of manufacturing companies may face obsolescence due to rapid technological developments and frequent new product introduction. Government regulations, world events and economic conditions affect the performance of companies in the industrials sector. The industrials sector may also be adversely affected by changes or trends in commodity prices, which may be influenced by unpredictable factors. For example, commodity price declines and unit volume reductions resulting from an over-supply of materials used in the industrials sector can adversely affect the sector. Furthermore, companies in the industrials sector may be subject to liability for environmental damage, product liability claims, depletion of resources, and mandated expenditures for safety and pollution control.

**Risk of Investing in the Information Technology Sector.** Information technology companies face intense competition, both domestically and internationally, which may have an adverse effect on profit margins. Like other technology companies, information technology companies may have limited product lines, markets, financial resources or personnel. The products of information technology companies may face product obsolescence due to rapid technological developments and frequent new product introduction, unpredictable changes in growth rates and competition for the services of qualified personnel. Technology companies and companies that rely heavily on technology, especially those of smaller, less-seasoned companies, tend to be more volatile than the overall market. Companies in the information technology sector are heavily dependent on patent and intellectual property rights. The loss or impairment of these rights may adversely affect the profitability of these companies. Finally, while all companies may be susceptible to network security breaches, certain companies in the information technology sector may be particular targets of hacking and potential theft of proprietary or consumer information or disruptions in service, which could have a material adverse effect on their businesses. These risks are heightened for information technology companies in foreign markets.

**Risk of Investing in the Materials Sector.** Companies in the materials sector may be adversely affected by commodity price volatility, exchange rates, import controls, increased competition, depletion of resources, technical progress, labor relations and government regulations, and mandated expenditures for safety and pollution control, among other factors. Also, companies in the materials sector are at risk of liability for environmental damage and product liability claims. Production of materials may exceed demand as a result of market imbalances or economic downturns, leading to poor investment returns. These risks are heightened for companies in the materials sector located in foreign markets.

**Risk of Investing in the Media Industry Group.** Companies in the media industry group may encounter distressed cash flows due to the need to commit substantial capital to meet increasing competition, particularly in formulating new products and services using new technology. Media companies are subject to risks that include cyclicalities of revenues and earnings, a potential decrease in the discretionary income of targeted individuals, changing consumer tastes and interests, competition in the industry and the potential for increased state and federal regulation. Advertising spending is an important source of revenue for media companies. During economic downturns, advertising spending typically decreases and, as a result, media companies tend to generate less revenue.

**Risk of Investing in the Metals and Mining Industry.** Certain of the Funds will invest in securities that are issued by and/or have exposure to, companies primarily involved in the metals and mining industry. Investments in metals and mining industry companies may be speculative and subject to greater price volatility than investments in other types of companies. The profitability of companies in the metals and mining industry is related to, among other things, worldwide metal prices, and extraction and production costs. Worldwide metal prices may fluctuate substantially over short periods of time, so a Fund's share price may be more volatile than other types of investments. In addition, metals and mining companies may be significantly affected by changes in global demand for certain metals, economic developments, energy conservation, exchange rates, the success of exploration projects, interest rates, economic conditions, tax treatment, government regulation and intervention, and world events in the regions that the companies to which a Fund has exposure operate (e.g., expropriation, nationalization, confiscation of assets and property or the imposition of restrictions on foreign investments and repatriation of capital, military coups, social unrest, violence and labor unrest). Metals and mining companies may also be subject to the effects of competitive pressures in the metals and mining industry.

**Risk of Investing in the Oil and Gas Industry.** Companies in the oil and gas industry are strongly affected by the levels and volatility of global energy prices, oil and gas supply and demand, government regulations and policies, oil and gas production and conservation efforts and technological change. The oil and gas industry is cyclical and from time to time may experience a shortage of drilling rigs, equipment, supplies or qualified personnel, or due to significant demand, such services may not be available on commercially reasonable terms. Prices and supplies of oil and gas may fluctuate significantly over short and long periods of time due to national and international political changes, OPEC policies, changes in relationships among OPEC members and between OPEC and oil-importing nations, the regulatory environment, taxation policies, and the economies of key energy-consuming countries. Disruptions in the oil sub-industry or shifts in energy consumption may significantly impact companies in this industry. For instance, significant oil and gas deposits are located in emerging market countries where corruption and security may raise significant risks, in addition to the other risks of investing in emerging markets. In addition, the Middle East, where many companies in the oil and gas industry may operate, has recently experienced widespread social unrest. Oil and gas companies operate in a highly competitive industry, with intense price competition. A significant portion of their revenues may depend on a relatively small number of customers, including governmental entities and utilities. Companies that own or operate gas pipelines are subject to certain risks, including pipeline and equipment leaks and ruptures, explosions, fires, unscheduled downtime, transportation interruptions, discharges or releases of toxic or hazardous gases and other environmental risks.

**Risk of Investing in the Real Estate Industry Group.** Companies in the real estate industry group include companies that invest in real estate, such as a real estate investment trust ("REIT") or a real estate holding company (collectively, "Real Estate Companies"). Investing in Real Estate Companies exposes investors to the risks of owning real estate directly, as well as to risks that relate specifically to the way in which Real Estate Companies are organized and operated. The real estate industry is highly sensitive to general and local economic conditions and developments, and characterized by intense competition and periodic overbuilding. Investing in Real Estate Companies involves various risks. Some risks that are specific to Real Estate Companies are discussed in greater detail below.

*Interest Rate Risk.* Rising interest rates could result in higher costs of capital for Real Estate Companies, which could negatively impact a Real Estate Company's ability to meet its payment obligations.

*Leverage Risk.* Real Estate Companies may use leverage (and some may be highly leveraged), which increases investment risk and could adversely affect a Real Estate Company's operations and market value in periods of rising interest rates. Real Estate Companies are also exposed to the risks normally associated with debt financing. Financial covenants related to a Real Estate Company's leverage may affect the ability of the Real Estate Company to operate effectively. In addition, real property may be subject to the quality of credit extended and defaults by borrowers and tenants. If the properties do not generate sufficient income to meet operating expenses, including, where applicable, debt service, ground lease payments, tenant improvements,

third-party leasing commissions and other capital expenditures, the income and ability of a Real Estate Company to make payments of any interest and principal on its debt securities will be adversely affected.

*Property Risk.* Real Estate Companies may be subject to risks relating to functional obsolescence or reduced desirability of properties; extended vacancies due to economic conditions and tenant bankruptcies; catastrophic events such as earthquakes, hurricanes and terrorist acts; and casualty or condemnation losses. Real estate income and values also may be greatly affected by demographic trends, such as population shifts or changing tastes and values, or increasing vacancies or declining rents resulting from legal, cultural, technological, global or local economic developments.

*Management Risk.* Real Estate Companies are dependent upon management skills and may have limited financial resources. Real Estate Companies are generally not diversified and may be subject to heavy cash flow dependency, default by borrowers and voluntary liquidation. In addition, transactions between Real Estate Companies and their affiliates may be subject to conflicts of interest, which may adversely affect a Real Estate Company's shareholders. A Real Estate Company may also have joint venture investments in certain of its properties and, consequently, its ability to control decisions relating to such properties may be limited.

*Liquidity Risk.* Investing in Real Estate Companies may involve risks similar to those associated with investing in small-capitalization companies. Real Estate Company securities, like the securities of smaller capitalization companies, may be more volatile than, and perform differently from, shares of large-capitalization companies. There may be less trading in Real Estate Company shares, which means that buy and sell transactions in those shares could have a magnified impact on share price, resulting in abrupt or erratic price fluctuations. In addition, real estate is relatively illiquid and, therefore, a Real Estate Company may have a limited ability to vary or liquidate properties in response to changes in economic or other conditions.

*Concentration Risk.* Real Estate Companies may own a limited number of properties and concentrate their investments in a particular geographic region or property type.

*U.S. Tax Risk.* Certain U.S. Real Estate Companies are subject to special U.S. federal tax requirements. A REIT that fails to comply with such tax requirements may be subject to U.S. federal income taxation, which may affect the value of the REIT and the characterization of the REIT's distributions. The U.S. federal tax requirement that a REIT distribute substantially all of its net income to its shareholders may result in a REIT having insufficient capital for future expenditures.

*Regulatory Risk.* Real estate income and values may be adversely affected by such factors as applicable domestic and foreign laws (including tax laws). Government actions, such as tax increases, zoning law changes or environmental regulations, also may have a major impact on real estate.

**Risk of Investing in the Retail Industry Group.** The retail industry group may be affected by changes in domestic and international economies, consumer confidence, disposable household income and spending, and consumer tastes and preferences. Companies in the retail industry group face intense competition, which may have an adverse effect on their profitability. The success of companies in the retail industry group may be strongly affected by social trends, marketing campaigns and public perceptions. Companies in the retail industry group may be dependent on outside financing, which may be difficult to obtain. Many of these companies are dependent on third party suppliers and distribution systems. Retail companies may be unable to protect their intellectual property rights or may be liable for infringing the intellectual property rights of others.

**Risk of Investing in the Technology Sector.** Technology companies are characterized by periodic new product introductions, innovations and evolving industry standards, and, as a result, face intense competition, both domestically and internationally, which may have an adverse effect on profit margins. Companies in the technology sector are often smaller and less experienced companies and may be subject to greater risks than larger companies; these risks may be heightened for technology companies in foreign markets. Technology companies may have limited product lines, markets, financial resources or personnel. The products of technology companies may face product obsolescence due to rapid technological developments and frequent new product introduction, changes in consumer and business purchasing patterns, unpredictable changes in growth rates and competition for the services of qualified personnel. In addition, a rising interest rate environment tends to negatively affect companies in the technology sector because, in such an environment, those companies with high market valuations may appear less attractive to investors, which may cause sharp decreases in the companies' market prices. Companies in the technology sector are heavily dependent on patent and intellectual property rights. The loss or impairment of these rights may adversely affect the profitability of these companies. The technology sector may also be adversely affected by changes or trends in commodity prices, which may be influenced or characterized



by unpredictable factors. Finally, while all companies may be susceptible to network security breaches, certain companies in the technology sector may be particular targets of hacking and potential theft of proprietary or consumer information or disruptions in service, which could have a material adverse effect on their businesses.

**Risk of Investing in the Telecommunications Sector.** The telecommunications sector of a country's economy is often subject to extensive government regulation. The costs of complying with governmental regulations, delays or failure to receive required regulatory approvals, or the enactment of new regulatory requirements may negatively affect the business of telecommunications companies. Government actions around the world, specifically in the area of pre-marketing clearance of products and prices, can be arbitrary and unpredictable. Companies in the telecommunications sector may experience distressed cash flows due to the need to commit substantial capital to meet increasing competition, particularly in developing new products and services using new technology. Technological innovations may make the products and services of certain telecommunications companies obsolete. Finally, while all companies may be susceptible to network security breaches, certain companies in the telecommunications sector may be particular targets of hacking and potential theft of proprietary or consumer information or disruptions in service, which could have a material adverse effect on their businesses.

**Risk of Investing in the Transportation Industry Group.** Issuers in the transportation industry group can be significantly affected by economic changes, fuel prices, labor relations, technology developments, exchange rates, industry competition, and insurance costs. Transportation companies in certain countries may also be subject to significant government regulation and oversight, which may adversely affect their businesses. Other risk factors that may affect transportation companies include the risk of increases in fuel and other operating costs and the effects of regulatory changes or other government decisions. Companies in the transportation industry group may be adversely affected by adverse weather, acts of terrorism or catastrophic events, such as air accidents, train crashes or tunnel fires. Companies in the transportation industry group may also be subject to the risk of widespread disruption of technology systems and increasing equipment and operational costs.

**Risk of Investing in the Utilities Sector.** The utilities sector may be adversely affected by changing commodity prices, government regulation stipulating rates charged by utilities, increased tariffs, changes in tax laws, interest rate fluctuations and changes in the cost of providing specific utility services. The utilities industry is also subject to potential terrorist attacks, natural disasters and severe weather conditions, as well as regulatory and operational burdens associated with the operation and maintenance of nuclear facilities. Government regulators monitor and control utility revenues and costs, and therefore may limit utility profits. In certain countries, regulatory authorities may also restrict a company's access to new markets, thereby diminishing the company's long-term prospects.

There are substantial differences among the regulatory practices and policies of various jurisdictions, and any regulatory agency may make major shifts in policy from time to time. There is no assurance that regulatory authorities will, in the future, grant rate increases. Additionally, existing and possible future regulatory legislation may make it even more difficult for utilities to obtain adequate relief. Certain of the issuers of securities held in a Fund's portfolio may own or operate nuclear generating facilities. Governmental authorities may from time to time review existing policies and impose additional requirements governing the licensing, construction and operation of nuclear power plants. Prolonged changes in climate conditions can also have a significant impact on both the revenues of an electric and gas utility as well as the expenses of a utility, particularly a hydro-based electric utility.

The rates that traditional regulated utility companies may charge their customers generally are subject to review and limitation by governmental regulatory commissions. Rate changes may occur only after a prolonged approval period or may not occur at all, which could adversely affect utility companies when costs are rising. The value of regulated utility debt securities (and, to a lesser extent, equity securities) tends to have an inverse relationship to the movement of interest rates. Certain utility companies have experienced full or partial deregulation in recent years. These utility companies are frequently more similar to industrial companies in that they are subject to greater competition and have been permitted by regulators to diversify outside of their original geographic regions and their traditional lines of business. As a result, some companies may be forced to defend their core business and may be less profitable. Deregulation may also permit a utility company to expand outside of its traditional lines of business and engage in riskier ventures.

## Proxy Voting Policy

The Company Board of Directors has delegated the voting of proxies for each Fund's securities to BFA pursuant to BFA's proxy voting guidelines and procedures (the "BlackRock Proxy Voting Guidelines"). Under the BlackRock Proxy Voting

Guidelines, BFA will vote proxies related to Fund securities in the best interests of the a Fund and its shareholders. From time to time, a vote may present a conflict between the interests of a Fund's shareholders, on the one hand, and those of BFA, or any affiliated person of a Fund or BFA, on the other. BFA maintains policies and procedures that are designed to prevent undue influence on BFA's proxy voting activity that might stem from any relationship between the issuer of a proxy (or any dissident shareholder) and BFA, BFA's affiliates, a Fund or a Fund's affiliates. Most conflicts are managed through a structural separation of BFA's Corporate Governance Group from BFA's employees with sales and client responsibilities. In addition, BFA maintains procedures to ensure that all engagements with corporate issuers or dissident shareholders are managed consistently and without regard to BFA's relationship with the issuer of the proxy or dissident shareholder. In certain instances, BFA may determine to engage an independent fiduciary to vote proxies as a further safeguard to avoid potential conflicts of interest or as otherwise required by applicable law. Copies of both the Funds' Proxy Voting Policy and the BlackRock Proxy Voting Guidelines are attached as Appendix A.

Information on how each Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available without charge, (i) at and (ii) on the SEC's website at .

## Portfolio Holdings Information

The Board has adopted a policy regarding the disclosure of the Funds' portfolio holdings information that requires that such information be disclosed in a manner that: (i) is consistent with applicable legal requirements and in the best interests of each Fund's respective shareholders; (ii) does not put the interests of BFA, the Distributor or any affiliated person of BFA or the Distributor, above those of Fund shareholders; (iii) does not advantage any current or prospective Fund shareholders over any other current or prospective Fund shareholders, except to the extent that certain Entities (as described below) may receive portfolio holdings information not available to other current or prospective Fund shareholders in connection with the dissemination of information necessary for transactions in Creation Units, as discussed below, and certain information may be provided to personnel of BFA and its affiliates who manage funds that invest a significant percentage of their assets in shares of the Fund for the purpose of facilitating risk management and hedging activities; and (iv) does not provide selective access to portfolio holdings information except pursuant to the procedures outlined below and to the extent appropriate confidentiality arrangements limiting the use of such information are in effect. The "Entities" referred to in sub-section (iii) above are generally limited to National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") members, subscribers to various fee-based subscription services, large institutional investors (known as "Authorized Participants") that have been authorized by the Distributor to purchase and redeem large blocks of shares pursuant to legal requirements and market makers and other institutional market participants and entities that provide information or transactional services.

Each business day, each Fund's portfolio holdings information is provided to the Distributor or other agent for dissemination through the facilities of the NSCC and/or other fee-based subscription services to NSCC members and/or subscribers to those other fee-based subscription services, including market makers and Authorized Participants, and to entities that publish and/or analyze such information in connection with the process of purchasing or redeeming Creation Units or trading shares of the Funds in the secondary market or evaluating such potential transactions. This information typically reflects each Fund's anticipated holdings on the following business day.

Daily access to information concerning the Funds' portfolio holdings is permitted (i) to certain personnel of those service providers that are involved in portfolio management and providing administrative, operational, risk management, or other support to portfolio management; and (ii) to other personnel of BFA, the Distributor and their affiliates, and the administrator, custodian and fund accountant who deal directly with, or assist in, functions related to investment management, distribution, administration, custody, securities lending and fund accounting, as may be necessary to conduct business in the ordinary course in a manner consistent with federal securities laws and regulations thereunder. In addition, each Fund discloses its fixed income and/or equity portfolio holdings daily at [www.iShares.com](http://www.iShares.com). More information about this disclosure is available at [www.iShares.com](http://www.iShares.com).

Portfolio holdings information made available in connection with the creation/redemption process may be provided to other entities that provide services to the Funds in the ordinary course of business after it has been disseminated to the NSCC. From time to time, information concerning portfolio holdings other than portfolio holdings information made available in connection with the creation/redemption process, as discussed above, may be provided to other entities that provide services to the Funds, including rating or ranking organizations, in the ordinary course of business, no earlier than one business day following the date of the information.

Each Fund discloses its complete portfolio holdings schedule in public filings with the SEC within 70 days of the end of the second and fourth fiscal quarters and within 60 days of the end of the first and third fiscal quarters and will provide such information to shareholders as required by federal securities laws and regulations thereunder. A Fund may, however, voluntarily disclose all or part of its portfolio holdings other than in connection with the creation/redemption process, as discussed above, in advance of required filings with the SEC, provided that such information is made generally available to all shareholders and other interested parties in a manner that is consistent with the above policy for disclosure of portfolio holdings information. Such information may be made available through a publicly-available website or other means that make the information available to all likely interested parties contemporaneously.

The Company's Chief Compliance Officer or his delegate may authorize disclosure of portfolio holdings information pursuant to the above policy and procedures.

The Board reviews the policy and procedures for disclosure of portfolio holdings information at least annually.

## Construction and Maintenance of the Underlying Indexes

Descriptions of the Underlying Indexes are provided below.

### The MSCI Indexes

The MSCI indexes were founded in 1969 by Capital International S.A. as the first international performance benchmarks constructed to facilitate accurate comparison of world markets. The MSCI single country standard equity indexes have covered the world's developed markets since 1969 and in 1987 MSCI commenced coverage of emerging markets.

Local stock exchanges traditionally calculated their own indexes, which were generally not comparable with one another due to differences in the representation of the local market, mathematical formulas, base dates and methods of adjusting for capital changes. MSCI, however, applies the same calculation methodology to all markets for all single country standard equity indexes, both developed and emerging.

MSCI's Global Investable Market Indexes (the "MSCI GIMI") provide exhaustive coverage and non-overlapping market segmentation by market capitalization size and by style. The MSCI GIMI intends to target approximately 99% coverage of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each market of large-, mid- and small-cap securities.

- MSCI Global Standard Indexes cover all investable large- and mid-cap securities by including approximately 85% of each market's free float-adjusted market capitalization.
- MSCI Global Small Cap Indexes provide coverage to all companies with a market capitalization below that of the companies in the MSCI Global Standard Indexes by including above and beyond the coverage of the MSCI Global Standard Indexes.

#### MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes

**Selection Criteria.** MSCI's index construction process involves: (i) defining the equity universe; (ii) determining the market investable equity universe for each market; (iii) determining market capitalization size segments for each market; (iv) applying final size segment investability requirements; and (v) applying index continuity rules for the MSCI Global Standard Index.

**Defining the Equity Universe.** MSCI begins with securities listed in countries in the MSCI GIMI. Of these countries, as of September 30, 2015, 23 are classified as developed markets, 23 as emerging markets, and 23 as frontier markets. All listed equity securities and listed securities that exhibit characteristics of equity securities, except mutual funds, exchange traded funds, equity derivatives, limited partnerships and most investment trusts, are eligible for inclusion in the equity universe. REITs in some countries and certain income trusts in Canada are also eligible for inclusion. Each company and its securities (*i.e.*, share classes) are classified in only one country.

**Determining the Market Investable Equity Universe for Each Market.** The equity universe in any market is derived by applying investability screens to individual companies and securities in the equity universe of that market. Some investability requirements are applied at the individual security level and some at the overall company level, represented by the aggregation of individual securities of the company. As a result, the inclusion or exclusion of one security does not imply the automatic inclusion or exclusion of other securities of the same company.

**Determining Market Capitalization Size Segments for Each Market.** In each market, MSCI creates an Investable Market Index, Standard Index, Large Cap Index, Mid Cap Index and Small Cap Index. The MSCI Global Standard Index is the aggregation of the Large Cap Index and Mid Cap Index. The MSCI GIMI is the aggregation of the MSCI Global Standard Index and MSCI Global Small Cap Index. In order to create size components that can be meaningfully aggregated into composites, individual market size segments balance the following two objectives:

- Achieving global size integrity by ensuring that companies of comparable and relevant sizes are included in a given size segment across all markets in a composite index; and
- Achieving consistent market coverage by ensuring that each market's size segment is represented in its proportional weight in the composite universe.

**Applying Final Size Segment Investability Requirements.** In order to enhance replicability of the indexes, additional size segment investability requirements are set for the MSCI GIMI and MSCI Global Standard Index. These investability requirements include minimum free float-adjusted market capitalization, minimum liquidity, minimum foreign limits and minimum length of trading.

**Applying Index Continuity Rules for the Standard Index.** In order to achieve index continuity as well as provide some basic level of diversification within a market index, notwithstanding the effect of other index construction rules contained herein, a minimum number of five constituents will be maintained for a developed market Standard Index and a minimum number of three constituents will be maintained for an emerging market Standard Index.

**Weighting.** All indexes of the MSCI GIMI are free float weighted, *i.e.*, companies are included in the indexes at the value of their free public float (free float multiplied by security price).

**Regional Weights.** Market capitalization-weighting, combined with a consistent target of approximately 99% of free float-adjusted market capitalization, helps ensure that each country's weight in regional and international indexes approximates its weight in the total universe of developing and emerging markets. A market is equivalent to a single country except for developed Europe, where all markets are aggregated into a single market for index construction purposes. Individual country indexes of the European developed markets are derived from the constituents of the MSCI GIMI Europe Index.

**Free Float.** MSCI defines the free float of a security as the proportion of shares outstanding that are deemed to be available for purchase in the public equity markets by international investors. In practice, limitations on free float available to international investors include: (i) strategic and other shareholdings not considered part of available free float; and (ii) limits on share ownership for foreigners.

Under MSCI's free float-adjustment methodology, a constituent's inclusion factor is equal to its estimated free float rounded-up to the closest 5% for constituents with free float equal to or exceeding 15%. For example, a constituent security with a free float of 23.2% will be included in the index at 25% of its market capitalization. For securities with a free float of less than 15%, the estimated free float is adjusted to the nearest 1%.

## Price and Exchange Rates

**Prices.** The prices used to calculate all MSCI indexes are the official exchange closing prices or those figures accepted as such. MSCI reserves the right to use an alternative pricing source on any given day.

**Exchange Rates.** Since July 2000, MSCI uses the World Markets/Reuters Closing Spot Rates taken at 4:00 p.m. London time. In case World Markets/Reuters does not provide rates for specific markets on given days (for example, Christmas Day and New Year's Day), the previous business day's rates are normally used. MSCI independently monitors the exchange rates on all its indexes. MSCI may under exceptional circumstances elect to use alternative sources of exchange rates if the World Markets/Reuters rates are not available, or if MSCI determines that the World Markets/Reuters rates are not reflective of market circumstances for a given currency on a particular day. In such circumstances, an announcement would be sent to

clients with the related information. If appropriate, MSCI may conduct a consultation with the investment community to gather feedback on the most relevant exchange rate.

**Changes to the Indexes.** The MSCI GIMI is maintained with the objective of reflecting, on a timely basis, the evolution of the underlying equity markets. In maintaining the MSCI indexes, emphasis is also placed on continuity, replicability and minimizing turnover in the indexes. Maintaining the MSCI indexes involves many aspects, including (i) additions to, and deletions from, the indexes; (ii) changes in number of shares; and (iii) changes in inclusion factors as a result of updated free float estimates.

Index maintenance can be described by three broad categories of changes:

- Semi-Annual Index Reviews (“SAIRs”), conducted on a fixed semi-annual timetable that systematically reassess the various dimensions of the equity universe for all markets;
- Quarterly Index Reviews (“QIRs”), aimed at promptly reflecting other significant market events; and
- Ongoing event-related changes, such as mergers, acquisitions, spin-offs, bankruptcies, reorganizations and other similar corporate events, which generally are implemented in the indexes as they occur.

Potential changes in the status of countries (stand-alone, frontier, emerging and developed) follow their own implementation time tables.

MSCI conducts SAIRs generally as of the close of the last business day of May and November. During the SAIRs, MSCI updates the investable equity universe and reassesses size segmentation investability requirements. MSCI also conducts QIRs generally as of the close of the last business day of February and August. During the QIRs, MSCI reflects changes in the index that were not captured at the time of their actual occurrence, but are significant enough to be included before the next SAIR. The results of the SAIR and QIR are generally announced at least ten business days in advance of implementation.

### MSCI 25/50 Indexes

Each of the MSCI 25/50 Indexes (the “25/50 Indexes”) is a sub-index of either an MSCI Global Standard Index or an MSCI GIMI. Their construction reflects the diversification requirements applicable to RICs pursuant to Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code. The 25/50 Indexes are free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted indexes with a capping methodology applied to issuer weights so that no single issuer of a component exceeds 25% of index weight, and all issuers with a weight above 5% do not, in the aggregate, exceed 50% of the index weight. A software application called the Barra Optimizer is utilized to calculate the capped index weights through an optimization function which is aimed at minimizing index turnover, tracking error and extreme deviation from the uncapped index.

### MSCI Global Minimum Volatility Indexes

MSCI Global Minimum Volatility Indexes are rules-based indexes and are designed to reflect lower volatility or lower risk than the capitalization-weighted indexes on which they are based. The indexes aim to reflect the performance of equity portfolios that have the lowest absolute volatility for a given set of investment constraints. Each MSCI Global Minimum Volatility Index seeks lower volatility than the comparable capitalization-weighted MSCI Global Standard Index.

Historically, relative to the MSCI Global Standard Index, the MSCI Global Minimum Volatility Indexes have demonstrated (i) lower portfolio beta; (ii) lower portfolio volatility; (iii) lower market capitalization bias; and (iv) bias towards securities with lower distinctive risk.

The MSCI Global Minimum Volatility Indexes begin with an existing capitalization-weighted MSCI Global Standard Index for a geographic region, which will serve as the universe of eligible securities for performing total risk optimization. After identifying the investor’s base currency, the optimization is performed by applying a security covariance matrix estimated from Barra’s multi-factor risk model to determine weights for securities in the index that minimizes total risk of the MSCI Global Standard Index for a given set of constraints. The following investment constraints apply in constructing the MSCI Global Minimum Volatility Indexes:

- The maximum weight of an index constituent will be the lower of 1.5% or 20 times its weight in the MSCI Global Standard Index;
- The minimum weight of an index constituent will be 0.05%;



- For countries in the MSCI Global Standard Index with weight greater than or equal to 2.5%, the MSCI Global Minimum Volatility Indexes weight will not deviate by more than  $\pm 5\%$  of its weight in the MSCI Global Standard Index;
- For countries in the MSCI Global Standard Index with weight less than 2.5%, the maximum MSCI Global Minimum Volatility Indexes weight will be three times its weight in the MSCI Global Standard Index;
- Sector weights will not deviate by more than  $\pm 5\%$  from its weight in the MSCI Global Standard Index;
- Exposure to risk indices from Barra's multi-factor risk model, including (i) Momentum; (ii) Value; (iii) Size; (iv) Size Nonlinearity; (v) Growth; (vi) Liquidity; and (vii) Financial Leverage will be limited to  $\pm 0.25$  standard deviations relative to the MSCI Global Standard Index; exposure to the volatility risk index will be unlimited; and
- The maximum one-way turnover will be 10%.

MSCI conducts SAIRs of the MSCI Global Minimum Volatility Indexes at the end of May and November, coinciding with the semi-annual reviews of the MSCI Global Standard Indexes. The security covariance matrix used in the optimization for MSCI Global Minimum Volatility Indexes is taken as of the end of April and October. Generally, the MSCI Global Minimum Volatility Indexes will follow the event maintenance of the MSCI Global Standard Index. Initial public offerings ("IPOs") and other newly listed securities will only be considered for inclusion in the MSCI Global Minimum Volatility Indexes at the next semi-annual index review, even if they qualify for early inclusion in the MSCI Global Standard Index. There will be no early inclusion of new securities in the MSCI Global Minimum Volatility Indexes, except when a new security is the result of an event affecting an existing index constituent, such as a merger or spin-off. An index constituent will be deleted from the MSCI Global Minimum Volatility Indexes following a corporate event or following a quarterly review of the MSCI Global Standard Index in which the index constituent is simultaneously deleted from the MSCI Global Standard Index.

### **MSCI ACWI Select Agriculture Producers Investable Market Index (IMI)**

#### **Number of Components: approximately 138**

**Index Description.** The MSCI ACWI Select Agriculture Producers IMI is a free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index comprised of select companies in both developed and emerging markets that are primarily engaged in the business of agriculture at or near the initial phase of agricultural input production. Free-float market capitalization is calculated by taking the security's price and multiplying it by the number of shares readily available in the market rather than the total number of shares outstanding. The Underlying Index contains companies classified under fertilizers and agricultural chemicals and agricultural products GICS categories. In addition, companies classified under the construction and farm machinery and heavy trucks GICS category are included provided they derive the majority of their revenues from farm machinery and related parts. Finally, companies classified under the packaged foods and meats GICS category are included provided they derive the majority of their revenues from production, based on the following guidelines:

- Poultry and Livestock: companies are included only if they are significantly involved in the breeding of animals by themselves or through contract farming;
- Dairy: manufacturers of milk and milk products such as cheese and yogurt, are excluded due to the absence of revenue break up;
- Sugar: manufacturers of sugar are included even if they do not farm sugarcane. Companies selling sweeteners, sugar free, syrups, etc. are excluded;
- Edible oil: companies processing edible oil without cultivating the plantation are excluded;
- Confectioneries and snacks: manufacturers of finished products are excluded due to their presence at the lower spectrum of the value chain;
- Coffee: coffee companies are excluded due to their reliance on external parties for raw materials; and
- Fishing: fishing companies are generally included whether they operate fisheries or receive their catch from the ocean.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

## MSCI ACWI Select Energy Producers Investable Market Index (IMI)

### Number of Components: approximately 240

**Index Description.** The MSCI ACWI Select Energy Producers IMI is a free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index comprised of select companies primarily engaged in the business of energy exploration and production in both developed and emerging markets. Free-float market capitalization is calculated by taking the security's price and multiplying it by the number of shares readily available in the market rather than the total number of shares outstanding. The Underlying Index contains securities classified under oil and gas exploration and production and coal and consumable fuels GICS categories. In addition, securities classified under integrated oil and gas and oil and gas refining and marketing GICS categories are included provided they do not derive a majority of their revenues from marketing, storage and/or transportation of oil and gas. Companies classified in those sub-industries which do not separately disclose the refining and/or marketing operations in their financial statements are included. Companies primarily involved in alternative fuels are excluded.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

## MSCI ACWI Select Metals & Mining Producers ex Gold and Silver Investable Market Index (IMI)

### Number of Components: approximately 228

**Index Description.** The MSCI ACWI Select Metals & Mining Producers ex Gold and Silver IMI is a free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index comprised of companies primarily involved in the extraction and production of diversified metals, aluminum, steel, and precious metals and minerals, excluding gold and silver, in both developed and emerging markets. Free-float market capitalization is calculated by taking the security's price and multiplying it by the number of shares readily available in the market rather than the total number of shares outstanding. The Underlying Index includes companies classified under the aluminum, diversified metals and mining and steel GICS categories. In addition, companies classified under the precious metals and minerals GICS category are included, provided they do not derive less than 50% of their revenues from gold mining or silver mining.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

## MSCI All Colombia Capped Index

### Number of Components: approximately 28

**Index Description.** The MSCI All Colombia Capped Index is designed to measure the broad-based equity market in Colombia. The Underlying Index consists of equity securities of companies that are listed in Colombia and have the majority of their operations based in Colombia, as well as companies that are headquartered in Colombia and have the majority of their operations based in Colombia (but may not be listed in Colombia). The Underlying Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index with a capping methodology applied to issuer weights so that no single issuer of a component exceeds 25% of the Underlying Index weight and all issuers with a weight above 5% do not, in the aggregate, exceed 50% of the Underlying Index weight.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends

means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

### **MSCI ACWI Minimum Volatility (USD) Index**

#### **Number of Components: approximately 358**

**Index Description.** The MSCI ACWI Minimum Volatility (USD) Index measures the combined performance of equity securities in both emerging and developed markets that have lower absolute volatility. Component companies include consumer staples, financial and health care companies. Each security included in the Underlying Index is a current constituent of the MSCI ACWI Index.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

### **MSCI Brazil 25/50 Index**

#### **Number of Components: approximately 67**

**Index Description.** The MSCI Brazil 25/50 Index consists of stocks traded primarily on the BM&FBOVESPA (the Brazilian exchange).

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

### **MSCI BRIC Index**

#### **Number of Components: approximately 304**

**Index Description.** The MSCI BRIC Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure the combined equity market performance in Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) and consists of stocks traded primarily on the BM&FBOVESPA, Russian Trading System Stock Exchange, Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange, National Stock Exchange of India, Shanghai Stock Exchange, Shenzhen Stock Exchange and the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

### **MSCI Chile Investable Market Index (IMI) 25/50**

#### **Number of Components: approximately 35**

**Index Description.** The MSCI Chile IMI 25/50 is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure broad-based equity market performance in Chile. The MSCI Chile IMI 25/50 consists of stocks traded primarily on the Santiago Stock Exchange.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating

the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

### **MSCI Emerging Markets (EM) Asia Index**

#### **Number of Components: approximately 545**

**Index Description.** The MSCI EM Asia Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted index designed to measure equity market performance in the emerging market countries of Asia. Free-float market capitalization is calculated by taking the security's price and multiplying it by the number of shares readily available in the market rather than the total number of shares outstanding.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

### **MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon Index**

#### **Number of Components: approximately 277**

**Index Description.** The MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon Index is designed to track the equity performance of the smallest 25% of countries by market capitalization in the universe of MSCI Emerging Markets Index countries, excluding Brazil, China, India and Russia.

The countries are selected by ranking them in descending order of their free float-adjusted market capitalization-weights and then selecting all the countries where the cumulative weight is between 75% and 100%. Subsequently, Brazil, China, India and Russia are excluded from the list of countries selected in the previous step.

All the securities in the final list of selected countries that comprise the MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon Index are weighted based on their free float-adjusted market capitalization. The Index is rebalanced annually in May.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

### **MSCI Emerging Markets Index**

#### **Number of Components: approximately 838**

**Index Description.** The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is designed to measure equity market performance in the global emerging markets.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

### **MSCI Emerging Markets Investable Market Index (IMI)**

**Number of Components: approximately 2,724**

**Index Description.** The MSCI Emerging Markets IMI is designed to measure equity market performance in the global emerging markets. The Underlying Index captures large-, mid- and small-cap representation across 23 emerging market countries. With 2,724 constituents, the Underlying Index covers approximately 99% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

**MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility (USD) Index****Number of Components: approximately 256**

**Index Description.** The MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility (USD) Index measures the performance of equity securities in global emerging markets that have lower absolute volatility. Component companies include consumer staples, financials and information technology companies. Each security included in the Underlying Index is a current constituent of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

**MSCI Emerging Markets Small Cap Index****Number of Components: approximately 1,886**

**Index Description.** The MSCI Emerging Markets Small Cap Index measures the performance of equity securities of small capitalization companies, whose market capitalization represents the bottom 14% of companies in emerging market countries, as measured by market capitalization. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is designed to measure small cap equity market performance in the global emerging markets.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

**MSCI Frontier Markets 100 Index****Number of Components: approximately 97**

**Index Description.** The MSCI Frontier Markets 100 Index (the "Underlying Index") is designed to measure equity market performance of frontier markets while putting stronger emphasis on tradability compared to the MSCI Frontier Markets IMI (the "Parent Index"). The eligible universe for the Underlying Index consists of all Parent Index constituents that meet certain size, liquidity, and foreign accessibility criteria. The Underlying Index includes the top 85 to 115 stocks by free float-adjusted market capitalization. Free float-adjusted market capitalization is calculated by taking the security's price and multiplying it by the number of shares readily available for international investors, rather than the total number of shares outstanding.



Underlying Index constituents are weighted by free float-adjusted market capitalization. The weight of the top two countries in aggregate is capped at 40%, and the MSCI 25/50 Indexes methodology is then applied to the resulting securities in the Underlying Index.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

#### **MSCI Korea 25/50 Index**

##### **Number of Components: approximately 108**

**Index Description.** The MSCI Korea 25/50 Index consists of stocks traded primarily on the Stock Market Division of the Korea Exchange.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

#### **MSCI Malaysia Index**

##### **Number of Components: approximately 42**

**Index Description.** The MSCI Malaysia Index consists of stocks traded primarily on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

#### **MSCI Taiwan Index**

##### **Number of Components: approximately 96**

**Index Description.** The MSCI Taiwan Index consists of stocks traded primarily on the Taiwan Stock Exchange.

**Calculation Methodology.** The Fund utilizes the Underlying Index calculated with net dividends reinvested. MSCI uses the index constituent companies' country of incorporation to determine the relevant dividend withholding tax rates in calculating the net dividends. Effective December 1, 2009, the regular cash dividend is reinvested after deduction of withholding tax by applying the maximum rate of the company's country of incorporation applicable to institutional investors. Net dividends means dividends after taxes withheld at the rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. Such withholding rates may differ from those applicable to U.S. residents.

**Additional Information.** "MSCI," MSCI ACWI Select Agriculture Producers IMI, MSCI ACWI Select Energy Producers IMI, MSCI ACWI Select Metals & Mining Producers ex Gold and Silver IMI, MSCI All Colombia Capped Index, MSCI ACWI Minimum Volatility (USD) Index, MSCI Brazil 25/50 Index, MSCI BRIC Index, MSCI Chile IMI 25/50, MSCI EM Asia Index, MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon Index, MSCI Emerging Markets Index, MSCI Emerging Markets IMI, MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility (USD) Index, MSCI Emerging Markets Small Cap Index, MSCI Frontier 100 Index, MSCI Korea 25/50 Index, MSCI Malaysia Index and MSCI Taiwan Index are servicemarks of MSCI Inc. and have been licensed for use by BFA or

its affiliates. The Funds are neither sponsored, endorsed, sold nor promoted by MSCI Inc., and MSCI Inc. makes no representation regarding the advisability of investing in any of the Funds.

## Investment Limitations

The Board has adopted as a non-fundamental policy the investment objective of each Fund. Therefore, each Fund may change its investment objective and its Underlying Index without a shareholder vote. The Board has adopted as fundamental policies the following numbered investment restrictions, which cannot be changed without the approval of the holders of a majority of the applicable Fund's outstanding voting securities. A vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities is defined in the 1940 Act as the lesser of (a) 67% or more of the voting securities present at a fund meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities are present or represented by proxy and (b) more than 50% of outstanding voting securities of the fund.

**Each of the iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF and the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF will not:**

1. Concentrate its investments in a particular industry, as that term is used in the Investment Company Act, except that the Fund will concentrate to approximately the same extent that its Underlying Index concentrates in the securities of a particular industry or group of industries.
2. Borrow money, except as permitted under the Investment Company Act.
3. Issue senior securities to the extent such issuance would violate the Investment Company Act.
4. Purchase or hold real estate, except the Fund may purchase and hold securities or other instruments that are secured by, or linked to, real estate or interests therein, securities of real estate investment trusts, mortgage-related securities and securities of issuers engaged in the real estate business, and the Fund may purchase and hold real estate as a result of the ownership of securities or other instruments.
5. Underwrite securities issued by others, except to the extent that the sale of portfolio securities by the Fund may be deemed to be an underwriting or as otherwise permitted by applicable law.
6. Purchase or sell commodities or commodity contracts, except as permitted by the Investment Company Act.
7. Make loans to the extent prohibited by the Investment Company Act.

### ***Notations Regarding the iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF Fundamental Investment Restrictions***

The following notations are not considered to be part of each Fund's fundamental investment restrictions and are subject to change without shareholder approval.

With respect to the fundamental policy relating to concentration set forth in (1) above, the Investment Company Act does not define what constitutes "concentration" in an industry. The SEC staff has taken the position that investment of 25% or more of a fund's total assets in one or more issuers conducting their principal activities in the same industry or group of industries constitutes concentration. It is possible that interpretations of concentration could change in the future. The policy in (1) above will be interpreted to refer to concentration as that term may be interpreted from time to time. The policy also will be interpreted to permit investment without limit in the following: securities of the U.S. government and its agencies or instrumentalities; securities of state, territory, possession or municipal governments and their authorities, agencies, instrumentalities or political subdivisions; and repurchase agreements collateralized by any such obligations. Accordingly, issuers of the foregoing securities will not be considered to be members of any industry. There also will be no limit on investment in issuers domiciled in a single jurisdiction or country. Finance companies will be considered to be in the industries of their parents if their activities are primarily related to financing the activities of the parents. Each foreign government will be considered to be a member of a separate industry. With respect to a Fund's industry classifications, the Fund currently utilizes any one or more of the industry sub-classifications used by one or more widely recognized market indexes or rating group indexes, and/or as defined by Fund management. The policy also will be interpreted to give broad authority to a Fund as to how to classify issuers within or among industries.

With respect to the fundamental policy relating to borrowing money set forth in (2) above, the Investment Company Act permits each Fund to borrow money in amounts of up to one-third of the Fund's total assets from banks for any purpose, and to borrow up to 5% of the Fund's total assets from banks or other lenders for temporary purposes. (The Fund's total

assets include the amounts being borrowed.) To limit the risks attendant to borrowing, the Investment Company Act requires each Fund to maintain at all times an “asset coverage” of at least 300% of the amount of its borrowings. Asset coverage means the ratio that the value of a Fund’s total assets (including amounts borrowed), minus liabilities other than borrowings, bears to the aggregate amount of all borrowings. Borrowing money to increase portfolio holdings is known as “leveraging.” Certain trading practices and investments, such as reverse repurchase agreements, may be considered to be borrowings or involve leverage and thus are subject to the Investment Company Act restrictions. In accordance with SEC staff guidance and interpretations, when a Fund engages in such transactions, the Fund instead of maintaining asset coverage of at least 300%, may segregate or earmark liquid assets, or enter into an offsetting position, in an amount at least equal to the Fund’s exposure, on a mark-to-market basis, to the transaction (as calculated pursuant to requirements of the SEC). The policy in (2) above will be interpreted to permit each Fund to engage in trading practices and investments that may be considered to be borrowing or to involve leverage to the extent permitted by the Investment Company Act and to permit the Fund to segregate or earmark liquid assets or enter into offsetting positions in accordance with the Investment Company Act. Short-term credits necessary for the settlement of securities transactions and arrangements with respect to securities lending will not be considered to be borrowings under the policy. Practices and investments that may involve leverage but are not considered to be borrowings are not subject to the policy.

With respect to the fundamental policy relating to underwriting set forth in (5) above, the Investment Company Act does not prohibit each Fund from engaging in the underwriting business or from underwriting the securities of other issuers; in fact, in the case of diversified funds, the Investment Company Act permits the Fund to have underwriting commitments of up to 25% of its assets under certain circumstances. Those circumstances currently are that the amount of each Fund’s underwriting commitments, when added to the value of the Fund’s investments in issuers where the Fund owns more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of those issuers, cannot exceed the 25% cap. A fund engaging in transactions involving the acquisition or disposition of portfolio securities may be considered to be an underwriter under the 1933 Act. Although it is not believed that the application of the 1933 Act provisions described above would cause a Fund to be engaged in the business of underwriting, the policy in (5) above will be interpreted not to prevent the Fund from engaging in transactions involving the acquisition or disposition of portfolio securities, regardless of whether the Fund may be considered to be an underwriter under the 1933 Act or is otherwise engaged in the underwriting business to the extent permitted by applicable law.

With respect to the fundamental policy relating to lending set forth in (7) above, the Investment Company Act does not prohibit each Fund from making loans (including lending its securities); however, SEC staff interpretations currently prohibit funds from lending more than one-third of their total assets (including lending its securities), except through the purchase of debt obligations or the use of repurchase agreements. In addition, collateral arrangements with respect to options, forward currency and futures transactions and other derivative instruments (as applicable), as well as delays in the settlement of securities transactions, will not be considered loans.

Under its non-fundamental investment restrictions, which may be changed by the Board without shareholder approval, the iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF and the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF may not:

- a. Purchase securities of other investment companies, except to the extent permitted by the Investment Company Act. As a matter of policy, however, the Fund will not purchase shares of any registered open-end investment company or registered unit investment trust, in reliance on Section 12(d)(1)(F) or (G) (the “fund of funds” provisions) of the Investment Company Act, at any time the Fund has knowledge that its shares are purchased by another investment company investor in reliance on the provisions of subparagraph (G) of Section 12(d)(1).
- b. Make short sales of securities or maintain a short position, except to the extent permitted by a Fund’s Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, as amended from time to time, and applicable law.

Unless otherwise indicated, all limitations under each Fund’s fundamental or non-fundamental investment restrictions apply only at the time that a transaction is undertaken. Any change in the percentage of a Fund’s assets invested in certain securities or other instruments resulting from market fluctuations or other changes in a Fund’s total assets will not require a Fund to dispose of an investment until BFA determines that it is practicable to sell or close out the investment without undue market or tax consequences.

**The iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF will not:**

1. Make loans, except as permitted under the 1940 Act, as interpreted, modified or otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction, from time to time;
2. Issue any senior security, except as permitted under the 1940 Act, as interpreted, modified or otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction, from time to time;
3. Pledge, hypothecate, mortgage or otherwise encumber its assets, except to secure permitted borrowings. (The deposit of underlying securities and other assets in escrow and collateral arrangements with respect to initial or variation margin for currency transactions and futures contracts will not be deemed to be pledges of the Fund's assets);
4. Purchase, hold or deal in real estate, or oil, gas or mineral interests or leases, but the Fund may purchase and sell securities that are issued by companies that invest or deal in such assets;
5. Act as an underwriter of securities of other issuers, except to the extent the Fund may be deemed an underwriter in connection with the sale of securities in its portfolio;
6. Purchase securities on margin, except for such short-term credits as are necessary for the clearance of transactions, except that the Fund may make margin deposits in connection with transactions in currencies, options, futures and options on futures;
7. Sell securities short; or
8. Invest in commodities or commodity contracts, except that the Fund may buy and sell currencies and forward contracts with respect thereto, and may transact in futures contracts on securities, stock indices and currencies and options on such futures contracts and make margin deposits in connection with such contracts.

**Each of the iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF, iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF, iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF, iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF and iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF will not:**

1. Concentrate its investments (*i.e.*, invest 25% or more of its total assets in the securities of a particular industry or group of industries), except that each Fund will concentrate to approximately the same extent that its Underlying Index concentrates in the securities of such particular industry or group of industries. For purposes of this limitation, securities of the U.S. government (including its agencies and instrumentalities), repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. government securities, and securities of state or municipal governments and their political subdivisions are not considered to be issued by members of any industry.
2. Borrow money, except that (i) each Fund may borrow from banks for temporary or emergency (not leveraging) purposes, including the meeting of redemption requests which might otherwise require the untimely disposition of securities; and (ii) each Fund may, to the extent consistent with its investment policies, enter into repurchase agreements, reverse repurchase agreements, forward roll transactions and similar investment strategies and techniques. To the extent that it engages in transactions described in (i) and (ii), each Fund will be limited so that no more than 33 1/3% of the value of its total assets (including the amount borrowed) is derived from such transactions. Any borrowings which come to exceed this amount will be reduced in accordance with applicable law.
3. Issue any senior security, except as permitted under the 1940 Act, as interpreted, modified or otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction, from time to time.
4. Make loans, except as permitted under the 1940 Act, as interpreted, modified or otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction, from time to time.
5. Purchase or sell real estate unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments (but this restriction shall not prevent each Fund from investing in securities of companies engaged in the real estate business or securities or other instruments backed by real estate or mortgages), or commodities or commodity contracts (but this restriction shall not prevent each Fund from investing in securities of companies engaged in the production, ownership or distribution of commodities or in commodity-related businesses for the iShares Frontier 100 ETF, iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF, iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF and iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining

Producers ETF or from trading in futures contracts and options on futures contracts, including options on currencies to the extent consistent with each Fund's investment objective and policies).

6. Engage in the business of underwriting securities issued by other persons, except to the extent that each Fund may technically be deemed to be an underwriter under the 1933 Act, in disposing of portfolio securities.

**Each of the iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF, iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF and iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF, will not:**

1. Lend any funds or other assets except through the purchase of all or a portion of an issue of securities or obligations of the type in which it is permitted to invest (including participation interests in such securities or obligations) and except that a Fund may lend its portfolio securities in an amount not to exceed 33 1/3% of the value of its total assets;
2. Issue senior securities or borrow money, except borrowings from banks for temporary or emergency purposes in an amount up to 33 1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets (including the amount borrowed), valued at the lesser of cost or market, less liabilities (not including the amount borrowed) valued at the time the borrowing is made, and the Fund will not purchase securities while borrowings in excess of 5% of the Fund's total assets are outstanding, provided, that for purposes of this restriction, short-term credits necessary for the clearance of transactions are not considered borrowings;
3. Pledge, hypothecate, mortgage or otherwise encumber its assets, except to secure permitted borrowings. (The deposit of underlying securities and other assets in escrow and collateral arrangements with respect to initial or variation margin for currency transactions and futures contracts will not be deemed to be pledges of the Fund's assets);
4. Purchase a security (other than obligations of the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities) if as a result 25% or more of its total assets would be invested in a single issuer. (This restriction applies to the iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF only);
5. Purchase, hold or deal in real estate, or oil, gas or mineral interests or leases, but a Fund may purchase and sell securities that are issued by companies that invest or deal in such assets;
6. Act as an underwriter of securities of other issuers, except to the extent the Fund may be deemed an underwriter in connection with the sale of securities in its portfolio;
7. Purchase securities on margin, except for such short-term credits as are necessary for the clearance of transactions, except that a Fund may make margin deposits in connection with transactions in currencies, options, futures and options on futures;
8. Sell securities short; or
9. Invest in commodities or commodity contracts, except that a Fund may buy and sell currencies and forward contracts with respect thereto, and may transact in futures contracts on securities, stock indices and currencies and options on such futures contracts and make margin deposits in connection with such contracts.

**The iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF will not:**

1. Concentrate its investments (*i.e.*, invest 25% or more of its total assets in the securities of a particular industry or group of industries), except that the Fund will concentrate to approximately the same extent that the Underlying Index concentrates in the securities of such particular industry or group of industries. For purposes of this limitation, securities of the U.S. government (including its agencies and instrumentalities), repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. government securities, and securities of state or municipal governments and their political subdivisions are not considered to be issued by members of any industry.
2. Borrow money, except that (i) the Fund may borrow from banks for temporary or emergency (not leveraging) purposes, including the meeting of redemption requests which might otherwise require the untimely disposition of securities; and (ii) the Fund may, to the extent consistent with its investment policies, enter into repurchase agreements, reverse repurchase agreements, forward roll transactions and similar investment strategies and techniques. To the extent that it engages in transactions described in (i) and (ii), the Fund will be limited so that no more than 33 1/3% of the value of its total assets (including the amount borrowed) is derived from such transactions. Any borrowings which come to exceed this amount will be reduced in accordance with applicable law.



3. Issue “senior securities” as defined in the 1940 Act and the rules, regulations and orders thereunder, except as permitted under the 1940 Act and the rules, regulation and orders thereunder.
4. Make loans, except as permitted under the 1940 Act, and as interpreted, modified or otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction, from time to time.
5. Purchase or sell real estate unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments (but this restriction shall not prevent the Fund from investing in securities of companies engaged in the real estate business or securities or other instruments backed by real estate or mortgages), or commodities or commodity contracts (but this restriction shall not prevent the Fund from trading in futures contracts and options on futures contracts, including options on currencies to the extent consistent with the Fund’s investment objective and policies).
6. Engage in the business of underwriting securities issued by other persons, except to the extent that the Fund may technically be deemed to be an underwriter under the 1933 Act, in disposing of portfolio securities.

**Industry concentration.** Each Fund (except for the iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF) will not concentrate its investments (*i.e.*, hold 25% or more of its total assets in the stocks of a particular industry or group of industries), except that, to the extent practicable, the Fund will concentrate to approximately the same extent that its benchmark MSCI Index concentrates in the stocks of such particular industry or group of industries, provided that each Fund will comply with the diversification requirements of the Internal Revenue Code applicable to RICs, any underlying Treasury regulations or any successor provision.

The iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF has the following concentration policy: With respect to the two most heavily weighted industries or groups of industries in its benchmark MSCI Index, a Fund will invest in securities (consistent with its investment objective and other investment policies) so that the weighting of each such industry or group of industries in the Fund does not diverge by more than 10% from the respective weighting of such industry or group of industries in its benchmark MSCI Index. An exception to this policy is that if investment in the stock of a single issuer would account for more than 25% of the Fund, the Fund will invest less than 25% of its net assets in such stock and will reallocate the excess to stock(s) in the same industry or group of industries, and/or to stock(s) in another industry or group of industries, in its benchmark MSCI Index. The Fund will evaluate these industry weightings at least weekly, and at the time of evaluation will adjust its portfolio composition to the extent necessary to maintain compliance with the above policy. The Fund may not concentrate its investments except as discussed above. The Board has adopted this policy as fundamental, which means that it may not be changed with respect to a Fund without the approval of the holders of a majority of the Fund’s outstanding voting securities.

As of September 30, 2015, each of the following Funds was concentrated (*i.e.*, held 25% or more of its total assets) in the specified industries:

Fund	Industry or Industries
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF	Banks
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF	Banks
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF	Chemicals
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF	Oil & Gas
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF	Mining
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF	Iron & Steel
iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF	Banks
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF	Semiconductors
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF	Semiconductors

In addition to the investment restrictions adopted as fundamental policies set forth above, each Fund has adopted a non-fundamental policy not to invest in the securities of a company for the purpose of exercising management or control, or purchase or otherwise acquire any illiquid security, except as permitted under the 1940 Act, which currently permits up to 15% of each Fund’s net assets to be invested in illiquid securities (calculated at the time of investment).

BFA monitors the liquidity of restricted securities in each Fund’s portfolio. In reaching liquidity decisions, BFA considers the following factors:

- The frequency of trades and quotes for the security;
- The number of dealers wishing to purchase or sell the security and the number of other potential purchasers;
- Dealer undertakings to make a market in the security; and
- The nature of the security and the nature of the marketplace in which it trades (e.g., the time needed to dispose of the security, the method of soliciting offers and the mechanics of transfer).

If any percentage restriction described above is complied with at the time of an investment, a later increase or decrease in percentage resulting from a change in values of assets will not constitute a violation of such restriction, except that certain percentage limitations will be observed continuously in accordance with applicable law.

Each Fund has adopted a non-fundamental investment policy in accordance with Rule 35d-1 under the 1940 Act to invest, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of the value of its net assets, plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes, in securities of the Underlying Index or in Depositary Receipts representing securities in the Underlying Index. Each Fund also has adopted a non-fundamental policy to provide its shareholders with at least 60 days’ prior written notice of any change in such policy. If, subsequent to an investment, the 80% requirement is no longer met, a Fund’s future investments will be made in a manner that will bring the Fund into compliance with this policy.

Each Fund (except for the iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF) has adopted a non-fundamental limitation such that, under normal market conditions, any borrowings by the Fund will not exceed 10% of the Fund’s net assets.

Each Fund may not purchase securities of other investment companies, except to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act. As a matter of policy, however, a Fund will not purchase shares of any registered open-end investment company or registered unit investment trust, in reliance on Section 12(d)(1)(F) or (G) (the “fund of funds” provisions) of the 1940 Act, at any time the Fund has knowledge that its shares are purchased by another investment company investor in reliance on the provisions of subparagraph (G) of Section 12(d)(1).

## Continuous Offering

The method by which Creation Units are created and traded may raise certain issues under applicable securities laws. Because new Creation Units are issued and sold by the Funds on an ongoing basis, at any point a “distribution,” as such term is used in the 1933 Act, may occur. Broker-dealers and other persons are cautioned that some activities on their part may, depending on the circumstances, result in their being deemed participants in a distribution in a manner that could render them statutory underwriters and subject them to the prospectus delivery requirement and liability provisions of the 1933 Act.

For example, a broker-dealer firm or its client may be deemed a statutory underwriter if it takes Creation Units after placing an order with the Distributor, breaks them down into constituent shares and sells such shares directly to customers or if it chooses to couple the creation of new shares with an active selling effort involving solicitation of secondary market demand for shares. A determination of whether one is an underwriter for purposes of the 1933 Act must take into account all of the facts and circumstances pertaining to the activities of the broker-dealer or its client in the particular case and the examples mentioned above should not be considered a complete description of all the activities that could lead to a categorization as an underwriter.

Broker-dealer firms should also note that dealers who are not “underwriters” but are effecting transactions in shares, whether or not participating in the distribution of shares, generally are required to deliver a prospectus. This is because the prospectus delivery exemption in Section 4(a)(3) of the 1933 Act is not available in respect of such transactions as a result of Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act. Firms that incur a prospectus delivery obligation with respect to shares of the Funds are reminded that, pursuant to Rule 153 under the 1933 Act, a prospectus delivery obligation under Section 5(b)(2) of the 1933 Act owed to an exchange member in connection with a sale on the Listing Exchange generally is satisfied by the fact that the prospectus is available at the Listing Exchange upon request. The prospectus delivery mechanism provided in Rule 153 is available only with respect to transactions on an exchange.

# Management

**Directors and Officers.** The Board has responsibility for the overall management and operations of the Funds, including general supervision of the duties performed by BFA and other service providers. Each Director serves until he or she resigns, is removed, dies, retires or becomes incapacitated. Each officer shall hold office until his or her successor is elected and qualifies or until his or her death, or his or her resignation or removal. Directors who are not “interested persons” (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Company are referred to as independent directors (“Independent Directors”).

The registered investment companies advised by BFA or its affiliates (the “BlackRock-advised Funds”) are organized into one complex of closed-end funds, two complexes of open-end funds and one complex of exchange-traded funds (“Exchange-Traded Fund Complex”) (each, a “BlackRock Fund Complex”). Each Fund is included in the BlackRock Fund Complex referred to as the Exchange-Traded Fund Complex. Each Director also serves as a Trustee of iShares Trust and a Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust and, as a result, oversees a total of [326] funds within the Exchange-Traded Fund Complex. With the exception of Robert S. Kapito and Mark Wiedman, the address of each Director and officer is c/o BlackRock, Inc., 400 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. The address of Mr. Kapito and Mr. Wiedman is c/o BlackRock, Inc., Park Avenue Plaza, 55 East 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10055. The Board has designated Robert H. Silver as its Independent Chairman. Additional information about the Funds’ Directors and officers may be found in this SAI, which is available without charge, upon request, by calling toll-free 1-800-iShares (1-800-474-2737).

## Interested Directors

Name (Age)	Position	Principal Occupation(s) During the Past 5 Years	Other Directorships Held by Director
Robert S. Kapito <sup>1</sup> (58)	Director (since 2009).	President and Director, BlackRock, Inc. (since 2006); Vice Chairman of BlackRock, Inc. and Head of BlackRock, Inc.’s Portfolio Management Group (since its formation in 1998) and BlackRock, Inc.’s predecessor entities (since 1988); Trustee, University of Pennsylvania (since 2009); President of Board of Directors, Hope & Heroes Children’s Cancer Fund (since 2002); President of the Board of Directors, Periwinkle Theatre for Youth (since 1983).	Trustee of iShares Trust (since 2009); Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust (since 2011); Director of BlackRock, Inc. (since 2006).
Mark Wiedman <sup>2</sup> (45)	Director (since 2013).	Managing Director, BlackRock, Inc. (since 2007); Global Head of iShares (since 2011); Head of Corporate Strategy, BlackRock, Inc. (2009-2011).	Trustee of iShares Trust (since 2013); Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust (since 2013); Director of PennyMac Financial Services, Inc. (since 2008).

<sup>1</sup> Robert S. Kapito is deemed to be an “interested person” (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Company due to his affiliations with BlackRock, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Mark Wiedman is deemed to be an “interested person” (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Company due to his affiliations with BlackRock, Inc. and its affiliates.

## Independent Directors

Name (Age)	Position	Principal Occupation(s) During the Past 5 Years	Other Directorships Held by Director
Robert H. Silver (60)	Director (since 2007); Independent Chairman (since 2012).	President and Co-Founder of The Bravitas Group, Inc. (since 2006); Director and Vice Chairman of the YMCA of Greater NYC (2001-2011); Broadway Producer (2006-2011); Co-Founder and Vice President of Parentgiving Inc. (since 2008); Director and Member of the Audit and Compensation Committee of EPAM Systems, Inc. (2006-2009); President and Chief Operating Officer of UBS Financial Services Inc. (formerly Paine Webber Inc.) (2003-2005) and various executive positions with UBS and its affiliates (1988-2005); CPA and Audit Manager of KPMG, LLP (formerly Peat Marwick Mitchell) (1977-1983).	Trustee of iShares Trust (since 2007); Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust (since 2011); Independent Chairman of iShares Trust and iShares U.S. ETF Trust (since 2012).
John E. Martinez (54)	Director (since 2003); Securities Lending Committee Chair (since 2012).	Director of FirstREX Agreement Corp. (formerly EquityRock, Inc.) (since 2005).	Trustee of iShares Trust (since 2003); Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust (since 2011).
Cecilia H. Herbert (66)	Director (since 2005); Nominating and Governance Committee Chair and Equity Plus Committee Chair (since 2012).	Director (1998-2013) and President (2007-2011) of the Board of Directors, Catholic Charities CYO; Trustee (2002-2011) and Chair of the Finance and Investment Committee (2006-2010) of the Thacher School; Member (since 1992) and Chair (1994-2005) of the Investment Committee, Archdiocese of San Francisco; Trustee and Member of the Investment Committee, WNET, the New York public broadcasting/media company (since 2011).	Trustee of iShares Trust (since 2005); Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust (since 2011); Director of Forward Funds (34 portfolios) (since 2009).
Charles A. Hurty (72)	Director (since 2005); Audit Committee Chair (since 2006).	Retired; Partner, KPMG LLP (1968-2001).	Trustee of iShares Trust (since 2005); Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust (since 2011); Director of GMAM Absolute Return Strategy Fund (1 portfolio) (since 2002); Director of SkyBridge Alternative Investments Multi-Adviser Hedge Fund Portfolios LLC (2 portfolios) (since 2002).

Name (Age)	Position	Principal Occupation(s) During the Past 5 Years	Other Directorships Held by Director
John E. Kerrigan (60)	Director (since 2005); Fixed Income Plus Committee Chair (since 2012).	Chief Investment Officer, Santa Clara University (since 2002).	Trustee of iShares Trust (since 2005); Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust (since 2011).
Madhav V. Rajan (51)	Director (since 2011); 15(c) Committee Chair (since 2012).	Robert K. Jaedicke Professor of Accounting and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Head of MBA Program, Stanford University Graduate School of Business (since 2001); Professor of Law (by courtesy), Stanford Law School (since 2005); Visiting Professor, University of Chicago (2007-2008).	Trustee of iShares Trust (since 2011); Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust (since 2011); Director, Cavium, Inc. (since 2013).
Jane D. Carlin (59)	Director (since 2015).	Managing Director and Global Head of Financial Holding Company Governance & Assurance and the Global Head of Operational Risk Management of Morgan Stanley (2006-2012).	Trustee of iShares Trust (since 2015); Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust (since 2015); Director of PHH Corporation (mortgage solutions) (since 2012).

## Officers

Name (Age)	Position	Principal Occupation(s) During the Past 5 Years
Manish Mehta (44)	President (since 2013).	Managing Director, BlackRock, Inc. (since 2009); Chief Operating Officer for iShares (since 2009); Head of Strategy and Corporate Development, BGI (2005-2009); Chief of Staff to the CEO, BGI (2005-2009).
Jack Gee (56)	Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer (since 2008).	Managing Director, BlackRock, Inc. (since 2009); Senior Director of Fund Administration of Intermediary Investor Business, BGI (2009); Director of Fund Administration of Intermediary Investor Business, BGI (2004-2009).
Charles Park (48)	Chief Compliance Officer (since 2006).	Chief Compliance Officer of BlackRock Advisors, LLC and the BlackRock-advised Funds in the Equity-Bond Complex, the Equity- Liquidity Complex and the Closed- End Complex (since 2014); Chief Compliance Officer of BFA (since 2006).



Name (Age)	Position	Principal Occupation(s) During the Past 5 Years
Benjamin Archibald (40)	Secretary (since 2015).	Managing Director, BlackRock, Inc. (since 2014); Director, BlackRock, Inc. (2010-2013); Secretary of the iShares exchange traded funds (since 2015); Secretary of the BlackRock-advised mutual funds (since 2012).
Scott Radell (47)	Executive Vice President (since 2012).	Managing Director, BlackRock, Inc. (since 2009); Head of Portfolio Solutions, BlackRock, Inc. (since 2009); Head of Portfolio Solutions, BGI (2007-2009); Credit Portfolio Manager, BGI (2005-2007); Credit Research Analyst, BGI (2003-2005).
Amy Schioldager (53)	Executive Vice President (since 2007).	Senior Managing Director, BlackRock, Inc. (since 2009); Global Head of Index Equity, BGI (2008-2009); Global Head of U.S. Indexing, BGI (2006-2008); Head of Domestic Equity Portfolio Management, BGI (2001-2006).

The Board has concluded that, based on each Director's experience, qualifications, attributes or skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Directors, each Director should serve as a Director of the Board. Among the attributes common to all Directors are their ability to review critically, evaluate, question and discuss information provided to them, to interact effectively with the Funds' investment adviser, other service providers, counsel and the independent registered public accounting firm, and to exercise effective business judgment in the performance of their duties as Directors. A Director's ability to perform his or her duties effectively may have been attained through the Director's educational background or professional training; business, consulting, public service or academic positions; experience from service as a Board member of the Funds and the other funds in the Company (and any predecessor funds), other investment funds, public companies, or non-profit entities or other organizations; and/or other life experiences. Also, set forth below is a brief discussion of the specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills of each Director that led the Board to conclude that he or she should serve as a Director.

Robert Kapito has been a Director of the Company since 2009. Mr. Kapito has served as a Trustee of iShares Trust since 2009, a Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust since 2011 and a Director of BlackRock, Inc. since 2006. Mr. Kapito served as a Director of iShares MSCI Russia Capped ETF, Inc. from 2010 to 2015. In addition, he has over 20 years of experience as part of BlackRock, Inc. and BlackRock, Inc.'s predecessor entities. Mr. Kapito serves as President and Director of BlackRock, Inc., and is the Chairman of the Operating Committee, a member of the Office of the Chairman, the Leadership Committee and the Corporate Council. He is responsible for day-to-day oversight of BlackRock, Inc.'s key operating units, including the Account Management and Portfolio Management Groups, Real Estate Group and BlackRock Solutions®. Prior to assuming his current responsibilities in 2007, Mr. Kapito served as Head of BlackRock, Inc.'s Portfolio Management Group. In that role, he was responsible for overseeing all portfolio management within BlackRock, Inc., including the Fixed Income, Equity, Liquidity, and Alternative Investment Groups. Mr. Kapito serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania. He has also been President of the Board of Directors for the Hope & Heroes Children's Cancer Fund since 2002 and President of the Board of Directors for Periwinkle Theatre for Youth, a national non-profit arts-in-education organization, since 1983. Mr. Kapito earned a BS degree in economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1979, and an MBA degree from Harvard Business School in 1983.

Mark Wiedman has been a Director of the Company since 2013. Mr. Wiedman has served as a Trustee of iShares Trust since 2013 and a Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust since 2013. Mr. Wiedman served as a Director of iShares MSCI Russia Capped ETF, Inc. from 2013 to 2015. Mr. Wiedman is the Global Head and Managing Director of iShares. In addition, he is a member of BlackRock, Inc.'s Global Executive Committee and Global Operating Committee. Prior to assuming his current

responsibilities in 2011, Mr. Wiedman was the head of Corporate Strategy for BlackRock, Inc. Mr. Wiedman joined BlackRock, Inc. in 2004 to help start the advisory business, which evolved into the Financial Markets Advisory Group in BlackRock Solutions. This group advises financial institutions and governments on managing their capital markets exposures and businesses. Prior to BlackRock, Inc., he served as senior advisor and chief of staff for the Under Secretary for Domestic Finance at the U.S. Department of the Treasury and also was a management consultant at McKinsey & Co., advising financial institutions in the United States, Europe, and Japan. He has taught as an adjunct associate professor of law at Fordham University in New York and Renmin University in Beijing. Mr. Wiedman serves on the board of PennyMac Financial Services, Inc., a publicly-traded U.S. mortgage banking and investment management firm started in 2008, with BlackRock, Inc. as a sponsor. Mr. Wiedman earned an AB degree, Phi Beta Kappa, *magna cum laude*, in social studies from Harvard College in 1992 and a JD degree from Yale Law School in 1996.

Robert H. Silver has been a Director of the Company since 2007 and Chairman of the Company's Board since 2012. Mr. Silver has served as a Trustee of iShares Trust since 2007, Chairman of iShares Trust's Board since 2012, a Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust since 2011 and Chairman of iShares U.S. ETF Trust's Board since 2012. Mr. Silver served as a Director of iShares MSCI Russia Capped ETF, Inc. from 2010 to 2015. Mr. Silver is President and a Co-Founder of The Bravitas Group Inc., a firm dedicated to advising and investing in emerging business enterprises and to supporting philanthropic activities that benefit under-served urban youth. Previously, Mr. Silver served as the President and Chief Operating Officer of UBS Financial Services Inc. (formerly Paine Webber Inc.), the registered broker dealer comprising the Wealth Management USA business unit of UBS AG, including the following responsibilities: President of Paine Webber Services, Director of Retail Products and Marketing, Director of Private Client Group Branch Offices, Director of Finance and Controls for Paine Webber, Inc. and Chief Administrative Officer for Paine Webber Private Client Group. Mr. Silver also served on the Board of Directors of EPAM Systems, Inc., a provider of software engineering outsourcing services in Central and Eastern Europe, served on the Board and Executive Committee of the Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation ("DTCC"), chaired the National Securities Clearing Corporations' Membership and Risk Committee and served as Governor of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. In addition, Mr. Silver was a Vice Chairman and a Member of the Board of Directors for the YMCA of Greater New York and chaired its Fund Development Committee from 2001 until 2011 and Co-Founder and Vice President of Parentgiving Inc. since 2008. Mr. Silver began his career as a CPA and Audit Manager at KPMG LLP (formerly Peat Marwick Mitchell) from 1977 until 1983. Mr. Silver has a BS degree in business administration from the University of North Carolina.

John E. Martinez has been a Director of the Company since 2003 and Chair of the Securities Lending Committee of the Company since 2012. Mr. Martinez has served as a Trustee of iShares Trust since 2003, Chair of the Securities Lending Committee of iShares Trust since 2012, a Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust since 2011 and Chair of the Securities Lending Committee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust since 2012. Mr. Martinez served as a Director of iShares MSCI Russia Capped ETF, Inc. from 2010 to 2015. Mr. Martinez is a Director of FirstREX Agreement Corp. (formerly EquityRock, Inc.), providing governance oversight and consulting services to this privately held firm that develops products and strategies for homeowners in managing the equity in their homes. Mr. Martinez previously served as Director of Barclays Global Investors (BGI) UK Holdings, where he provided governance oversight representing BGI's shareholders (Barclays PLC, BGI management shareholders) through oversight of BGI's worldwide activities. Mr. Martinez also previously served as Co-Chief Executive Officer of the Global Index and Markets Group of BGI, Chairman of Barclays Global Investor Services and Chief Executive Officer of the Capital Markets Group of BGI. From 2003-2012, he was a Director and Executive Committee Member for Larkin Street Youth Services, providing governance oversight and strategy development to an agency that provides emergency and transitional housing, healthcare, education, job and life skills training to homeless youth. He now serves on the Larkin Street Honorary Board. Since 2012, Mr. Martinez has served as a Director for Reading Partners, an organization committed to making all children literate through one-on-one tutoring of students in grades K-4 who are not yet reading at grade level. Mr. Martinez has an AB degree in economics from The University of California, Berkeley and holds an MBA degree in finance and statistics from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Cecilia H. Herbert has been a Director of the Company since 2005 and Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee and the Equity Plus Committee of the Company since 2012. Ms. Herbert has served as a Trustee of iShares Trust since 2005, Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee and the Equity Plus Committee of iShares Trust since 2012, a Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust since 2011 and Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee and the Equity Plus Committee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust since 2012. Ms. Herbert served as a Director of iShares MSCI Russia Capped ETF, Inc. from 2010 to 2015. In addition, Ms. Herbert currently serves on one mutual fund board and has previously served on two other mutual fund boards. She has served as Trustee of the Forward Funds since 2009, and previously as Trustee of the Pacific Select Funds from 2004 until 2005 and Trustee of the Montgomery Funds from 1992 until 2003. She was President of the Board of Catholic Charities CYO, the largest social services agency in the San Francisco Bay Area, from 2007 until 2011 and a member

of that board from 1992 until 2013. She was past Chair from 1994 until 2005, and a member since 1992, of the Investment Council of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. She has served as Trustee of WNET, New York's public media station, since 2011. She worked from 1973-1990 at J.P. Morgan/Morgan Guaranty Trust doing international corporate finance and corporate lending, retiring as Managing Director and Head of the West Coast Office. Ms. Herbert has been on numerous non-profit boards, chairing investment and finance committees. She holds a double major in economics and communications from Stanford University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Charles A. Hurty has been a Director of the Company since 2005 and Chair of the Audit Committee of the Company since 2006. Mr. Hurty has served as a Trustee of iShares Trust since 2005, Chair of the Audit Committee of iShares Trust since 2006 and a Trustee and Chair of the Audit Committee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust since 2011. Mr. Hurty served as a Director of iShares MSCI Russia Capped ETF, Inc. from 2010 to 2015. In addition, Mr. Hurty serves as Director of the GMAM Absolute Return Strategy Fund since 2002, Director of the SkyBridge Alternative Investments Multi-Adviser Hedge Fund Portfolios LLC (formerly, Citigroup Alternative Investments Multi-Adviser Hedge Fund Portfolios LLC) since 2002 and was a Director of the CSFB Alternative Investment Funds from 2005 to December 2009, when the funds were liquidated. Mr. Hurty was formerly a Partner at KPMG, LLP from 1968 to 2001. Mr. Hurty has a BS degree in accounting from the University of Kansas.

John E. Kerrigan has been a Director of the Company since 2005 and Chair of the Fixed Income Plus Committee of the Company since 2012. Mr. Kerrigan served as Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee of the Company from 2010 until 2012. Mr. Kerrigan has served as a Trustee of iShares Trust since 2005, Chair of the Fixed Income Plus Committee of iShares Trust since 2012, Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee of iShares Trust from 2010 until 2012, a Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust since 2011, Chair of the Fixed Income Plus Committee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust since 2012 and Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust from 2011 until 2012. Mr. Kerrigan served as a Director of iShares MSCI Russia Capped ETF, Inc. from 2010 to 2015. Mr. Kerrigan serves as Chief Investment Officer, Santa Clara University since 2002. Mr. Kerrigan was formerly a Managing Director at Merrill Lynch & Co., including the following responsibilities: Managing Director, Institutional Client Division, Western United States. Mr. Kerrigan is a Trustee, since 2008, of Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton, CA, and Director, since 1999, of The BASIC Fund (Bay Area Scholarships for Inner City Children). Mr. Kerrigan has a BA degree from Boston College and is a Chartered Financial Analyst Charterholder.

Madhav V. Rajan has been a Director of the Company since 2011 and Chair of the 15(c) Committee of the Company since 2012. Mr. Rajan has served as a Trustee of iShares Trust since 2011, Chair of the 15(c) Committee of iShares Trust since 2012, a Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust since 2011 and Chair of the 15(c) Committee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust since 2012. Mr. Rajan served as a Director of iShares MSCI Russia Capped ETF, Inc. from 2011 to 2015. Mr. Rajan is the Robert K. Jaedicke Professor of Accounting at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. He has taught accounting for over 20 years to undergraduate, MBA and law students, as well as to senior executives. Mr. Rajan serves as the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and head of the MBA Program at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. Mr. Rajan served as editor of "The Accounting Review" from 2002 to 2008 and is co-author of "Cost Accounting: A Managerial Emphasis," a leading cost accounting textbook. Mr. Rajan holds MS, MBA and Ph.D. degrees in accounting from Carnegie Mellon University.

Jane D. Carlin has been a Director of the Company since 2015. Ms. Carlin has served as a Trustee of iShares Trust since 2015 and a Trustee of iShares U.S. ETF Trust since 2015. Ms. Carlin served as Managing Director and Global Head of Financial Holding Company Governance & Assurance and the Global Head of Operational Risk Management of Morgan Stanley from 2006 to 2012. In addition, Ms. Carlin served as Managing Director and Global Head of the Bank Operational Risk Oversight Department of Credit Suisse Group from 2003 to 2006. Prior to that, Ms. Carlin served as Managing Director and Deputy General Counsel of Morgan Stanley. Ms. Carlin has over 30 years of experience in the financial sector and has served in a number of legal, regulatory, and risk management positions. Ms. Carlin has served as an Independent Director on the Board of PHH Corporation since 2012. She previously served as a Director on the Boards of Astoria Financial Corporation and Astoria Bank. Ms. Carlin was appointed by the United States Treasury to the Financial Services Sector Coordinating Council for Critical Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security, where she served as Chairperson from 2010 to 2012 and Vice Chair and Chair of the Cyber Security Committee from 2009 to 2010. Ms. Carlin has a BA degree in political science from State University of New York at Stony Brook and a JD degree from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

#### Board – Leadership Structure and Oversight Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for oversight of the Funds rests with the Board. The Board has engaged BFA to manage the Funds on a day-to-day basis. The Board is responsible for overseeing BFA and other service providers in the operations of the Funds in

accordance with the provisions of the 1940 Act, applicable provisions of state and other laws and the Company's charter. The Board is currently composed of nine members, seven of whom are Independent Directors. The Board currently conducts regular meetings five times a year. In addition, the Board frequently holds special in-person or telephonic meetings or informal conference calls to discuss specific matters that may arise or require action between regular meetings. The Independent Directors meet regularly outside the presence of management, in executive session or with other service providers to the Company.

The Board has appointed an Independent Director to serve in the role of Chairman. The Chairman's role is to preside at all meetings of the Board and to act as a liaison with service providers, officers, attorneys, and other Directors generally between meetings. The Chairman may also perform such other functions as may be delegated by the Board from time to time. The Board has established six standing Committees: a Nominating and Governance Committee, an Audit Committee, a 15(c) Committee, a Securities Lending Committee, an Equity Plus Committee and a Fixed Income Plus Committee to assist the Board in the oversight and direction of the business and affairs of the Funds, and from time to time the Board may establish ad-hoc committees or informal working groups to review and address the policies and practices of the Funds with respect to certain specified matters. The Chair of each standing Committee is an Independent Director. The role of the Chair of each Committee is to preside at all meetings of the Committee and to act as a liaison with service providers, officers, attorneys and other Directors between meetings. Each Committee meets regularly to conduct the oversight functions delegated to the Committee by the Board and reports its finding to the Board. The Board and each standing Committee conduct annual assessments of their oversight function and structure. The Board has determined that the Board's leadership structure is appropriate because it allows the Board to exercise independent judgment over management and it allocates areas of responsibility among committees of Independent Directors and the full Board to enhance effective oversight.

Day-to-day risk management with respect to the Funds is the responsibility of BFA or other service providers (depending on the nature of the risk), subject to the supervision of BFA. Each Fund is subject to a number of risks, including investment, compliance, operational, counterparty and valuation risks, among others. While there are a number of risk management functions performed by BFA and other service providers, as applicable, it is not possible to eliminate all of the risks applicable to the Funds. The Directors have an oversight role in this area, satisfying themselves that risk management processes and controls are in place and operating effectively. Risk oversight forms part of the Board's general oversight of each Fund and is addressed as part of various Board and committee activities. The Board, directly or through a committee, also reviews reports from, among others, management and the independent registered public accounting firm for the Company, as appropriate, regarding risks faced by each Fund and management's risk functions. The Board has appointed a Chief Compliance Officer who oversees the implementation and testing of the Company's compliance program, including assessments by independent third parties, and reports to the Board regarding compliance matters for the Company and its principal service providers. In testing and maintaining the compliance program, the Chief Compliance Officer (and his or her delegates) assesses key compliance risks affecting each Fund, and addresses them in periodic reports to the Board. The Independent Directors have engaged independent legal counsel to assist them in performing their oversight responsibilities.

**Committees of the Board of Directors.** Each Independent Director serves on the Audit Committee. The Chair of the Audit Committee is Charles A. Hurty. The purposes of the Audit Committee are to assist the Board (i) in its oversight of the Company's accounting and financial reporting principles and policies and related controls and procedures maintained by or on behalf of the Company; (ii) in its oversight of the Company's financial statements and the independent audit thereof; (iii) in selecting, evaluating and, where deemed appropriate, replacing the independent accountants (or nominating the independent accountants to be proposed for shareholder approval in any proxy statement); (iv) in evaluating the independence of the independent accountants; (v) in complying with legal and regulatory requirements that relate to the Company's accounting and financial reporting, internal controls, compliance controls and independent audits; and (vi) to assume such other responsibilities as may be delegated by the Board. The Audit Committee met four times during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2015.

The members of the Nominating and Governance Committee are Cecilia H. Herbert (Chair), Charles A. Hurty, Madhav V. Rajan and John E. Kerrigan, all of whom are Independent Directors. The Nominating and Governance Committee nominates individuals for Independent Director membership on the Board. The Nominating and Governance Committee functions include, but are not limited to, the following: (i) reviewing the qualifications of any person properly identified or nominated to serve as an Independent Director; (ii) recommending to the Board and current Independent Directors the nominee(s) for appointment as an Independent Director by the Board and current Independent Directors and/or for election as Independent Directors by shareholders to fill any vacancy for a position of Independent Director(s) on the Board; (iii) recommending to the Board and current Independent Directors the size and composition of the Board and Board committees and whether they



comply with applicable law and regulations; (iv) recommending a current Independent Director to the Board and current Independent Directors to serve as Lead Independent Director; (v) periodic review of the Board's retirement policy; and (vi) recommending an appropriate level of compensation for the Independent Directors for their services as Directors, members or chairpersons of committees of the Board, Lead Independent Director, Chairperson of the Board and any other positions as the Nominating and Governance Committee considers appropriate. The Nominating and Governance Committee does not consider Board nominations recommended by shareholders (acting solely in their capacity as a shareholder and not in any other capacity). The Nominating and Governance Committee met four times during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2015.

Each Independent Director serves on the 15(c) Committee. The Chair of the 15(c) Committee is Madhav V. Rajan. The principal responsibilities of the 15(c) Committee are to support, oversee and organize on behalf of the Board the process for the annual review and renewal of the Company's advisory and sub-advisory agreements. These responsibilities include: (i) meeting with BlackRock, Inc. in advance of the Board meeting at which the Company's advisory and sub-advisory agreements are to be considered to discuss generally the process for providing requested information to the Board and the format in which information will be provided; and (ii) considering and discussing with BlackRock, Inc. such other matters and information as may be necessary and appropriate for the Board to evaluate the investment advisory and sub-advisory agreements of the Company. The 15(c) Committee met two times during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2015.

The members of the Securities Lending Committee are John E. Martinez (Chair), Jane D. Carlin and John E. Kerrigan, all of whom are Independent Directors. The principal responsibilities of the Securities Lending Committee are to support, oversee and organize on behalf of the Board the process for oversight of the Company's securities lending activities. These responsibilities include: (i) requesting that certain information be provided to the Committee for its review and consideration prior to such information being provided to the Board; (ii) considering and discussing with BlackRock, Inc. such other matters and information as may be necessary and appropriate for the Board to oversee the Company's securities lending activities and make required findings and approvals; and (iii) providing a recommendation to the Board regarding the annual approval of the Company's Securities Lending Guidelines and the required findings with respect to, and annual approval of, the Company's agreement with the lending agent. The Securities Lending Committee met three times during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2015.

The members of the Equity Plus Committee are Cecilia H. Herbert (Chair), John E. Martinez and Madhav V. Rajan, all of whom are Independent Directors. The principal responsibilities of the Equity Plus Committee are to support, oversee and organize on behalf of the Board the process for oversight of Company performance and related matters for equity funds. These responsibilities include: (i) reviewing quarterly reports regarding Company performance, secondary market trading and changes in net assets to identify any matters that should be brought to the attention of the Board; and (ii) considering any performance or investment related matters as may be delegated to the Committee by the Board from time to time and providing a report or recommendation to the Board as appropriate. The Equity Plus Committee met four times during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2015.

The members of the Fixed Income Plus Committee are John E. Kerrigan (Chair), Jane D. Carlin and Charles A. Hurty, all of whom are Independent Directors. The principal responsibilities of the Fixed Income Plus Committee are to support, oversee and organize on behalf of the Board the process for oversight of Company performance and related matters for fixed income or multi-asset funds. These responsibilities include: (i) reviewing quarterly reports regarding Company performance, secondary market trading and changes in net assets to identify any matters that should be brought to the attention of the Board; and (ii) considering any performance or investment related matters as may be delegated to the Committee by the Board from time to time and providing a report or recommendation to the Board as appropriate. The Fixed Income Plus Committee met four times during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2015.

As the Chairman of the Board, Robert H. Silver may participate in each Committee's meetings.

The following table sets forth, as of December 31, 2014, the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by each Director in the Funds and in other registered investment companies overseen by the Director within the same family of investment companies as the Company. If a fund is not listed below, the Director did not own any securities in that fund as of the date indicated above:



Name of Director	Fund	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in all Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Director in Family of Investment Companies
Robert S. Kapito	None	None	None
Mark Wiedman	iShares Core MSCI EAFE ETF	\$50,001-\$100,000	Over \$100,000
	iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	\$50,001-\$100,000	
	iShares Core S&P Total U.S. Stock Market ETF	\$50,001-\$100,000	
Robert H. Silver	iShares Core High Dividend ETF	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
	iShares Core MSCI EAFE ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Core MSCI Total International Stock ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Core S&P 500 ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Core S&P Mid-Cap ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Core S&P Small-Cap ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Core S&P Total U.S. Stock Market ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Global Energy ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Global Tech ETF	\$50,001-\$100,000	
	iShares iBonds Sep 2015 AMT-Free Muni Bond ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares iBonds Sep 2016 AMT-Free Muni Bond ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares iBonds Sep 2017 AMT-Free Muni Bond ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares iBonds Sep 2018 AMT-Free Muni Bond ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares iBoxx \$ Investment Grade Corporate Bond ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares International Developed Real Estate ETF	\$1-\$10,000	
	iShares J.P. Morgan USD Emerging Markets Bond ETF	\$1-\$10,000	
	iShares MSCI ACWI ex U.S. ETF	\$1-\$10,000	
	iShares MSCI China ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares MSCI EAFE ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares MSCI Eurozone ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Nasdaq Biotechnology ETF	\$50,001-\$100,000	
	iShares National AMT-Free Muni Bond ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Russell 1000 Growth ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Russell 1000 Value ETF	Over \$100,000	

Name of Director	Fund	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in all Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Director in Family of Investment Companies
	iShares Russell 2000 ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares Russell 2000 Growth ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Russell 2000 Value ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Russell Mid-Cap Growth ETF	\$1-\$10,000	
	iShares Russell Mid-Cap Value ETF	\$1-\$10,000	
	iShares S&P 100 ETF	\$50,001-\$100,000	
	iShares Select Dividend ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares U.S. Broker-Dealers ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares U.S. Financial Services ETF	\$50,001-\$100,000	
	iShares U.S. Preferred Stock ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares U.S. Regional Banks ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares U.S. Technology ETF	Over \$100,000	
John E. Martinez	iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	\$50,001-\$100,000	Over \$100,000
	iShares Core S&P 500 ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Core S&P Mid-Cap ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares Core S&P Small-Cap ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares Core S&P Total U.S. Stock Market ETF	\$1-\$10,000	
	iShares Global Consumer Staples ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares MSCI All Country Asia ex Japan ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares MSCI EAFE ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Russell 1000 ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Russell 1000 Value ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Russell 2000 ETF	Over \$100,000	
Cecilia H. Herbert	iShares China Large-Cap ETF	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
	iShares Core Dividend Growth ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares Core MSCI Total International Stock ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares Core S&P Total U.S. Stock Market ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares Core U.S. Growth ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares Core U.S. Value ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares iBoxx \$ High Yield Corporate Bond ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares International Select Dividend ETF	\$1-\$10,000	
	iShares MSCI EAFE ETF	\$1-\$10,000	
	iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	\$1-\$10,000	
	iShares MSCI Japan ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	

Name of Director	Fund	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in all Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Director in Family of Investment Companies
	iShares National AMT-Free Muni Bond ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
Charles A. Hurty	iShares China Large-Cap ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	Over \$100,000
	iShares Core High Dividend ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	\$50,001-\$100,000	
	iShares Core S&P 500 ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares Global Energy ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares Global Healthcare ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares Global Tech ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares MSCI EAFE ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares MSCI Japan ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares MSCI USA Value Factor ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares North American Tech-Multimedia Networking ETF	\$1-\$10,000	
	iShares Russell 2000 ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares Select Dividend ETF	\$1-\$10,000	
	iShares U.S. Basic Materials ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares U.S. Energy ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	
	iShares U.S. Financials ETF	\$1-\$10,000	
	iShares U.S. Technology ETF	\$50,001-\$100,000	
John E. Kerrigan	iShares MSCI ACWI ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	Over \$100,000
	iShares MSCI ACWI ex U.S. ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Short-Term National AMT-Free Muni Bond ETF	Over \$100,000	
Madhav V. Rajan	iShares Core Dividend Growth ETF	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
	iShares Core High Dividend ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Core S&P 500 ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares iBoxx \$ High Yield Corporate Bond ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares iBoxx \$ Investment Grade Corporate Bond ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Russell 2000 ETF	Over \$100,000	
	iShares Select Dividend ETF	Over \$100,000	
Jane D. Carlin <sup>1</sup>	iShares Core MSCI EAFE ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	Over \$100,000
	iShares Core S&P Small-Cap ETF	\$10,001-\$50,000	

Name of Director	Fund	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in all Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Director in Family of Investment Companies
	iShares Global Tech ETF	\$50,001-\$100,000	

<sup>1</sup> Appointed to serve as an Independent Director effective February 3, 2015.

As of December 31, 2014, none of the Independent Directors or their immediate family members owned beneficially or of record any securities of BFA (the Funds' investment adviser), the Distributor or any person controlling, controlled by or under common control with BFA or the Distributor.

**Remuneration of Directors.** Each current Independent Director is paid an annual retainer of \$300,000 for his or her services as a Board member to the BlackRock-advised Funds in the Exchange-Traded Fund Complex, together with out-of-pocket expenses in accordance with the Board's policy on travel and other business expenses relating to attendance at meetings. The Independent Chairman of the Boards is paid an additional annual retainer of \$50,000. The Chair of the Audit Committees is paid an additional annual retainer of \$40,000. The Chair of each of the Nominating and Governance Committees, Equity Plus Committees, Fixed Income Plus Committees, Securities Lending Committees and 15(c) Committees is paid an additional annual retainer of \$15,000. Each Independent Director that serves as a director of subsidiaries of the Exchange-Traded Fund Complex is paid an additional annual retainer of \$10,000 (plus an additional \$1,772 paid annually to compensate for taxes due in the Republic of Mauritius in connection with such Director's service on the boards of certain Mauritius-based subsidiaries). Additionally, any Independent Director who travels to the Republic of Mauritius to attend board meetings is paid an additional \$12,000 (plus an additional \$2,117 paid annually to compensate for taxes due in the Republic of Mauritius in connection with such Director's service on the boards of certain Mauritius-based subsidiaries).

The table below sets forth the compensation earned by each Independent Director and Interested Director from each Fund for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2015 and the aggregate compensation paid to them by the Exchange-Traded Complex for the calendar year ended December 31, 2014.

Name of Director	iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF	iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF	iShares MSCI BRIC ETF
<i>Independent Directors:</i>				
Robert H. Silver	\$3,221	\$969	\$912	\$ 92
George G.C. Parker <sup>1</sup>	2,761	831	781	79
John E. Martinez	2,899	872	821	83
Cecilia H. Herbert	3,037	914	860	87
Charles A. Hurty	3,129	941	886	90
John E. Kerrigan	3,593	872	821	778
Madhav V. Rajan	3,591	872	821	775
Jane D. Carlin	1,380	415	391	40

*Interested Directors:*

Robert S. Kapito	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Mark Wiedman	0	0	0	0

Name of Director	iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF	iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF	iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF	iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF
<i>Independent Directors:</i>				
Robert H. Silver	\$106	\$7	\$58	\$9,665

Name of Director	iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF	iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF	iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF	iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF
George G.C. Parker <sup>1</sup>	91	6	50	8,284
John E. Martinez	95	6	53	8,699
Cecilia H. Herbert	100	6	55	9,113
Charles A. Hurty	103	6	57	9,389
John E. Kerrigan	95	6	747	9,393
Madhav V. Rajan	95	6	745	9,391
Jane D. Carlin	45	3	25	4,142

*Interested Directors:*

Robert S. Kapito	\$ 0	\$0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Mark Wiedman	0	0	0	0

Name of Director	iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF <sup>2</sup>	iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF	iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF	iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF
Robert H. Silver	\$0	\$ 1,131	\$ 36	\$236
George G.C. Parker <sup>1</sup>	0	970	31	202
John E. Martinez	0	1,018	32	212
Cecilia H. Herbert	0	1,067	34	222
Charles A. Hurty	0	1,099	35	229
John E. Kerrigan	0	1,713	727	212
Madhav V. Rajan	0	1,711	725	212
Jane D. Carlin	0	485	15	101

*Interested Directors:*

Robert S. Kapito	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Mark Wiedman	0	0	0

Name of Director	iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF	iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF	iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF	iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF
Robert H. Silver	\$13	\$12	\$32	\$124
George G.C. Parker <sup>1</sup>	11	10	28	106
John E. Martinez	12	10	29	111
Cecilia H. Herbert	12	11	31	116
Charles A. Hurty	13	11	32	120
John E. Kerrigan	12	10	29	111
Madhav V. Rajan	12	10	29	111
Jane D. Carlin	6	5	14	53

*Interested Directors:*

Robert S. Kapito	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Mark Wiedman	0	0	0	0



Name of Director	iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF	iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF
<i>Independent Directors:</i>		
Robert H. Silver	\$1,490	\$1,549
George G.C. Parker <sup>1</sup>	1,277	1,328
John E. Martinez	1,341	1,395
Cecilia H. Herbert	1,405	1,461
Charles A. Hurty	1,448	1,505
John E. Kerrigan	1,341	1,395
Madhav V. Rajan	1,341	1,395
Jane D. Carlin	639	664

*Interested Directors:*

Robert S. Kapito	\$ 0	\$ 0
Mark Wiedman	0	0

Name of Director	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued As Part of Company Expenses <sup>4</sup>	Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement <sup>4</sup>	Total Compensation From the Funds and Fund Complex <sup>5</sup>
<i>Independent Directors<sup>3</sup>:</i>			
Robert H. Silver	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	\$350,000
George G.C. Parker <sup>1</sup>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	300,000
John E. Martinez	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	315,000
Cecilia H. Herbert	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	330,000
Charles A. Hurty	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	340,000
John E. Kerrigan	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	326,807
Madhav V. Rajan	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	326,772

*Interested Directors:*

Robert S. Kapito	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	\$ 0
Mark Wiedman	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	0

<sup>1</sup> Served as an Independent Director through December 31, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Compensation reported is from the Fund's inception to August 31, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Total compensation is not shown for Jane D. Carlin because she was appointed to serve as an Independent Director of the Company effective February 3, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> No Director or officer is entitled to any pension or retirement benefits from the Company.

<sup>5</sup> Includes compensation for service on the Boards of Trustees of iShares Trust and iShares U.S. ETF Trust and the Board of Directors of iShares MSCI Russia Capped ETF, Inc.

The board of directors of each Subsidiary, which is responsible for the overall management and operations of the Subsidiary, is partially comprised of certain members of the Board of Directors of the Company.

### Control Persons and Principal Holders of Securities.

The Directors and officers of the Company collectively owned less than 1% of each Fund's outstanding shares as of November 30, 2015.

Although the Company does not have information concerning the beneficial ownership of shares held in the names of Depository Trust Company (“DTC”) participants (as defined below), as of November 30, 2015, the name and percentage ownership of each DTC participant that owned of record 5% or more of the outstanding shares of a Fund were as follows:

Fund	Name	Percentage of Ownership
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF		_____ %
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF		_____ %

**Potential Conflicts of Interest.** The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (“PNC”) has a significant economic interest in BlackRock, Inc., the parent of BFA, the Funds’ investment adviser. PNC is considered to be an affiliate of BlackRock, Inc. under the 1940 Act. Certain activities of BFA, BlackRock, Inc. and their affiliates (collectively, “BlackRock”) and PNC and its affiliates (collectively, “PNC” and together with BlackRock, “Affiliates”), with respect to the Funds and/or other accounts managed by BlackRock or PNC, may give rise to actual or perceived conflicts of interest such as those described below.

BlackRock is one of the world’s largest asset management firms. PNC is a diversified financial services organization spanning the retail, business and corporate markets. BlackRock and PNC are affiliates of one another under the 1940 Act. BlackRock and PNC and their respective affiliates (including, for these purposes, their directors, partners, trustees, managing members, officers and employees), including the entities and personnel who may be involved in the investment activities and business

operations of a Fund, are engaged worldwide in businesses, including equity, fixed-income, cash management and alternative investments. These are considerations of which investors in a Fund should be aware, and which may cause conflicts of interest that could disadvantage the Fund and its shareholders. These activities and interests include potential multiple advisory, transactional, financial and other interests in securities and other instruments that may be purchased or sold by a Fund.

BlackRock and its Affiliates may manage or advise with respect to, accounts or funds (including separate accounts and other funds and collective investment vehicles) that have investment objectives similar to those of a Fund and/or that engage in transactions in the same types of securities, currencies and instruments as the Fund. BlackRock and one or more Affiliates are also major participants in the global currency, equities, swap and fixed-income markets, in each case for the accounts of customers and, in some cases, on a proprietary basis. As such, one or more Affiliates are or may be actively engaged in transactions in the same securities, currencies, and instruments in which a Fund invests. Such activities could affect the prices and availability of the securities, currencies, and instruments in which a Fund invests, which could have an adverse impact on the Fund's performance. Such transactions, particularly in respect of proprietary accounts, will generally be executed independently of a Fund's transactions and thus at prices or rates that may be more or less favorable than those obtained by the Fund. When BlackRock and its Affiliates purchase or sell the same assets for their managed accounts, including a Fund, the assets actually purchased or sold may be allocated among the accounts on a basis determined in their good faith discretion to be equitable. In some cases, this system may adversely affect the amount or price of the assets purchased or sold for a Fund. In addition, transactions in investments by one or more other accounts managed by BlackRock or its Affiliates may have the effect of diluting or otherwise disadvantaging the values, prices or investment strategies of a Fund, particularly, but not limited to, with respect to small capitalization, emerging market or less liquid strategies. This may occur when investment decisions regarding a Fund are based on research or other information that is also used to support decisions for other accounts. When BlackRock or its Affiliates implements a portfolio decision or strategy on behalf of another account ahead of, or contemporaneously with, similar decisions or strategies for a Fund, market impact, liquidity constraints, or other factors could result in the Fund receiving less favorable trading results and the costs of implementing such decisions or strategies could be increased or the Fund could otherwise be disadvantaged. BlackRock or its Affiliates may, in certain cases, elect to implement internal policies and procedures designed to limit such consequences, which may cause a Fund to be unable to engage in certain activities, including purchasing or disposing of securities, when it might otherwise be desirable for it to do so.

Conflicts may also arise because portfolio decisions regarding a Fund may benefit other accounts managed by BlackRock or its Affiliates. For example, the sale of a long position or establishment of a short position by a Fund may impair the price of the same security sold short by (and therefore benefit) one or more Affiliates or their other accounts, and the purchase of a security or covering of a short position in a security by a Fund may increase the price of the same security held by (and therefore benefit) one or more Affiliates or their other accounts or funds or accounts managed by BlackRock or its Affiliates.

In certain circumstances, BFA, on behalf of a Fund, may seek to buy from or sell securities to another fund or account advised by BFA or an Affiliate. BFA may (but is not required to) effect purchases and sales between BFA clients or clients of affiliates ("cross trades"), including a Fund, if BFA believes such transactions are appropriate based on each party's investment objectives and guidelines, subject to applicable law and regulation. There may be potential conflicts of interest or regulatory issues relating to these transactions which could limit BFA's decision to engage in these transactions for a Fund. BFA may have a potentially conflicting division of loyalties and responsibilities to the parties in such transactions. On any occasion when a Fund participates in a cross trade, BFA will comply with procedures adopted pursuant to Rule 17a-7 under the 1940 Act and applicable SEC guidance.

BlackRock and its Affiliates and their clients may pursue or enforce rights with respect to an issuer in which a Fund has invested, and those activities may have an adverse effect on the Fund. As a result, prices, availability, liquidity and terms of a Fund's investments may be negatively impacted by the activities of BlackRock or its Affiliates or their clients, and transactions for the Fund may be impaired or effected at prices or terms that may be less favorable than would otherwise have been the case.

The results of a Fund's investment activities may differ significantly from the results achieved by BlackRock and its Affiliates for their proprietary accounts or other accounts (including investment companies or collective investment vehicles) managed or advised by them. It is possible that one or more Affiliate-managed accounts and such other accounts will achieve investment results that are substantially more or less favorable than the results achieved by a Fund. Moreover, it is possible that a Fund will sustain losses during periods in which one or more Affiliate-managed accounts achieve significant profits on

their trading for proprietary or other accounts. The opposite result is also possible. The investment activities of one or more Affiliates for their proprietary accounts and accounts under their management may also limit the investment opportunities for a Fund in certain emerging and other markets in which limitations are imposed upon the amount of investment, in the aggregate or in individual issuers, by affiliated foreign investors.

From time to time, a Fund's activities may also be restricted because of regulatory restrictions applicable to one or more Affiliates, and/or their internal policies designed to comply with such restrictions. As a result, there may be periods, for example, when BlackRock, and/or one or more Affiliates, will not initiate or recommend certain types of transactions in certain securities or instruments with respect to which BlackRock and/or one or more Affiliates are performing services or when position limits have been reached.

In connection with its management of a Fund, BlackRock may have access to certain fundamental analysis and proprietary technical models developed by one or more Affiliates. BlackRock will not be under any obligation, however, to effect transactions on behalf of a Fund in accordance with such analysis and models. In addition, neither BlackRock nor any of its Affiliates will have any obligation to make available any information regarding their proprietary activities or strategies, or the activities or strategies used for other accounts managed by them, for the benefit of the management of a Fund and it is not anticipated that BlackRock will have access to such information for the purpose of managing the Fund. The proprietary activities or portfolio strategies of BlackRock and its Affiliates, or the activities or strategies used for accounts managed by them or other customer accounts could conflict with the transactions and strategies employed by BlackRock in managing a Fund.

A Fund may be included in investment models developed by BFA and its Affiliates for use by clients and financial advisors. The price, availability and liquidity of a Fund may be impacted by purchases and redemptions of a Fund by model-driven investment portfolios.

In addition, certain principals and certain employees of BlackRock are also principals or employees of Affiliates. As a result, the performance by these principals and employees of their obligations to such other entities may be a consideration of which investors in a Fund should be aware.

BlackRock may enter into transactions and invest in securities, instruments and currencies on behalf of a Fund in which clients of BlackRock or its Affiliates, or, to the extent permitted by the SEC and applicable law, BlackRock or another Affiliate, serves as the counterparty, principal or issuer. In such cases, such party's interests in the transaction will be adverse to the interests of the Fund, and such party may have no incentive to assure that the Fund obtains the best possible prices or terms in connection with the transactions. In addition, the purchase, holding and sale of such investments by a Fund may enhance the profitability of BlackRock or its Affiliates. One or more Affiliates may also create, write or issue derivatives for their clients, the underlying securities, currencies or instruments of which may be those in which a Fund invests or which may be based on the performance of the Fund. A Fund may, subject to applicable law, purchase investments that are the subject of an underwriting or other distribution by one or more Affiliates and may also enter into transactions with other clients of an Affiliate where such other clients have interests adverse to those of the Fund.

At times, these activities may cause departments of BlackRock or its Affiliates to give advice to clients that may cause these clients to take actions adverse to the interests of the Fund. To the extent affiliated transactions are permitted, a Fund will deal with BlackRock and its Affiliates on an arms-length basis. BlackRock or its Affiliates may also have an ownership interest in certain trading or information systems used by a Fund. A Fund's use of such trading or information systems may enhance the profitability of BlackRock and its Affiliates.

To the extent authorized by applicable law, one or more Affiliates may act as broker, dealer, agent, lender or adviser or in other commercial capacities for a Fund. It is anticipated that the commissions, mark-ups, mark-downs, financial advisory fees, underwriting and placement fees, sales fees, financing and commitment fees, brokerage fees, other fees, compensation or profits, rates, terms and conditions charged by an Affiliate will be in its view commercially reasonable, although each Affiliate, including its sales personnel, will have an interest in obtaining fees and other amounts that are favorable to the Affiliate and such sales personnel.

Subject to applicable law, the Affiliates (and their personnel and other distributors) will be entitled to retain fees and other amounts that they receive in connection with their service to the Funds as broker, dealer, agent, lender, adviser or in other commercial capacities and no accounting to the Funds or their respective shareholders will be required, and no fees or other

compensation payable by the Funds or their respective shareholders will be reduced by reason of receipt by an Affiliate of any such fees or other amounts.

When an Affiliate acts as broker, dealer, agent, adviser or in other commercial capacities in relation to the Funds, the Affiliate may take commercial steps in its own interests, which may have an adverse effect on the Funds. A Fund will be required to establish business relationships with its counterparties based on the Fund's own credit standing. Neither BlackRock nor any of the Affiliates will have any obligation to allow their credit to be used in connection with a Fund's establishment of its business relationships, nor is it expected that the Fund's counterparties will rely on the credit of BlackRock or any of the Affiliates in evaluating the Fund's creditworthiness.

Lending on behalf of a Fund is done by BTC pursuant to SEC exemptive relief, enabling BTC to act as securities lending agent to, and receive a share of securities lending revenues from, a Fund. BFA may also receive compensation for managing the reinvestment of the cash collateral from securities lending. There is a potential conflict of interest in that BTC as a lending agent may have an incentive to increase the amount of securities on loan or to lend riskier assets in order to generate additional revenue for BTC and its affiliates. However, BTC's SEC exemptive relief sets forth certain conditions designed to assist in mitigating such conflicts of interest.

Purchases and sales of securities for a Fund may be bunched or aggregated with orders for other BlackRock client accounts. BlackRock, however, is not required to bunch or aggregate orders if portfolio management decisions for different accounts are made separately, or if it determines that bunching or aggregating is not practicable or required, or in cases involving client direction.

Prevailing trading activity frequently may make impossible the receipt of the same price or execution on the entire volume of securities purchased or sold. When this occurs, the various prices may be averaged, and the Funds will be charged or credited with the average price. Thus, the effect of the aggregation may operate on some occasions to the disadvantage of the Funds. In addition, under certain circumstances, the Funds will not be charged the same commission or commission equivalent rates in connection with a bunched or aggregated order.

BlackRock may select brokers (including, without limitation, Affiliates, to the extent authorized by applicable law) that furnish BlackRock, the Funds, other BlackRock client accounts or other Affiliates or personnel, directly or through correspondent relationships, with research or other appropriate services which provide, in BlackRock's view, appropriate assistance to BlackRock in the investment decision-making process (including with respect to futures, fixed-price offerings and over-the-counter transactions). Such research or other services may include, to the extent permitted by law, research reports on companies, industries and securities; economic and financial data; proxy analysis; trade industry seminars; computer data bases; research-oriented software and other services and products. Research or other services obtained in this manner may be used in servicing any or all of the Funds and other BlackRock client accounts, including in connection with BlackRock client accounts other than those that pay commissions to the broker relating to the research or other service arrangements. Such products and services may disproportionately benefit other BlackRock client accounts relative to the Funds based on the amount of brokerage commissions paid by the Funds and such other BlackRock client accounts. For example, research or other services that are paid for through one client's commissions may not be used in managing that client's account. In addition, other BlackRock client accounts may receive the benefit, including disproportionate benefits, of economies of scale or price discounts in connection with products and services that may be provided to the Funds and to such other BlackRock client accounts. To the extent that BlackRock uses soft dollars, it will not have to pay for those products and services itself.

BlackRock may receive research that is bundled with the trade execution, clearing, and/or settlement services provided by a particular broker-dealer. To the extent that BlackRock receives research on this basis, many of the same conflicts related to traditional soft dollars may exist. For example, the research effectively will be paid by client commissions that also will be used to pay for the execution, clearing, and settlement services provided by the broker-dealer and will not be paid by BlackRock.

BlackRock may endeavor to execute trades through brokers who, pursuant to such arrangements, provide research or other services in order to ensure the continued receipt of research or other services BlackRock believes are useful in its investment decision-making process. BlackRock may from time to time choose not to engage in the above described arrangements to varying degrees. BlackRock may also enter into commission sharing arrangements under which BlackRock may execute transactions through a broker-dealer, including, where permitted, an Affiliate, and request that the broker-dealer allocate a



portion of the commissions or commission credits to another firm that provides research to BlackRock. To the extent that BlackRock engages in commission sharing arrangements, many of the same conflicts related to traditional soft dollars may exist.

BlackRock may utilize certain electronic crossing networks (“ECNs”) in executing client securities transactions for certain types of securities. These ECNs may charge fees for their services, including access fees and transaction fees. The transaction fees, which are similar to commissions or mark-ups/mark-downs, will generally be charged to clients and, like commissions and mark-ups/mark-downs, would generally be included in the cost of the securities purchased. Access fees may be paid by BlackRock even though incurred in connection with executing transactions on behalf of clients, including the Funds. In certain circumstances, ECNs may offer volume discounts that will reduce the access fees typically paid by BlackRock. BlackRock will only utilize ECNs consistent with its obligation to seek to obtain best execution in client transactions.

BlackRock has adopted policies and procedures designed to prevent conflicts of interest from influencing proxy voting decisions that it makes on behalf of advisory clients, including the Funds, and to help ensure that such decisions are made in accordance with BlackRock’s fiduciary obligations to its clients. Nevertheless, notwithstanding such proxy voting policies and procedures, actual proxy voting decisions of BlackRock may have the effect of favoring the interests of other clients or businesses of other divisions or units of BlackRock and/or its Affiliates, provided that BlackRock believes such voting decisions to be in accordance with its fiduciary obligations. For a more detailed discussion of these policies and procedures, see the *Proxy Voting Policy* section of this SAI.

It is also possible that, from time to time, BlackRock or its Affiliates may, subject to compliance with applicable law, purchase and hold shares of a Fund. Increasing a Fund’s assets may enhance liquidity, investment flexibility and diversification and may contribute to economies of scale that tend to reduce the Fund’s expense ratio. BlackRock and its Affiliates reserve the right, subject to compliance with applicable law, to sell or redeem at any time some or all of the shares of a Fund acquired for their own accounts. A large sale or redemption of shares of a Fund by BlackRock or its Affiliates could significantly reduce the asset size of the Fund, which might have an adverse effect on the Fund’s liquidity, investment flexibility, portfolio diversification and expense ratio. BlackRock will consider the effect of redemptions on a Fund and other shareholders in deciding whether to redeem its shares.

It is possible that a Fund may invest in securities of companies with which an Affiliate has or is trying to develop investment banking relationships as well as securities of entities in which BlackRock or its Affiliates has significant debt or equity investments or in which an Affiliate makes a market. A Fund also may invest in securities of companies to which an Affiliate provides or may someday provide research coverage. Such investments could cause conflicts between the interests of a Fund and the interests of BlackRock, other clients of BlackRock or its Affiliates. In making investment decisions for a Fund, BlackRock is not permitted to obtain or use material non-public information acquired by any division, department or Affiliate of BlackRock in the course of these activities. In addition, from time to time, the activities of an Affiliate may limit a Fund’s flexibility in purchases and sales of securities. When an Affiliate is engaged in an underwriting or other distribution of securities of an entity, BlackRock may be prohibited from purchasing or recommending the purchase of certain securities of that entity for a Fund. As indicated below, BlackRock or its Affiliates may engage in transactions with companies in which BlackRock-advised funds or other clients of BlackRock or of an Affiliate have an investment.

BlackRock and Ace Limited (“ACE”), a public company whose securities are held by BlackRock-advised funds and other accounts, partially funded the creation of a re-insurance company (“Re Co”) pursuant to which each has approximately a 9.9% ownership interest and each has representation on the board of directors. Certain employees and executives of BlackRock will also have a less than ½ of 1% ownership interest in Re Co. BlackRock will manage the investment portfolio of Re Co, which will be held in a wholly-owned subsidiary. Re Co will participate as a reinsurer with reinsurance contracts underwritten by subsidiaries of ACE. An independent director of certain BlackRock-advised funds also serves as an independent director of ACE and has no interest or involvement in the Re Co transaction.

BlackRock and its Affiliates, their personnel and other financial service providers may have interests in promoting sales of the Funds. With respect to BlackRock and its Affiliates and their personnel, the remuneration and profitability relating to services to and sales of the Funds or other products may be greater than remuneration and profitability relating to services to and sales of certain funds or other products that might be provided or offered. BlackRock and its Affiliates and their sales personnel may directly or indirectly receive a portion of the fees and commissions charged to the Funds or their respective shareholders. BlackRock and its advisory or other personnel may also benefit from increased amounts of assets under management. Fees and commissions may also be higher than for other products or services, and the remuneration and

profitability to BlackRock or its Affiliates and such personnel resulting from transactions on behalf of or management of the Funds may be greater than the remuneration and profitability resulting from other funds or products.

BlackRock and its Affiliates and their personnel may receive greater compensation or greater profit in connection with an account for which BlackRock serves as an adviser than with an account advised by an unaffiliated investment adviser. Differentials in compensation may be related to the fact that BlackRock may pay a portion of its advisory fee to its Affiliate, or relate to compensation arrangements, including for portfolio management, brokerage transactions or account servicing. Any differential in compensation may create a financial incentive on the part of BlackRock or its Affiliates and their personnel to recommend BlackRock over unaffiliated investment advisers or to effect transactions differently in one account over another.

Third parties, including service providers to BFA or a Fund, may sponsor events (including, but not limited to, marketing and promotional activities and presentations, educational training programs and conferences) for registered representatives, other professionals and individual investors. There is a potential conflict of interest as such sponsorships may defray the costs of such activities to BFA, and may provide an incentive to BFA to retain such third parties to provide services to a Fund.

BlackRock and its Affiliates may provide valuation assistance to certain clients with respect to certain securities or other investments and the valuation recommendations made for their clients' accounts may differ from the valuations for the same securities or investments assigned by a Fund's pricing vendors, especially if such valuations are based on broker-dealer quotes or other data sources unavailable to the Fund's pricing vendors. While BlackRock will generally communicate its valuation information or determinations to a Fund's pricing vendors and/or fund accountants, there may be instances where the Fund's pricing vendors or fund accountants assign a different valuation to a security or other investment than the valuation for such security or investment determined or recommended by BlackRock.

As disclosed in more detail in the *Determination of Net Asset Value* section of each Fund's Prospectus and this SAI, when market valuations are not readily available or such valuations do not reflect current market values, the affected investments will be valued using fair value pricing, pursuant to procedures adopted by the Board. When determining an asset's "fair value," the BlackRock Valuation Committee (or BlackRock's Pricing Group) seeks to determine the price that a Fund might reasonably expect to receive from the current sale of that asset in an arm's-length transaction on the date on which the assets or liabilities are being valued and does not seek to determine the price that the Fund might expect to receive for selling the asset, or the cost of extinguishing a liability, at a later time or if it holds the asset or liability to maturity. While fair value determinations will be based upon all available factors that BlackRock's Pricing Group deems relevant at the time of the determination, and may be based on analytical values determined by BlackRock using proprietary or third-party valuation models, fair value represents only a good faith approximation of the value of a security. The fair value of one or more securities may not, in retrospect, be the price at which those assets could have been sold during the period in which the particular fair values were used in determining a Fund's net asset value. As a result, a Fund's sale or redemption of its shares at net asset value, at a time when a holding or holdings are valued by BlackRock (pursuant to Board-adopted procedures) at fair value, may have the effect of diluting or increasing the economic interest of existing shareholders and BlackRock receiving additional revenue.

To the extent permitted by applicable law, a Fund may invest all or some of its short-term cash investments in any money market fund or similarly-managed private fund advised or managed by BlackRock. In connection with any such investments, a Fund, to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act, may pay its share of expenses of a money market fund in which it invests, which may result in a Fund bearing some additional expenses.

BlackRock and its Affiliates and their directors, officers and employees, may buy and sell securities or other investments for their own accounts and may have conflicts of interest with respect to investments made on behalf of a Fund. As a result of differing trading and investment strategies or constraints, positions may be taken by directors, officers, employees and Affiliates of BlackRock that are the same, different from or made at different times than positions taken for the Fund. To lessen the possibility that a Fund will be adversely affected by this personal trading, the Fund, BFA and BlackRock each has adopted a code of ethics in compliance with Section 17(j) of the 1940 Act that restricts securities trading in the personal accounts of investment professionals and others who normally come into possession of information regarding the Fund's portfolio transactions. Each code of ethics can be reviewed and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at (202) 551-8090. Each code of ethics is also available on the EDGAR Database on the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>, and copies may be obtained, after paying a duplicating fee, by e-mail at [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov) or by writing the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, DC 20549-1520.

BlackRock and its Affiliates will not purchase securities or other property from, or sell securities or other property to, a Fund, except that the Fund may in accordance with rules adopted under the 1940 Act engage in transactions with accounts that are affiliated with the Fund as a result of common officers, directors, or investment advisers or pursuant to exemptive orders granted to the Funds and/or BlackRock by the SEC. These transactions would be effected in circumstances in which BlackRock determined that it would be appropriate for a Fund to purchase and another client of BlackRock to sell, or the Fund to sell and another client of BlackRock to purchase, the same security or instrument on the same day. From time to time, the activities of a Fund may be restricted because of regulatory requirements applicable to BlackRock or its Affiliates and/or BlackRock's internal policies designed to comply with, limit the applicability of, or otherwise relate to such requirements. A client not advised by BlackRock would not be subject to some of those considerations. There may be periods when BlackRock may not initiate or recommend certain types of transactions, or may otherwise restrict or limit their advice in certain securities or instruments issued by or related to companies for which an Affiliate is performing investment banking, market making or other services or has proprietary positions. For example, when an Affiliate is engaged in an underwriting or other distribution of securities of, or advisory services for, a company, the Funds may be prohibited from or limited in purchasing or selling securities of that company. Similar situations could arise if personnel of BlackRock or its Affiliates serve as directors of companies the securities of which the Funds wish to purchase or sell. However, if permitted by applicable law, the Funds may purchase securities or instruments that are issued by such companies or are the subject of an underwriting or distribution or advisory assignment or other services provided by an Affiliate, or in cases in which personnel of BlackRock or its Affiliates are directors or officers of the issuer.

The investment activities of one or more Affiliates for their proprietary accounts and for client accounts may also limit the investment strategies and rights of the Funds. For example, in certain regulated industries, in certain emerging or international markets, in corporate and regulatory ownership definitions, and in certain futures and derivative transactions, there may be limits on the aggregate amount of investment by affiliated investors that may not be exceeded without the grant of a license or other regulatory or corporate consent or, if exceeded, may cause BlackRock, the Funds or other client accounts to suffer disadvantages or business restrictions.

If certain aggregate ownership thresholds are reached or certain transactions undertaken, the ability of BlackRock on behalf of clients (including the Funds) to purchase or dispose of investments, or exercise rights or undertake business transactions, may be restricted by regulation or otherwise impaired. As a result, BlackRock, on behalf of clients (including the Funds), may limit purchases, sell existing investments, or otherwise restrict or limit the exercise of rights (including voting rights) when BlackRock, in its sole discretion, deems it appropriate in light of potential regulatory or other restrictions on ownership or other consequences resulting from reaching investment thresholds.

In those circumstances where ownership thresholds or limitations must be observed, BlackRock seeks to allocate limited investment opportunities equitably among clients (including the Funds), taking into consideration benchmark weight and investment strategy. When ownership in certain securities nears an applicable threshold, BlackRock may limit purchases in such securities to the issuer's weighting in the applicable benchmark used by BlackRock to manage a Fund. If client (including Fund) holdings of an issuer exceed an applicable threshold and BlackRock is unable to obtain relief to enable the continued holding of such investments, it may be necessary to sell down these positions to meet the applicable limitations. In these cases, benchmark overweight positions will be sold prior to benchmark positions being reduced to meet applicable limitations.

In addition to the foregoing, other ownership thresholds may trigger reporting requirements to governmental and regulatory authorities, and such reports may entail the disclosure of the identity of a client or BlackRock's intended strategy with respect to such security or asset.

To the extent permitted by applicable law, BlackRock and its Affiliates may maintain securities indexes as part of their product offerings. Index based funds seek to track the performance of securities indexes and may use the name of the index in the fund name. Index providers, including BlackRock and its Affiliates may be paid licensing fees for use of their index or index name. BlackRock and its Affiliates will not be obligated to license their indexes to BlackRock, and BlackRock cannot be assured that the terms of any index licensing agreement with BlackRock and its Affiliates will be as favorable as those terms offered to other index licensees.

BlackRock and its Affiliates may not serve as Authorized Participants in the creation and redemption of iShares exchange-traded funds, but may serve as authorized participants of third-party exchange-traded funds.

BlackRock may enter into contractual arrangements with third-party service providers to a Fund (e.g., custodians and administrators) pursuant to which BlackRock receives fee discounts or concessions in recognition of BlackRock's overall relationship with such service providers. To the extent that BlackRock is responsible for paying these service providers out of its management fee, the benefits of any such fee discounts or concessions may accrue, in whole or in part, to BlackRock. BlackRock will disclose any material benefits it receives as a result of such fee discounts or concessions to the Board.

Present and future activities of BlackRock and its Affiliates, including BFA, in addition to those described in this section, may give rise to additional conflicts of interest.

## Investment Advisory, Administrative and Distribution Services

**Investment Adviser.** BFA serves as investment adviser to each Fund pursuant to an investment advisory agreement between the Company, on behalf of each Fund, and BFA. BFA is a California corporation indirectly owned by BlackRock, Inc., and is registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. Under the Investment Advisory Agreement, BFA, subject to the supervision of the Board and in conformity with the stated investment policies of each Fund, manages and administers the Company and the investment of each Fund's assets. BFA is responsible for placing purchase and sale orders and providing continuous supervision of the investment portfolio of each Fund.

Pursuant to the Investment Advisory Agreement, BFA may from time to time, in its sole discretion to the extent permitted by applicable law, appoint one or more sub-advisers, including, without limitation, affiliates of BFA, to perform investment advisory or other services with respect to the Fund. In addition, BFA may delegate certain of its investment advisory functions under the Investment Advisory Agreement to one or more of its affiliates to the extent permitted by applicable law. BFA may terminate any or all sub-advisers or such delegation arrangements in its sole discretion upon appropriate notice at any time to the extent permitted by applicable law.

BFA is responsible, under the Investment Advisory Agreement, for substantially all expenses of the Funds, including the cost of transfer agency, custody, fund administration, legal, audit and other services, except interest expense, taxes, brokerage expenses, distribution fees or expenses and extraordinary expenses.

For its investment advisory services to the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF, BFA will be paid a management fee from the Fund, based on a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets, at the annual rate of 0.50%. Because the Fund has been in operation for less than one full fiscal year, this percentage reflects the rate at which BFA will be paid.

For its investment advisory services to certain of the Funds included in this SAI, BFA is entitled to receive a management fee from such Funds corresponding to each of the Fund's allocable portion of an aggregate management fee based on the aggregate average daily net assets of the following iShares funds: iShares MSCI All Peru Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Brazil Small-Cap ETF, iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF, iShares MSCI China ETF, iShares MSCI China Small-Cap ETF, iShares MSCI Indonesia ETF, iShares MSCI Israel Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Philippines ETF, iShares MSCI Poland Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Qatar Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Russia Capped ETF, iShares MSCI South Africa ETF, iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF, iShares MSCI Thailand Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Turkey ETF and iShares MSCI UAE Capped ETF. The aggregate management fee is calculated as follows: 0.74% per annum of the aggregate net assets less than or equal to \$2.0 billion, plus 0.69% per annum of the aggregate net assets over \$2.0 billion, up to and including \$4.0 billion, plus 0.64% per annum of the aggregate net assets over \$4.0 billion, up to and including \$8.0 billion, plus 0.57% per annum of the aggregate net assets over \$8.0 billion, up to and including \$16.0 billion, plus 0.51% per annum of the aggregate net assets over \$16.0 billion, up to and including \$32.0 billion, plus 0.45% per annum of the aggregate net assets in excess of \$32.0 billion.

For its investment advisory services to certain of the Funds included in this SAI, BFA is entitled to receive a management fee from such Fund corresponding to the Fund's allocable portion of an aggregate management fee based on the aggregate average daily net assets of the following iShares funds: iShares MSCI All Country Asia ex Japan ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF. The aggregate management fee is calculated as follows: 0.75% per annum of the aggregate net assets less than or equal to \$14.0 billion, plus 0.68% per annum of the aggregate net assets over \$14.0 billion, up to and including \$28.0 billion, plus 0.61% per annum of the aggregate net assets over \$28.0 billion, up to and including \$42.0 billion,



plus 0.54% per annum of the aggregate net assets over \$42.0 billion, up to and including \$56.0 billion, plus 0.47% per annum of the aggregate net assets over \$56.0 billion, up to and including \$70.0 billion, plus 0.41% per annum of the aggregate net assets over \$70.0 billion, up to and including \$84.0 billion, plus 0.35% per annum of the aggregate net assets in excess of \$84.0 billion.

For its investment advisory services to certain of the Funds included in this SAI, BFA is entitled to receive a management fee from such Funds corresponding to each of the Fund's allocable portion of an aggregate management fee based on the aggregate average daily net assets of the following iShares funds: iShares MSCI Australia ETF, iShares MSCI Austria Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Belgium Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Canada ETF, iShares MSCI Eurozone ETF, iShares MSCI France ETF, iShares MSCI Germany ETF, iShares MSCI Hong Kong ETF, iShares MSCI Ireland Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Italy Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Japan ETF, iShares MSCI Japan Small-Cap ETF, iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF, iShares MSCI Mexico Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Netherlands ETF, iShares MSCI New Zealand Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Singapore ETF, iShares MSCI Spain Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Sweden ETF, iShares MSCI Switzerland Capped ETF and iShares MSCI United Kingdom ETF. The aggregate management fee is calculated as follows: 0.59% per annum of the aggregate net assets less than or equal to \$7.0 billion, plus 0.54% per annum of the aggregate net assets over \$7.0 billion, up to and including \$11.0 billion, plus 0.49% per annum of the aggregate net assets over \$11.0 billion, up to and including \$24.0 billion, plus 0.44% per annum of the aggregate net assets over \$24.0 billion, up to and including \$48.0 billion, plus 0.40% per annum of the aggregate net assets over \$48.0 billion, up to and including \$72.0 billion, plus 0.36% per annum of the aggregate net assets in excess of \$72.0 billion.

For its investment advisory services to certain of the Funds included in this SAI, BFA is entitled to receive a management fee from such Funds corresponding to each of the Fund's allocable portion of an aggregate management fee based on the aggregate average daily net assets of the following iShares funds: iShares Human Rights ETF, iShares MSCI ACWI ETF, iShares MSCI ACWI ex U.S. ETF, iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF, iShares MSCI EAFE ETF and iShares MSCI EAFE Minimum Volatility ETF. The aggregate management fee is calculated as follows: 0.35% per annum of the aggregate net assets less than or equal to \$30.0 billion, plus 0.32% per annum of the aggregate net assets over \$30.0 billion, up to and including \$60.0 billion, plus 0.28% per annum of the aggregate net assets over \$60.0 billion, up to and including \$90.0 billion, plus 0.252% per annum of the aggregate net assets in excess of \$90.0 billion.

For its investment management services to each Fund, BFA received a management fee at the annual rates (as a percentage of each Fund's average net assets) set forth below for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2015.

The following table sets forth the management fees paid by each Fund to BFA for the fiscal years noted:

Fund	Management Fee for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2015	Fund Inception Date	Management Fees Paid For Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2015	Management Fees Paid For Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2014	Management Fees Paid For Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2013
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF <sup>1,2</sup>	0.16%	10/18/12	\$ 11,987,656	\$ 6,606,028	\$ 1,376,356
iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF <sup>3</sup>	0.33%	10/18/11	6,025,786	3,757,055	2,816,648
iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF	0.62%	07/10/00	22,930,693	29,033,197	47,012,111
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF	0.69%	11/12/07	2,041,675	2,950,620	4,460,564
iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF	0.62%	11/12/07	1,705,573	2,104,233	3,237,806
iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF	0.61%	06/18/13	104,511	129,378	19,007
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF <sup>4</sup>	0.68%	02/08/12	887,511	296,354	481,059
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF <sup>5</sup>	0.69%	04/07/03	221,482,303	258,410,222	281,065,191
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF	0.50%	10/14/14	8,951	N/A	N/A
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF <sup>6</sup>	0.69%	10/18/11	15,586,950	15,031,499	9,484,500
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF	0.69%	08/16/11	432,881	247,131	133,724
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF	0.79%	09/12/12	4,883,454	4,380,187	690,651
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF <sup>7</sup>	0.39%	01/31/12	151,493	162,274	81,354



Fund	Management Fee for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2015	Fund Inception Date	Management Fees Paid For Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2015	Management Fees Paid For Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2014	Management Fees Paid For Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2013
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF	0.39%	01/31/12	82,566	21,673	18,793
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF <sup>8</sup>	0.39%	01/31/12	566,461	670,187	884,095
iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF	0.48%	03/12/96	2,476,145	3,846,410	4,872,823
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF	0.62%	05/09/00	25,858,763	26,444,377	19,187,742
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF	0.62%	06/20/00	22,392,457	18,110,836	15,871,664

<sup>1</sup> For the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, BFA has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its management fees in an amount equal to the Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, if any, attributable to the Fund's investments in other series of iShares Trust and iShares, Inc. until December 31, [2016]. The contractual waiver may be terminated prior to December 31, [2016] only upon written agreement of the Company and BFA. For the fiscal years ended August 31, 2013, August 31, 2014 and August 31, 2015, BFA waived \$116,082, \$0 and \$0, respectively, of its management fees. BFA may voluntarily waive a portion of its management fee, as it determines, from time to time. Any such voluntary waiver or reimbursement may be eliminated by BFA at any time. For the fiscal years ended August 31, 2013 and August 31, 2014, BFA waived \$875,684 and \$501,946, respectively, of its management fees. As of November 1, 2013, the voluntary waiver is no longer in effect.

<sup>2</sup> On November 10, 2015, the management fee for iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF changed to 0.16%. Prior to November 10, 2015, the management fee for iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF was 0.18%.

<sup>3</sup> For the iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF, BFA has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its management fees in an amount equal to the Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, if any, attributable to the Fund's investments in other series of iShares Trust and iShares, Inc. until December 31, [2016]. The contractual waiver may be terminated prior to December 31, [2016] only upon written agreement of the Company and BFA. For the fiscal years ended August 31, 2013, August 31, 2014 and August 31, 2015, BFA waived \$20,001, \$6,390 and \$2,346,015, respectively, of its management fees. Effective September 11, 2014, BFA has contractually agreed to waive any additional portion of its management fee necessary to limit the Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses to 0.20% of average daily net assets until December 31, [2016]. The contractual waiver may be terminated prior to December 31, [2016] only upon written agreement of the Company and BFA. For the fiscal years ended August 31, 2013, August 31, 2014 and August 31, 2015, BFA voluntarily waived \$1,136,018, \$1,493,893 and \$0, respectively, of its management fees. As of September 12, 2014, the voluntary waiver is no longer in effect.

<sup>4</sup> For the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, BFA has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its management fee for its investment advisory services to the Fund in order to limit Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses to 0.49% of average daily net assets until December 31, [2016]. The contractual waiver may be terminated prior to December 31, [2016] only upon written agreement of the Company and BFA. For the fiscal years ended August 31, 2013, August 31, 2014 and August 31, 2015, BFA waived \$134,414, \$82,805 and \$247,981, respectively, of its management fees.

<sup>5</sup> For the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, BFA has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its management fees in an amount equal to the Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, if any, attributable to the Fund's investments in other series of iShares Trust and iShares, Inc. until December 31, [2016]. The contractual waiver may be terminated prior to December 31, [2016] only upon written agreement of the Company and BFA. For the fiscal years ended August 31, 2013, August 31, 2014 and August 31, 2015, BFA waived \$0, \$0 and \$0, respectively, of its management fees. For the fiscal years ended August 31, 2013, August 31, 2014 and August 31, 2015, BFA voluntarily waived \$427,889, \$784,811 and \$0, respectively, of its management fees. As of September 12, 2014, the voluntary waiver is no longer in effect.

<sup>6</sup> For the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF, BFA has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its management fee for its investment advisory services to the Fund in order to limit Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses to 0.25% of average daily net assets until December 31, [2016]. The contractual waiver may be terminated prior to December 31, [2016] only upon written agreement of the Company and BFA. For the fiscal years ended August 31, 2013, August 31, 2014 and August 31, 2015, BFA waived \$5,941,097, \$9,452,759 and \$9,914,710, respectively, of its management fees.

<sup>7</sup> For the iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF, BFA has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its management fees in an amount equal to the Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, if any, attributable to the Fund's investments in other series of iShares Trust and iShares, Inc. until December 31, [2016]. The contractual waiver may be terminated prior to December 31, [2016] only upon written agreement of the Company and BFA. For the fiscal years ended August 31, 2013, August 31, 2014 and August 31, 2015, BFA waived \$1,448, \$2,676 and \$3,225, respectively, of its management fees.

<sup>8</sup> For the iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF, BFA has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its management fees in an amount equal to the Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, if any, attributable to the Fund's investments in other series of iShares Trust and iShares, Inc. until December 31, [2016]. The contractual waiver may be terminated prior to December 31, [2016] only upon written agreement of the Company and BFA. For the fiscal years ended August 31, 2013, August 31, 2014 and August 31, 2015, BFA waived \$0, \$0 and \$0, respectively, of its management fees.

The investment advisory agreement with respect to each Fund continues in effect for two years from its effective date, and thereafter is subject to annual approval by (i) the Board, or (ii) the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the applicable Fund, provided that in either event such continuance also is approved by a majority of the Board members who are not interested persons (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the applicable Fund, by a vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval.

The investment advisory agreement with respect to each Fund is terminable without penalty, on 60 days' notice, by the Board or by a vote of the holders of a majority of the applicable Fund's outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act). The investment advisory agreement is also terminable upon 60 days' notice by BFA and will terminate automatically in the event of its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act).

Each Subsidiary has entered into a separate contract with BFA whereby BFA provides investment advisory services to each Subsidiary. BFA does not receive separate compensation from each Subsidiary for providing it with investment advisory services. Each applicable Fund pays BFA a management fee based on the Fund's assets, including the assets invested in each Subsidiary. Each Subsidiary has also entered into separate arrangements that provide for the provision of other services to each Subsidiary (including administrative, custody, transfer agency and other services), and BFA shall pay the costs and expenses related to the provision of those services.

**Portfolio Managers.** As of August 31, 2015, the individuals named as Portfolio Managers in the Funds' Prospectuses were also primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of other iShares funds and certain other types of portfolios and/or accounts as follows:

**Matthew Goff**

<u>Types of Accounts</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total Assets</u>
Registered Investment Companies	___	\$ ___
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	___	___
Other Accounts	___	___
Accounts with Incentive-Based Fee Arrangements	___	___

**Diane Hsiung**

<u>Types of Accounts</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total Assets</u>
Registered Investment Companies	___	\$ ___
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	___	___
Other Accounts	___	___
Accounts with Incentive-Based Fee Arrangements	___	___

**Jennifer Hsui**

<u>Types of Accounts</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total Assets</u>
Registered Investment Companies	___	\$ ___
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	___	___
Other Accounts	___	___
Accounts with Incentive-Based Fee Arrangements	___	___

**Greg Savage**

<u>Types of Accounts</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total Assets</u>
Registered Investment Companies	___	\$ ___
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	___	___
Other Accounts	___	___
Accounts with Incentive-Based Fee Arrangements	___	___

Each of the portfolios or accounts for which the Portfolio Managers are primarily responsible for the day-to-day management seeks to track the rate of return, risk profile and other characteristics of independent third-party indexes by either replicating the same combination of securities and other financial instruments that constitute those indexes or through a representative sampling of the securities and other financial instruments that constitute those indexes based on objective criteria and data. Pursuant to BFA's policy, investment opportunities are allocated equitably among the Funds and other portfolios and accounts. For example, under certain circumstances, an investment opportunity may be restricted due to limited supply in the market, legal constraints or other factors, in which event the investment opportunity will be allocated equitably among those portfolios and accounts, including the Funds, seeking such investment opportunity. As a consequence, from time to

time each Fund may receive a smaller allocation of an investment opportunity than it would have if the Portfolio Managers and BFA and its Affiliates did not manage other portfolios or accounts.

Like the Funds, the other portfolios or accounts for which the Portfolio Managers are primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management generally pay an asset-based fee to BFA or its Affiliates, as applicable, for its advisory services. One or more of those other portfolios or accounts, however, may pay BFA or its Affiliates an incentive-based fee in lieu of, or in addition to, an asset-based fee for its advisory services. A portfolio or account with an incentive-based fee would pay BFA or its Affiliates a portion of that portfolio's or account's gains, or would pay BFA or its Affiliates more for its services than would otherwise be the case if BFA or any of its Affiliates meets or exceeds specified performance targets. Incentive-based fee arrangements could present an incentive for BFA or its Affiliates to devote greater resources, and allocate more investment opportunities, to the portfolios or accounts that have those fee arrangements, relative to other portfolios or accounts, in order to earn larger fees. Although BFA and each of its Affiliates have an obligation to allocate resources and opportunities equitably among portfolios and accounts and intend to do so, shareholders of the Funds should be aware that, as with any group of portfolios and accounts managed by an investment adviser and/or its Affiliates pursuant to varying fee arrangements, including incentive-based fee arrangements, there is the potential for a conflict of interest that may result in the Portfolio Managers favoring those portfolios or accounts with incentive-based fee arrangements.

The tables below show, for each Portfolio Manager, the number of portfolios or accounts of the types set forth in the above tables and the aggregate of total assets in those portfolios or accounts with respect to which the investment management fees are based on the performance of those portfolios or accounts as of August 31, 2015:

#### Matthew Goff

<u>Types of Accounts</u>	<u>Number of Other Accounts with Performance Fees Managed by Portfolio Manager</u>	<u>Aggregate of Total Assets</u>
Registered Investment Companies	—	—
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	—	—
Other Accounts	—	—

#### Diane Hsiung

<u>Types of Accounts</u>	<u>Number of Other Accounts with Performance Fees Managed by Portfolio Manager</u>	<u>Aggregate of Total Assets</u>
Registered Investment Companies	—	—
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	—	—
Other Accounts	—	—

#### Jennifer Hsui

<u>Types of Accounts</u>	<u>Number of Other Accounts with Performance Fees Managed by Portfolio Manager</u>	<u>Aggregate of Total Assets</u>
Registered Investment Companies	—	—
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	—	—
Other Accounts	—	—

#### Greg Savage

<u>Types of Accounts</u>	<u>Number of Other Accounts with Performance Fees Managed by Portfolio Manager</u>	<u>Aggregate of Total Assets</u>
Registered Investment Companies	—	—
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	—	—
Other Accounts	—	—

The discussion below describes the Portfolio Managers' compensation as of August 31, 2015.

### Portfolio Manager Compensation Overview

BlackRock, Inc.'s financial arrangements with its portfolio managers, its competitive compensation and its career path emphasis at all levels reflect the value senior management places on key resources. Compensation may include a variety of components and may vary from year to year based on a number of factors. The principal components of compensation include a base salary, a performance-based discretionary bonus, participation in various benefits programs and one or more of the incentive compensation programs established by BlackRock, Inc.

**Base compensation.** Generally, portfolio managers receive base compensation based on their position with the firm.

**Discretionary Incentive Compensation.** Discretionary incentive compensation is a function of several components: the performance of BlackRock, Inc., the performance of the portfolio manager's group within BlackRock, Inc. and the individual's performance and contribution to the overall performance of these portfolios and BlackRock, Inc.

**Distribution of Discretionary Incentive Compensation.** Discretionary incentive compensation is distributed to portfolio managers in a combination of cash and BlackRock, Inc. restricted stock units which vest ratably over a number of years. The BlackRock, Inc. restricted stock units, if properly vested, will be settled in BlackRock, Inc. common stock. Typically, the cash bonus, when combined with base salary, represents more than 60% of total compensation for the portfolio managers. Paying a portion of annual bonuses in stock puts compensation earned by a portfolio manager for a given year "at risk" based on BlackRock, Inc.'s ability to sustain and improve its performance over future periods.

**Long-Term Incentive Plan Awards** — From time to time, long-term incentive equity awards are granted to certain key employees to aid in retention, align their interests with long-term shareholder interests and motivate performance. Equity awards are generally granted in the form of BlackRock, Inc. restricted stock units that, once vested, settle in BlackRock, Inc. common stock.

**Other Compensation Benefits.** In addition to base compensation and discretionary incentive compensation, portfolio managers may be eligible to receive or participate in one or more of the following:

**Incentive Savings Plans** — BlackRock, Inc. has created a variety of incentive savings plans in which BlackRock, Inc. employees are eligible to participate, including a 401(k) plan, the BlackRock Retirement Savings Plan ("RSP"), and the BlackRock Employee Stock Purchase Plan ("ESPP"). The employer contribution components of the RSP include a company match equal to 50% of the first 8% of eligible pay contributed to the plan capped at \$5,000 per year, and a company retirement contribution equal to 3-5% of eligible compensation up to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") limit (\$260,000 for 2014). The RSP offers a range of investment options, including registered investment companies and collective investment funds managed by the firm. BlackRock, Inc. contributions follow the investment direction set by participants for their own contributions or, absent participant investment direction, are invested into an index target date fund that corresponds to, or is closest to, the year in which the participant attains age 65. The ESPP allows for investment in BlackRock, Inc. common stock at a 5% discount on the fair market value of the stock on the purchase date. Annual participation in the ESPP is limited to the purchase of 1,000 shares of common stock or a dollar value of \$25,000 based on its fair market value on the Purchase Date. Matthew Goff, Diane Hsiung, Jennifer Hsui and Greg Savage are each eligible to participate in these plans.

As of August 31, 2015, the Portfolio Managers beneficially owned shares of the Funds, for which they are primarily responsible for the day-to-day management, in the amounts reflected in the following tables:

#### Matthew Goff

Fund	Dollar Range						
	None	\$1 to \$10k	\$10,001 to \$50k	\$50,001 to \$100k	\$100,001 to \$500k	\$500,001 to \$1m	over \$1m
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF							
iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF							
iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF							

**Matthew Goff**

Fund	Dollar Range						
	None	\$1 to \$10k	\$10,001 to \$50k	\$50,001 to \$100k	\$100,001 to \$500k	\$500,001 to \$1m	over \$1m
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF							
iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF							
iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF							
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF							
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF							
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF							
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF							
iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF							
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF							
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF							

**Diane Hsiung**

Fund	Dollar Range						
	None	\$1 to \$10k	\$10,001 to \$50k	\$50,001 to \$100k	\$100,001 to \$500k	\$500,001 to \$1m	over \$1m
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF							
iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF							
iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF							
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF							
iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF							
iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF							
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF							
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF							
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF							
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF							
iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF							
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF							
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF							



## Jennifer Hsui

Fund	Dollar Range						
	None	\$1 to \$10k	\$10,001 to \$50k	\$50,001 to \$100k	\$100,001 to \$500k	\$500,001 to \$1m	over \$1m
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF							
iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF							
iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF							
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF							
iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF							
iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF							
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF							
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF							
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF							
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF							
iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF							
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF							
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF							

## Greg Savage

Fund	Dollar Range						
	None	\$1 to \$10k	\$10,001 to \$50k	\$50,001 to \$100k	\$100,001 to \$500k	\$500,001 to \$1m	over \$1m
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF							
iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF							
iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF							
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF							
iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF							
iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF							
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF							
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF							
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF							
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF							
iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF							
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF							

## Greg Savage

Fund	Dollar Range						
	None	\$1 to \$10k	\$10,001 to \$50k	\$50,001 to \$100k	\$100,001 to \$500k	\$500,001 to \$1m	over \$1m
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF							

**Codes of Ethics.** The Company, BFA and the Distributor have adopted codes of ethics pursuant to Rule 17j-1 of the 1940 Act. The codes of ethics permit personnel subject to the codes of ethics to invest in securities, subject to certain limitations, including securities that may be purchased or held by the Funds. The codes of ethics are on public file with, and are available from, the SEC.

**Anti-Money Laundering Requirements.** The Funds are subject to the USA PATRIOT Act (the “Patriot Act”). The Patriot Act is intended to prevent the use of the U.S. financial system in furtherance of money laundering, terrorism or other illicit activities. Pursuant to requirements under the Patriot Act, a Fund may request information from Authorized Participants to enable it to form a reasonable belief that it knows the true identity of its Authorized Participants. This information will be used to verify the identity of Authorized Participants or, in some cases, the status of financial professionals; it will be used only for compliance with the requirements of the Patriot Act.

The Funds reserve the right to reject purchase orders from persons who have not submitted information sufficient to allow the Fund to verify their identity. Each Fund also reserves the right to redeem any amounts in a Fund from persons whose identity it is unable to verify on a timely basis. It is the Funds’ policy to cooperate fully with appropriate regulators in any investigations conducted with respect to potential money laundering, terrorism or other illicit activities.

**Administrator, Custodian and Transfer Agent.** State Street Bank and Trust Company (“State Street”) serves as administrator, custodian and transfer agent for the Funds under the Master Services Agreement and related Service Schedule (the “Service Module”). State Street’s principal address is 1 Iron Street, Boston, MA 02210. Pursuant to the Service Module for Fund Administration and Accounting Services with the Company, State Street provides necessary administrative, legal, tax and accounting and financial reporting services for the maintenance and operations of the Company and each Fund. In addition, State Street makes available the office space, equipment, personnel and facilities required to provide such services. Pursuant to the Service Module for Custodial Services with the Company, State Street maintains, in separate accounts, cash, securities and other assets of the Company and each Fund, keeps all necessary accounts and records and provides other services. State Street is required, upon the order of the Company, to deliver securities held by State Street and to make payments for securities purchased by the Company for each Fund. State Street is authorized to appoint certain foreign custodians or foreign custody managers for Fund investments outside the United States. Pursuant to the Service Module for Transfer Agency Services with the Company, State Street acts as a transfer agent for each Fund’s authorized and issued shares of beneficial interest, and as dividend disbursing agent of the Company. As compensation for these services, State Street receives certain out-of-pocket costs, transaction fees and asset-based fees which are accrued daily and paid monthly by BFA from its management fee.

The following table sets forth the administration, custodian and transfer agency expenses of each Fund paid by BFA to State Street for the fiscal years noted:

Fund	Fund Inception Date	Administration, Custodian, Transfer Agency Expenses Paid During Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2015	Administration, Custodian, Transfer Agency Expenses Paid During Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2014	Administration, Custodian, Transfer Agency Expenses Paid During Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2013
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	10/18/12	\$2,250,895	\$1,465,620	\$ 412,062
iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF	10/18/11	227,622	127,080	87,071
iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF	07/10/00	676,115	919,967	1,386,926
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF	11/12/07	100,260	176,744	238,562
iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF	11/12/07	588,484	760,304	1,086,999

Fund	Fund Inception Date	Administration, Custodian, Transfer Agency Expenses Paid During Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2015	Administration, Custodian, Transfer Agency Expenses Paid During Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2014	Administration, Custodian, Transfer Agency Expenses Paid During Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2013
iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF	06/18/13	94,389	105,161	15,246
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF	02/08/12	44,136	14,813	36,171
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	04/07/03	9,972,532	12,892,794	13,283,559
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF	10/14/14	31,959	N/A	N/A
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF	10/18/11	1,319,663	1,127,202	737,475
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF	08/16/11	61,597	55,099	45,384
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF	09/12/12	2,347,970	2,645,084	425,841
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF	01/31/12	20,388	27,334	12,441
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF	01/31/12	15,788	11,668	6,093
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF	01/31/12	49,648	53,841	42,352
iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF	03/12/96	151,204	224,810	250,626
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF	05/09/00	882,085	915,327	696,983
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF	06/20/00	863,984	696,950	674,661

**Subsidiary Administrator.** International Financial Services Limited (“IFS”) serves as each Subsidiary’s Mauritius administrator. Pursuant to an agreement with IFS, each Subsidiary pays a fee for administrative, legal, tax and accounting services to IFS, for certain shareholder services and for providing office space, equipment, personnel and facilities required to provide such services to each Subsidiary.

**Distributor.** The Distributor’s principal address is 1 University Square Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540. Shares are continuously offered for sale by the Funds through the Distributor or its agent only in Creation Units, as described in the applicable Prospectus and below in the *Creation and Redemption of Creation Units* section of this SAI. Fund shares in amounts less than Creation Units are generally not distributed by the Distributor or its agent. The Distributor or its agent will arrange for the delivery of the applicable Prospectus and, upon request, this SAI to persons purchasing Creation Units and will maintain records of both orders placed with it or its agents and confirmations of acceptance furnished by it or its agents. The Distributor is a broker-dealer registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “1934 Act”), and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”). The Distributor is also licensed as a broker-dealer in all 50 U.S. states, as well as in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia.

The Distribution Agreement for each Fund provides that it may be terminated at any time, without the payment of any penalty, on at least 60 days’ prior written notice to the other party following (i) the vote of a majority of the Independent Directors, or (ii) the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the relevant Fund. The Distribution Agreement will terminate automatically in the event of its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act).

The Distributor may also enter into agreements with securities dealers (“Soliciting Dealers”) who will solicit purchases of Creation Units of Fund shares. Such Soliciting Dealers may also be Authorized Participants (as described below), DTC participants and/or investor services organizations.

BFA or its Affiliates may, from time to time and from its own resources, pay, defray or absorb costs relating to distribution, including payments out of its own resources to the Distributor, or to otherwise promote the sale of shares.

The following table sets forth the compensation paid by BFA to SEI Investments Distribution Co. (“SEI”) for certain services, not primarily intended to result in the sale of Fund shares, provided to each Fund during the fiscal years noted:

Fund	Fund Inception Date	Distributor Compensation Paid During Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2015 <sup>1</sup>	Distributor Compensation Paid During Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2014 <sup>1</sup>	Distributor Compensation Paid During Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2013 <sup>1</sup>
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	10/18/12	\$ _____	\$6,438	\$ 7,166
iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF	10/18/11	_____	6,438	7,721
iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF	07/10/00	_____	6,438	7,721
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF	11/12/07	_____	6,438	7,721
iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF	11/12/07	_____	6,438	7,721
iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF	06/18/13	_____	6,438	2,094
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF	02/08/12	_____	6,438	7,721
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	04/07/03	_____	6,438	7,721
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF	10/14/14	_____	N/A	N/A
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF	10/18/11	_____	6,438	7,721
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF	08/16/11	_____	6,438	7,721
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF	09/12/12	_____	6,438	7,721
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF	01/31/12	_____	6,438	7,721
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF	01/31/12	_____	6,438	7,721
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF	01/31/12	_____	6,438	7,721
iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF	03/12/96	_____	6,438	7,721
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF	05/09/00	_____	6,438	7,721
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF	06/20/00	_____	6,438	7,721

<sup>1</sup> These fees reflect payments made to SEI, acting as an agent of the Distributor.

**Payments by BFA and its Affiliates.** BFA and/or its Affiliates (“BFA Entities”) pay certain broker-dealers, registered investment advisers, banks and other financial intermediaries (“Intermediaries”) for certain activities related to the Funds, other iShares funds or exchange-traded products in general. BFA Entities make these payments from their own assets and not from the assets of the Funds. Although a portion of BFA Entities’ revenue comes directly or indirectly in part from fees paid by the Funds and other iShares funds, these payments do not increase the price paid by investors for the purchase of shares of, or the cost of owning, the Funds or other iShares funds. BFA Entities make payments for Intermediaries’ participation in activities that are designed to make registered representatives, other professionals and individual investors more knowledgeable about exchange-traded products, including the Funds, or for other activities, such as participation in marketing activities and presentations, educational training programs, conferences, the development of technology platforms and reporting systems (“Education Costs”). BFA Entities also make payments to Intermediaries for certain printing, publishing and mailing costs associated with the Funds or materials relating to exchange-traded products in general (“Publishing Costs”). In addition, BFA Entities make payments to Intermediaries that make shares of the Funds and certain other iShares funds available to their clients, develop new products that feature iShares or otherwise promote the Funds and other iShares funds. BFA Entities may also reimburse expenses or make payments from their own assets to Intermediaries or other persons in consideration of services or other activities that the BFA Entities believe may benefit the iShares business or facilitate investment in iShares funds. Payments of the type described above are sometimes referred to as revenue-sharing payments.

Payments to an Intermediary may be significant to the Intermediary, and amounts that Intermediaries pay to your salesperson or other investment professional may also be significant for your salesperson or other investment professional. Because an Intermediary may make decisions about which investment options it will recommend or make available to its clients or what services to provide for various products based on payments it receives or is eligible to receive, such payments may create conflicts of interest between the Intermediary and its clients and these financial incentives may cause the Intermediary to recommend the Funds and other iShares funds over other investments. The same conflicts of interest and financial incentives exist with respect to your salesperson or other investment professional if he or she receives similar payments from his or her Intermediary firm.

As of March 1, 2013, BFA Entities have contractual arrangements to make payments (in addition to payments for Education Costs or Publishing Costs) to one Intermediary, Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC (“FBS”). Pursuant to this special, long-term and significant arrangement (the “Marketing Program”), FBS and certain affiliates (collectively “Fidelity”) have agreed, among other things, to actively promote iShares funds to customers and investment professionals and in advertising campaigns as the preferred exchange-traded product, to offer certain iShares funds in certain Fidelity platforms and investment programs, in some cases at a reduced commission rate or commission free, and to provide marketing data to BFA Entities. BFA Entities have agreed to facilitate the Marketing Program by, among other things, making certain payments to FBS for marketing and implementing certain brokerage and investment programs. Upon termination of the arrangement, the BFA Entities will make additional payments to FBS based upon a number of criteria, including the overall success of the Marketing Program and the level of services provided by FBS during the wind-down period.

Any additions, modifications, or deletions to Intermediaries listed above that have occurred since the date noted above are not included in the list. Further, BFA Entities make Education Costs and Publishing Costs payments to other Intermediaries that are not listed above. BFA Entities may determine to make such payments based on any number of metrics. For example, BFA Entities may make payments at year-end or other intervals in a fixed amount, an amount based upon an Intermediary’s services at defined levels or an amount based on the Intermediary’s net sales of one or more iShares funds in a year or other period, any of which arrangements may include an agreed-upon minimum or maximum payment, or any combination of the foregoing. As of the date of this SAI, BFA anticipates that the payments paid by BFA Entities in connection with the Funds, iShares funds and exchange-traded products in general will be immaterial to BFA Entities in the aggregate for the next year. **Please contact your salesperson or other investment professional for more information regarding any such payments his or her Intermediary firm may receive. Any payments made by the BFA Entities to an Intermediary may create the incentive for an Intermediary to encourage customers to buy shares of iShares funds.**

The Funds may participate in certain market maker incentive programs of a national securities exchange in which an affiliate of the Funds would pay a fee to the exchange used for the purpose of incentivizing one or more market makers in the securities of a Fund to enhance the liquidity and quality of the secondary market of securities of a Fund. The fee would then be credited by the exchange to one or more market makers that meet or exceed liquidity and market quality standards with respect to the securities of a Fund. Each market maker incentive program is subject to approval from the SEC. Any such fee payments made to an exchange will be made by an affiliate of a Fund solely for the benefit of a Fund and will not be paid from any Fund assets. Certain funds managed by BFA may also participate in such programs.

## Determination of Net Asset Value

**Valuation of Shares.** The NAV for each Fund is generally calculated as of the close of regular trading hours on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) (currently 4:00 p.m., Eastern time) on each business day the NYSE is open. Valuation of securities held by a Fund is as follows:

**Equity Investments.** Equity securities traded on a recognized securities exchange (e.g., NYSE), on separate trading boards of a securities exchange or through a market system that provides contemporaneous transaction pricing information (each, an “Exchange”) are valued using information obtained via independent pricing services, generally the closing price on the Exchange on which the security is primarily listed, or if an Exchange closing price is not available, the last traded price on that Exchange prior to the time as of which a Fund’s assets or liabilities are valued. However, under certain circumstances, other means of determining current market value may be used. If an equity security is traded on more than one Exchange, the current market value of the security where it is primarily traded generally will be used. In the event that there are no sales involving an equity security held by a Fund on a day on which a Fund values such security, the prior day’s price will be used, unless, in accordance with valuation procedures approved by the Board (the “Valuation Procedures”), BlackRock determines in good faith that such prior day’s price no longer reflects the fair value of the security, in which case such asset would be treated as a Fair Value Asset (as defined below).

**Fixed Income Investments.** In accordance with the Valuation Procedures, fixed income securities for which market quotations are readily available are generally valued using such securities’ most recent bid prices provided directly from one or more broker-dealers, market makers, or independent third-party pricing services, each of which may use matrix pricing and valuation models, as well as recent market transactions for the same or similar assets to derive values. The amortized cost method of valuation may be used with respect to debt obligations with sixty days or less remaining to maturity unless BlackRock determines in good faith that such method does not represent fair value. Loan participation notes are generally



valued at the mean of the last available bid prices from one or more brokers or dealers as obtained from independent third-party pricing services. Certain fixed income investments, including asset-backed and mortgage-related securities, may be valued based on valuation models that consider the estimated cash flows of each tranche of the entity, establish a benchmark yield and develop an estimated tranche-specific spread to the benchmark yield based on the unique attributes of the tranche. Fixed income securities for which market quotations are not readily available may be valued by third-party pricing services that make a valuation determination by securing transaction data (e.g., recent representative bids), credit quality information, perceived market movements, news, and other relevant information and by other methods, which may include consideration of yields or prices of securities of comparable quality, coupon, maturity and type; indications as to values from dealers; and general market conditions.

**Options, Futures, Swaps and Other Derivatives.** Exchange-traded equity options for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the mean of the last bid and ask prices as quoted on the Exchange or the board of trade on which such options are traded. In the event that there is no mean price available for an exchange traded equity option held by a Fund on a day on which a Fund values such option, the last bid (long positions) or ask (short positions) price, if available, will be used as the value of such option. If no such bid or ask price is available on a day on which a Fund values such option, the prior day's price will be used, unless BlackRock determines in good faith that such prior day's price no longer reflects the fair value of the option, in which case such option will be treated as a Fair Value Asset (as defined below). Over-the-counter ("OTC") derivatives may be valued using a mathematical model which may incorporate a number of market data factors. Financial futures contracts and options thereon, which are traded on exchanges, are valued at their settle price as of the close of such exchanges. Swap agreements and other derivatives are generally valued daily based upon quotations from market makers or by a pricing service in accordance with the Valuation Procedures.

**Underlying Funds.** Shares of underlying exchange-traded funds will be valued at their most recent closing price on an Exchange. Shares of underlying money market funds will be valued at their net asset value.

**General Valuation Information.** In determining the market value of portfolio investments, a Fund may employ independent third-party pricing services, which may use, without limitation, a matrix or formula method that takes into consideration market indexes, matrices, yield curves and other specific adjustments. This may result in the securities being valued at a price different from the price that would have been determined had the matrix or formula method not been used. All cash, receivables and current payables are carried on a Fund's books at their face value.

Prices obtained from independent third-party pricing services, broker-dealers or market makers to value a Fund's securities and other assets and liabilities are based on information available at the time a Fund values its assets and liabilities. In the event that a pricing service quotation is revised or updated subsequent to the day on which a Fund valued such security or other asset or liability, the revised pricing service quotation generally will be applied prospectively. Such determination will be made considering pertinent facts and circumstances surrounding the revision.

Certain types of securities, including many fixed income securities, trade infrequently and there may be no current market transactions or recent representative bids for such securities. To the extent that prices for such securities are not reflective of current market transactions or recent representative bids, a Fund will value such securities in good faith in accordance with the Valuation Procedures.

In the event that application of the methods of valuation discussed above result in a price for a security which is deemed not to be representative of the fair market value of such security, the security will be valued by, under the direction of or in accordance with a method specified by the Board as reflecting fair value. All other assets and liabilities (including securities for which market quotations are not readily available) held by a Fund (including restricted securities) are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the Board or by BlackRock (its delegate) pursuant to the Valuation Procedures. Any assets and liabilities which are denominated in a foreign currency are converted into U.S. dollars using prevailing market rates on the date of valuation as quoted by one or more data service providers.

Certain of the securities acquired by a Fund may be traded on foreign exchanges or OTC markets on days on which a Fund's net asset value is not calculated. In such cases, the net asset value of a Fund's shares may be significantly affected on days when investors can neither purchase nor redeem shares of a Fund.

Use of fair value prices and certain current market valuations could result in a difference between the prices used to calculate a Fund's NAV and the prices used in the Underlying Index, which, in turn, could result in a difference between a Fund's performance and the performance of the Underlying Index.

**Fair Value.** When market quotations are not readily available or are believed in good faith by BlackRock to be unreliable, a Fund's investments are valued at fair value ("Fair Value Assets"). Fair Value Assets are valued by BlackRock in accordance with the Valuation Procedures. BlackRock may reasonably conclude that a market quotation is not readily available or is unreliable if, among other things, a security or other asset or liability does not have a price source due to its lack of trading, if BlackRock believes in good faith that a market quotation from a broker-dealer or other source is unreliable (e.g., where it varies significantly from a recent trade, or no longer reflects the fair value of the security or other asset or liability subsequent to the most recent market quotation), where the security or other asset or liability is only thinly traded or due to the occurrence of a significant event subsequent to the most recent market quotation. For this purpose, a "significant event" is deemed to occur if BlackRock determines, in its reasonable business judgment, that an event has occurred after the close of trading for an asset or liability but prior to or at the time of pricing a Fund's assets or liabilities, and that the event is likely to cause a material change to the closing market price of the assets or liabilities held by a Fund. Non-U.S. securities whose values are affected by volatility that occurs in U.S. markets for related or highly correlated assets (e.g., ADRs, GDRs or ETFs that invest in components of the Underlying Index) on a trading day after the close of non-U.S. securities markets may be fair valued. On any day the NYSE is open and a foreign market or the primary exchange on which a foreign asset or liability is traded is closed, such asset or liability will be valued using the prior day's price, provided that BlackRock is not aware of any significant event or other information that would cause such price to no longer reflect the fair value of the asset or liability, in which case such asset or liability would be treated as a Fair Value Asset.

BlackRock, with input from the BlackRock Investment Strategy Group, will submit its recommendations regarding the valuation and/or valuation methodologies for Fair Value Assets to BlackRock's Valuation Committee. The BlackRock Valuation Committee may accept, modify or reject any recommendations. In addition, a Fund's accounting agent periodically endeavors to confirm the prices it receives from all third-party pricing services, index providers and broker-dealers, and, with the assistance of BlackRock, to regularly evaluate the values assigned to the securities and other assets and liabilities held by a Fund. The pricing of all Fair Value Assets is subsequently reported to and, where appropriate, ratified by the Board.

When determining the price for a Fair Value Asset, the BlackRock Valuation Committee (or BlackRock's Pricing Group) will seek to determine the price that a Fund might reasonably expect to receive upon the current sale of that asset or liability in an arm's-length transaction on the date on which the assets or liabilities are being valued, and does not seek to determine the price that a Fund might expect to receive for selling the asset, or the cost of extinguishing a liability, at a later time or if it holds the asset or liability to maturity. Fair value determinations will be based upon all available factors that the BlackRock Valuation Committee (or BlackRock's Pricing Group) deems relevant at the time of the determination, and may be based on analytical values determined by BlackRock using proprietary or third-party valuation models.

Fair value represents a good faith approximation of the value of an asset or liability. When determining the fair value of an asset, one or more of a variety of fair valuation methodologies may be used (depending on certain factors, including the asset type). For example, the asset may be priced on the basis of the original cost of the investment or, alternatively, using proprietary or third-party models (including models that rely upon direct portfolio management pricing inputs and which reflect the significance attributed to the various factors and assumptions being considered). Prices of actual, executed or historical transactions in the relevant asset and/or liability (or related or comparable assets and/or liabilities) or, where appropriate, an appraisal by a third-party experienced in the valuation of similar assets and/or liabilities, may also be used as a basis for establishing the fair value of an asset or liability. The fair value of one or more assets or liabilities may not, in retrospect, be the price at which those assets or liabilities could have been sold during the period in which the particular fair values were used in determining a Fund's net asset value. As a result, a Fund's sale or redemption of its shares at net asset value, at a time when a holding or holdings are valued at fair value, may have the effect of diluting or increasing the economic interest of existing shareholders.

Each Fund's annual audited financial statements, which are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("US GAAP"), follow the requirements for valuation set forth in Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 820, "Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures" ("ASC 820"), which defines and establishes a framework for measuring fair value under US GAAP and expands financial statement disclosure requirements relating to fair value measurements. Generally, ASC 820 and other accounting rules applicable to funds and various assets in which they invest are evolving. Such changes may adversely affect a Fund. For example, the evolution of rules governing the determination of the fair market value of assets or liabilities to the extent such rules become more stringent would tend to increase the cost and/or reduce the availability of third-party determinations of fair market value. This may in turn increase the costs associated with selling assets or affect their liquidity due to a Fund's inability to obtain a third-party determination of fair market value.

# Brokerage Transactions

Subject to policies established by the Board, BFA is primarily responsible for the execution of a Fund's portfolio transactions and the allocation of brokerage. BFA does not execute transactions through any particular broker or dealer, but seeks to obtain the best net results for the Funds, taking into account such factors as price (including the applicable brokerage commission or dealer spread), size of order, difficulty of execution, operational facilities of the firm and the firm's risk and skill in positioning blocks of securities. While BFA generally seeks reasonable trade execution costs, a Fund does not necessarily pay the lowest spread or commission available, and payment of the lowest commission or spread is not necessarily consistent with obtaining the best price and execution in particular transactions. Subject to applicable legal requirements, BFA may select a broker based partly upon brokerage or research services provided to BFA and its clients, including a Fund. In return for such services, BFA may cause a Fund to pay a higher commission than other brokers would charge if BFA determines in good faith that the commission is reasonable in relation to the services provided.

In selecting brokers or dealers to execute portfolio transactions, BFA seeks to obtain the best price and most favorable execution for a Fund and may take into account a variety of factors including: (i) the size, nature and character of the security or instrument being traded and the markets in which it is purchased or sold; (ii) the desired timing of the transaction; (iii) BFA's knowledge of the expected commission rates and spreads currently available; (iv) the activity existing and expected in the market for the particular security or instrument, including any anticipated execution difficulties; (v) the full range of brokerage services provided; (vi) the broker's or dealer's capital; (vii) the quality of research and research services provided; (viii) the reasonableness of the commission, dealer spread or its equivalent for the specific transaction; and (ix) BFA's knowledge of any actual or apparent operational problems of a broker or dealer. Brokers may also be selected because of their ability to handle special or difficult executions, such as may be involved in large block trades, less liquid securities, or other circumstances.

Section 28(e) of the 1934 Act ("Section 28(e)") permits an investment adviser, under certain circumstances, to cause an account to pay a broker or dealer a commission for effecting a transaction in securities that exceeds the amount another broker or dealer would have charged for effecting the same transaction in recognition of the value of brokerage and research services provided by that broker or dealer. This includes commissions paid on riskless principal transactions in securities under certain conditions.

From time to time, a Fund may purchase new issues of securities in a fixed price offering. In these situations, the broker may be a member of the selling group that will, in addition to selling securities, provide BFA with research services. FINRA has adopted rules expressly permitting these types of arrangements under certain circumstances. Generally, the broker will provide research "credits" in these situations at a rate that is higher than that available for typical secondary market transactions. These arrangements may not fall within the safe harbor of Section 28(e).

The Funds anticipate that brokerage transactions involving foreign equity securities generally will be conducted primarily on the principal stock exchanges of the applicable country. Foreign equity securities may be held by the Funds in the form of depositary receipts, or other securities convertible into foreign equity securities. Depositary receipts may be listed on stock exchanges, or traded in OTC markets in the United States or Europe, as the case may be. American Depositary Receipts, like other securities traded in the United States, will be subject to negotiated commission rates.

OTC issues, including most fixed income securities such as corporate debt and U.S. Government securities, are normally traded on a "net" basis without a stated commission, through dealers acting for their own account and not as brokers. The Funds will primarily engage in transactions with these dealers or deal directly with the issuer unless a better price or execution could be obtained by using a broker. Prices paid to a dealer with respect to both foreign and domestic securities will generally include a "spread," which is the difference between the prices at which the dealer is willing to purchase and sell the specific security at the time, and includes the dealer's normal profit.

Under the 1940 Act, persons affiliated with a Fund and persons who are affiliated with such affiliated persons are prohibited from dealing with the Fund as principal in the purchase and sale of securities unless a permissive order allowing such transactions is obtained from the SEC. Since transactions in the OTC market usually involve transactions with the dealers acting as principal for their own accounts, the Funds will not deal with affiliated persons, including PNC and its affiliates, in connection with such transactions. The Funds will not purchase securities during the existence of any underwriting or selling group relating to such securities of which BFA, PNC, BRIL or any affiliated person (as defined in the 1940 Act) thereof is a member except pursuant to procedures adopted by the Board in accordance with Rule 10f-3 under the 1940 Act.

Purchases of money market instruments by the Funds are made from dealers, underwriters and issuers. The Funds do not currently expect to incur any brokerage commission expense on such transactions because money market instruments are generally traded on a “net” basis with dealers acting as principal for their own accounts without a stated commission. The price of the security, however, usually includes a profit to the dealer.

BFA may, from time to time, effect trades on behalf of and for the account of the Funds with brokers or dealers that are affiliated with BFA, in conformity with Rule 17e-1 under the 1940 Act and SEC rules and regulations. Under these provisions, any commissions paid to affiliated brokers or dealers must be reasonable and fair compared to the commissions charged by other brokers or dealers in comparable transactions.

Securities purchased in underwritten offerings include a fixed amount of compensation to the underwriter, generally referred to as the underwriter’s concession or discount. When securities are purchased or sold directly from or to an issuer, no commissions or discounts are paid.

Investment decisions for the Funds and for other investment accounts managed by BFA and its Affiliates are made independently of each other in light of differing conditions. A variety of factors will be considered in making investment allocations. These factors include: (i) investment objectives or strategies for particular accounts, including sector, industry, country or region and capitalization weightings; (ii) tax considerations of an account; (iii) risk or investment concentration parameters for an account; (iv) supply or demand for a security at a given price level; (v) size of available investment; (vi) cash availability and liquidity requirements for accounts; (vii) regulatory restrictions; (viii) minimum investment size of an account; (ix) relative size of account; and (x) such other factors as may be approved by BlackRock’s general counsel. Moreover, investments may not be allocated to one client account over another based on any of the following considerations: (i) to favor one client account at the expense of another; (ii) to generate higher fees paid by one client account over another or to produce greater performance compensation to BlackRock; (iii) to develop or enhance a relationship with a client or prospective client; (iv) to compensate a client for past services or benefits rendered to BlackRock or to induce future services or benefits to be rendered to BlackRock; or (v) to manage or equalize investment performance among different client accounts. BFA and its Affiliates may deal, trade and invest for their own account in the types of securities in which the Funds may invest.

Initial public offerings of securities may be over-subscribed and subsequently trade at a premium in the secondary market. When BFA is given an opportunity to invest in such an initial offering or “new” or “hot” issue, the supply of securities available for client accounts is often less than the amount of securities the accounts would otherwise take. In order to allocate these investments fairly and equitably among client accounts over time, each portfolio manager or a member of his or her respective investment team will indicate to BFA’s trading desk their level of interest in a particular offering with respect to eligible clients’ accounts for which that team is responsible. Initial public offerings of U.S. equity securities will be identified as eligible for particular client accounts that are managed by portfolio teams who have indicated interest in the offering based on market capitalization of the issuer of the security and the investment mandate of the client account and in the case of international equity securities, the country where the offering is taking place and the investment mandate of the client account. Generally, shares received during the initial public offering will be allocated among participating client accounts within each investment mandate on a *pro rata* basis. This *pro rata* allocation may result in a Fund receiving less of a particular security than if pro-rating had not occurred. All allocations of securities will be subject, where relevant, to share minimums established for accounts and compliance constraints. In situations where supply is too limited to be allocated among all accounts for which the investment is eligible, portfolio managers may rotate such investment opportunities among one or more accounts so long as the rotation system provides for fair access for all client accounts over time. Other allocation methodologies that are considered by BFA to be fair and equitable to clients may be used as well.

Because different accounts may have differing investment objectives and policies, BFA may buy and sell the same securities at the same time for different clients based on the particular investment objective, guidelines and strategies of those accounts. For example, BFA may decide that it may be entirely appropriate for a growth fund to sell a security at the same time a value fund is buying that security. To the extent that transactions on behalf of more than one client of BFA or its Affiliates during the same period may increase the demand for securities being purchased or the supply of securities being sold, there may be an adverse effect on price. For example, sales of a security by BlackRock on behalf of one or more of its clients may decrease the market price of such security, adversely impacting other BlackRock clients that still hold the security. If purchases or sales of securities arise for consideration at or about the same time that would involve the Funds or other clients or funds for which BFA or an Affiliate act as investment manager, transactions in such securities will be made, insofar as feasible, for the respective funds and clients in a manner deemed equitable to all.

In certain instances, BFA may find it efficient for purposes of seeking to obtain best execution, to aggregate or “bunch” certain contemporaneous purchases or sale orders of its advisory accounts and advisory accounts of affiliates. In general, all contemporaneous trades for client accounts under management by the same portfolio manager or investment team will be bunched in a single order if the trader believes the bunched trade would provide each client with an opportunity to achieve a more favorable execution at a potentially lower execution cost. The costs associated with a bunched order will be shared *pro rata* among the clients in the bunched order. Generally, if an order for a particular portfolio manager or management team is filled at several different prices through multiple trades, all accounts participating in the order will receive the average price (except in the case of certain international markets where average pricing is not permitted). While in some cases this practice could have a detrimental effect upon the price or value of the security as far as the Funds are concerned, in other cases it could be beneficial to the Funds. Transactions effected by BFA or its Affiliates on behalf of more than one of its clients during the same period may increase the demand for securities being purchased or the supply of securities being sold, causing an adverse effect on price. The trader will give the bunched order to the broker-dealer that the trader has identified as being able to provide the best execution of the order. Orders for purchase or sale of securities will be placed within a reasonable amount of time of the order receipt and bunched orders will be kept bunched only long enough to execute the order.

The table below sets forth the brokerage commissions paid by each Fund for the fiscal years noted. Any differences in brokerage commissions paid by a Fund from year to year are due to increases or decreases in that Fund’s assets over those periods:

Fund	Fund Inception Date	Brokerage Commissions Paid During Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2015	Brokerage Commissions Paid During Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2014	Brokerage Commissions Paid During Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2013
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	10/18/12	\$ 1,767,732	\$ 1,734,760	\$ 1,043,502
iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF	10/18/11	693,412	348,651	71,080
iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF	07/10/00	640,217	848,728	1,433,628
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF	11/12/07	40,078	60,924	91,262
iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF	11/12/07	333,378	507,866	326,522
iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF	06/18/13	20,030	19,263	15,658
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF	02/08/12	40,633	31,590	120,182
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	04/07/03	6,974,591	10,188,164	9,938,587
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF	10/14/14	631	N/A	N/A
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF	10/18/11	746,843	874,319	1,036,060
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF	08/16/11	28,290	8,901	11,056
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF	09/12/12	2,418,354	4,805,891	1,839,738
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF	01/31/12	1,259	3,180	1,459
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF	01/31/12	766	351	94
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF	01/31/12	16,772	24,100	25,493
iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF	03/12/96	194,444	169,350	234,799
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF	05/09/00	881,665	727,654	643,784
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF	06/20/00	921,335	362,060	563,909

None of the Funds paid any brokerage commissions to BRIL, an affiliate of BFA, or to any other broker-dealer that is part of the BlackRock group of companies, during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2015.

The Funds’ purchase and sale orders for securities may be combined with those of other investment companies, clients or accounts that BFA or its Affiliates manage or advise and for which they have brokerage placement authority. If purchases or sales of portfolio securities of the Funds and one or more other accounts managed or advised by BFA or its Affiliates are considered at or about the same time, transactions in such securities are allocated among the Funds and the other accounts in a manner deemed equitable to all by BFA and its Affiliates. In some cases, this procedure could have a detrimental effect on the price or volume of the security as far as the Funds are concerned. However, in other cases, it is possible that the ability to participate in volume transactions and to negotiate lower transaction costs will be beneficial to the Funds. BFA and its



Affiliates may deal, trade and invest for their own account in the types of securities in which the Funds may invest. BFA and its Affiliates may, from time to time, effect trades on behalf of and for the account of the Funds with brokers or dealers that are affiliated with BFA, in conformity with the 1940 Act and SEC rules and regulations. Under these provisions, any commissions paid to affiliated brokers or dealers must be reasonable and fair compared to the commissions charged by other brokers or dealers in comparable transactions. The Funds will not deal with affiliates in principal transactions unless permitted by applicable SEC rules or regulations, or by SEC exemptive order.

Portfolio turnover may vary from year to year as well as within a year. High turnover rates may result in comparatively greater brokerage expenses.

The table below sets forth the portfolio turnover rates of each Fund for the fiscal years noted:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2015</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2014</u>
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	7%	8%
iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF	22%	24%
iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF	63%	54%
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF	9%	10%
iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF	72%	91%
iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF	86%	34%
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF	16%	33%
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	10%	22%
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF	28%	N/A
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF	28%	34%
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF	23%	20%
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF	47%	61%
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF	10%	14%
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF	4%	8%
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF	17%	18%
iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF	24%	16%
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF	24%	13%
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF	14%	11%

Creation or redemption transactions, to the extent consisting of cash, may require a Fund to contemporaneously transact with broker-dealers for purchases of Deposit Securities (as defined below under *Fund Deposit*) or sales of Fund Securities (as defined below under *Redemption of Creation Units*), including any foreign exchange, as applicable. Such transactions with a particular broker-dealer may be conditioned upon the broker-dealer's agreement to transact at guaranteed price levels in order to reduce transaction costs the Funds would otherwise incur as a consequence of settling creation or redemption baskets in cash rather than in-kind.

Following each Fund's receipt of an order to purchase or redeem creation or redemption baskets, to the extent such purchases or redemptions consist of a cash portion, the Fund may enter an order with a broker or dealer to purchase or sell the Deposit Securities or Fund Securities, as applicable. The terms of such order may, depending on the timing of the transaction and certain other factors, require the broker or dealer to guarantee that a Fund will achieve execution of its order at a price at least as favorable to the Fund as the Fund's valuation of the Deposit Securities/Fund Securities used for purposes of calculating the NAV applied to the creation or redemption transaction giving rise to the order (the "Execution Performance Guarantee"). Such orders may be placed with the purchasing or redeeming Authorized Participant in its capacity as a broker-dealer, with its affiliated broker-dealer or with a third-party broker-dealer. The amount payable to each Fund in respect of any Execution Performance Guarantee will depend on the results achieved by the executing firm and will vary depending on market activity, timing and a variety of other factors.

To ensure that an Execution Performance Guarantee will be honored on orders arising from creation transactions executed by an Authorized Participant or its affiliate as broker-dealer, an Authorized Participant is required to deposit an amount with each Fund (the "Execution Performance Deposit"). If the broker-dealer executing the order achieves executions in market transactions at a price equal to or more favorable than a Fund's valuation of the Deposit Securities, the Fund receives the

benefit of the favorable executions and returns to the Authorized Participant the Execution Performance Deposit. If, however, the broker-dealer executing the order is unable to achieve executions in market transactions at a price at least equal to a Fund's valuation of the securities, the Fund retains the portion of the Execution Performance Deposit equal to the full amount of the execution shortfall (including any taxes, brokerage commissions, foreign exchange or other costs) and may require the Authorized Participant to deposit any additional amount required to cover the full amount of the actual Execution Performance Guarantee.

To ensure that an Execution Performance Guarantee will be honored for brokerage orders arising from redemption transactions executed by an Authorized Participant or its affiliate as broker-dealer, an Authorized Participant agrees to pay the shortfall amount (the "Execution Performance Offset"). If the broker-dealer executing the order achieves executions in market transactions at a price equal to or more favorable than a Fund's valuation of the Fund Securities, the Fund receives the benefit of the favorable executions and the Authorized Participant is not called upon to honor the Execution Performance Offset. If, however, the broker-dealer is unable to achieve executions in market transactions at a price at least equal to a Fund's valuation of the securities, the Fund will be entitled to the portion of the Execution Performance Offset equal to the full amount of the execution shortfall (including any taxes, brokerage commissions, foreign exchange or other costs).

The circumstances under which the Execution Performance Guarantee will be used and the expected amount, if any, of any Execution Performance Deposit or Execution Performance Offset for a Fund will be disclosed in the procedures handbook for Authorized Participants and may change from time to time based on the actual experience of the Fund.

## Additional Information Concerning the Company

**Capital Stock.** The Company currently is comprised of [57] series referred to as funds. Each series issues shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share. The Company has authorized and issued the following funds as separate series of capital stock: iShares Asia/Pacific Dividend ETF, iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares Currency Hedged MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares Currency Hedged MSCI EM Minimum Volatility ETF, iShares Emerging Markets Corporate Bond ETF, iShares Emerging Markets Dividend ETF, iShares Emerging Markets High Yield Bond ETF, iShares Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond ETF, iShares International High Yield Bond ETF, iShares Global High Yield Corporate Bond ETF, iShares Latin America Bond ETF, iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF, iShares MSCI Australia ETF, iShares MSCI Austria Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Belgium Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Canada ETF, iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Workforce ETF, iShares MSCI Eurozone ETF, iShares MSCI France ETF, iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF, iShares MSCI Germany ETF, iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF, iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF, iShares MSCI Global Gold Miners ETF, iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF, iShares MSCI Global Silver Miners ETF, iShares MSCI Hong Kong ETF, iShares MSCI Israel Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Italy Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Japan ETF, iShares MSCI Japan Small-Cap ETF, iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF, iShares MSCI Mexico Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Netherlands ETF, iShares MSCI Pacific ex Japan ETF, iShares MSCI Russia Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Singapore ETF, iShares MSCI South Africa ETF, iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Spain Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Sweden ETF, iShares MSCI Switzerland Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF, iShares MSCI Thailand Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Turkey ETF, iShares MSCI USA Equal Weighted ETF and iShares MSCI World ETF. The Company has authorized for issuance, but is not currently offering for sale to the public, nine additional series of shares of common stock. The Board may designate additional series of common stock and classify shares of a particular series into one or more classes of that series. The Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation confers upon the Board the power to establish the number of shares which constitute a Creation Unit or by resolution, restrict the redemption right to Creation Units.

Each share issued by a fund has a *pro rata* interest in the assets of that fund. The Company is currently authorized to issue 33.85 billion shares of common stock. The following number of shares is currently authorized for each of the funds: iShares Asia/Pacific Dividend ETF, 500 million shares; iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, 450 million shares; iShares Currency Hedged MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, 250 million shares; iShares Currency Hedged MSCI EM Minimum Volatility ETF, 25 million shares; iShares Emerging Markets Corporate Bond ETF, 500 million shares; iShares Emerging Markets Dividend ETF, 500 million shares; iShares Emerging Markets High Yield Bond ETF, 500 million shares; iShares Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond ETF, 500 million shares; iShares International High Yield Bond ETF, 500 million shares; iShares Global High Yield Corporate Bond ETF, 500 million shares; iShares Latin America Bond ETF, 500 million shares; iShares MSCI All Country

World Minimum Volatility ETF, 500 million shares; iShares MSCI Australia ETF, 627.8 million shares; iShares MSCI Austria Capped ETF, 100 million shares; iShares MSCI Belgium Capped ETF, 136.2 million shares; iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF, 500 million shares; iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, 500 million shares; iShares MSCI Canada ETF, 340.2 million shares; iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF, 200 million shares; iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF, 25 million shares; iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, 500 million shares; iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, 2 billion shares; iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF, 25 million shares; iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF, 500 million shares; iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF, 500 million shares; iShares MSCI Emerging Workforce ETF, 25 million shares; iShares MSCI Eurozone ETF, 1 billion shares; iShares MSCI France ETF, 340.2 million shares; iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF, 500 million shares; iShares MSCI Germany ETF, 482.2 million shares; iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF, 500 million shares; iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF, 500 million shares; iShares MSCI Global Gold Miners ETF, 500 million shares; iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF, 500 million shares; iShares MSCI Global Silver Miners ETF, 500 million shares; iShares MSCI Hong Kong ETF, 375 million shares; iShares MSCI Israel Capped ETF, 500 million shares; iShares MSCI Italy Capped ETF, 295.4 million shares; iShares MSCI Japan ETF, 2.5246 billion shares; iShares MSCI Japan Small-Cap ETF, 500 million shares; iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF, 300 million shares; iShares MSCI Mexico Capped ETF, 255 million shares; iShares MSCI Netherlands ETF, 255 million shares; iShares MSCI Pacific ex Japan ETF, 1 billion shares; iShares MSCI Russia Capped ETF, 1 billion shares; iShares MSCI Singapore ETF, 300 million shares; iShares MSCI South Africa ETF, 400 million shares; iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF, 200 million shares; iShares MSCI Spain Capped ETF, 127.8 million shares; iShares MSCI Sweden ETF, 63.6 million shares; iShares MSCI Switzerland Capped ETF, 318.625 million shares; iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF, 900 million shares; iShares MSCI Thailand Capped ETF, 200 million shares; iShares MSCI Turkey ETF, 200 million shares; iShares MSCI USA Equal Weighted ETF, 500 million shares; and iShares MSCI World ETF, 500 million shares. Fractional shares will not be issued. Shares have no preemptive, exchange, subscription or conversion rights and are freely transferable. Each share is entitled to participate equally in dividends and distributions declared by the Board with respect to the relevant fund, and in the net distributable assets of such fund on liquidation. Shareholders are entitled to require the Company to redeem Creation Units of their shares. The Articles of Incorporation confer upon the Board the power, by resolution, to alter the number of shares constituting a Creation Unit or to specify that shares of common stock of the Company may be individually redeemable.

Each share has one vote with respect to matters upon which a stockholder vote is required consistent with the requirements of the 1940 Act and the rules promulgated thereunder and the Maryland General Corporation Law. Stockholders have no cumulative voting rights with respect to their shares. Shares of all funds vote together as a single class except that, if the matter being voted on affects only a particular fund or, if a matter affects a particular fund differently from other funds, that fund will vote separately on such matter.

Under Maryland law, the Company is not required to hold an annual meeting of stockholders unless required to do so under the 1940 Act. The policy of the Company is not to hold an annual meeting of stockholders unless required to do so under the 1940 Act. Under Maryland law, Directors of the Company may be removed by vote of the stockholders.

Following the creation of the initial Creation Unit(s) of shares of a fund and immediately prior to the commencement of trading in such fund's shares, a holder of shares may be a "control person" of the fund, as defined in the 1940 Act. A fund cannot predict the length of time for which one or more stockholders may remain a control person of the fund.

Stockholders may make inquiries by writing to iShares, Inc., c/o BlackRock Investments, LLC, 1 University Square Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Absent an applicable exemption or other relief from the SEC or its staff, beneficial owners of more than 5% of the shares of a fund may be subject to the reporting provisions of Section 13 of the 1934 Act and the SEC's rules promulgated thereunder. In addition, absent an applicable exemption or other relief from the SEC or its staff, officers and directors of a fund and beneficial owners of 10% of the shares of a fund ("Insiders") may be subject to the insider reporting, short-swing profit and short sale provisions of Section 16 of the 1934 Act and the SEC's rules promulgated thereunder. Beneficial owners and Insiders should consult with their own legal counsel concerning their obligations under Sections 13 and 16 of the 1934 Act and existing guidance provided by the SEC staff.

**Termination of the Company or a Fund.** The Company or a Fund may be terminated by a majority vote of the Board, or the affirmative vote of a supermajority of the shareholders of the Company or such Fund entitled to vote on termination. Although the shares are not automatically redeemable upon the occurrence of any specific event, the Company's organizational documents provide that the Board will have the unrestricted power to alter the number of shares in a Creation

Unit. In the event of a termination of the Company or a Fund, the Board, in its sole discretion, could determine to permit the shares to be redeemable in aggregations smaller than Creation Units or to be individually redeemable. In such circumstance, the Company may make redemptions in-kind, for cash or for a combination of cash or securities.

**DTC as Securities Depository for Shares of the Funds.** Shares of each Fund are represented by securities registered in the name of DTC or its nominee and deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC.

DTC was created in 1973 to enable electronic movement of securities between its participants (“DTC Participants”), and NSCC was established in 1976 to provide a single settlement system for securities clearing and to serve as central counterparty for securities trades among DTC Participants. In 1999, DTC and NSCC were consolidated within DTCC and became wholly-owned subsidiaries of DTCC. The common stock of DTCC is owned by the DTC Participants, but NYSE and FINRA, through subsidiaries, hold preferred shares in DTCC that provide them with the right to elect one member each to the DTCC Board of Directors. Access to the DTC system is available to entities, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies, that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a DTC Participant, either directly or indirectly (“Indirect Participants”).

Beneficial ownership of shares is limited to DTC Participants, Indirect Participants and persons holding interests through DTC Participants and Indirect Participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in shares (owners of such beneficial interests are referred to herein as “Beneficial Owners”) is shown on, and the transfer of ownership is effected only through, records maintained by DTC (with respect to DTC Participants) and on the records of DTC Participants (with respect to Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners that are not DTC Participants). Beneficial Owners will receive from or through the DTC Participant a written confirmation relating to their purchase of shares. The laws of some jurisdictions may require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. Such laws may impair the ability of certain investors to acquire beneficial interests in shares.

Conveyance of all notices, statements and other communications to Beneficial Owners is effected as follows. Pursuant to the Depositary Agreement between the Company and DTC, DTC is required to make available to the Company upon request and for a fee to be charged to the Company a listing of the shares of each Fund held by each DTC Participant. The Company shall inquire of each such DTC Participant as to the number of Beneficial Owners holding shares, directly or indirectly, through such DTC Participant. The Company shall provide each such DTC Participant with copies of such notice, statement or other communication, in such form, number and at such place as such DTC Participant may reasonably request, in order that such notice, statement or communication may be transmitted by such DTC Participant, directly or indirectly, to such Beneficial Owners. In addition, the Company shall pay to each such DTC Participant a fair and reasonable amount as reimbursement for the expenses attendant to such transmittal, all subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

Share distributions shall be made to DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., as the registered holder of all shares of the Company. DTC or its nominee, upon receipt of any such distributions, shall credit immediately DTC Participants’ accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in shares of each Fund as shown on the records of DTC or its nominee. Payments by DTC Participants to Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners of shares held through such DTC Participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in a “street name,” and will be the responsibility of such DTC Participants.

The Company has no responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or notices to Beneficial Owners, or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in such shares, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests, or for any other aspect of the relationship between DTC and the DTC Participants or the relationship between such DTC Participants and the Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners owning through such DTC Participants. DTC may decide to discontinue providing its service with respect to shares of the Company at any time by giving reasonable notice to the Company and discharging its responsibilities with respect thereto under applicable law. Under such circumstances, the Company shall take action to find a replacement for DTC to perform its functions at a comparable cost.

# Creation and Redemption of Creation Units

**General.** The Company issues and sells shares of each Fund only in Creation Units on a continuous basis through the Distributor or its agent, without a sales load, at a price based on each Fund's NAV next determined after receipt, on any Business Day (as defined below), of an order received by the Distributor or its agent in proper form. On days when the applicable Listing Exchange closes earlier than normal, a Fund may require orders to be placed earlier in the day. The following table sets forth the number of shares of a Fund that constitute a Creation Unit for such Fund and the value of such Creation Unit as of September 30, 2015:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Shares Per Creation Unit</u>	<u>Value Per Creation Unit (U.S.\$)</u>
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	200,000	\$ 7,942,000
iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF	100,000	6,672,000
iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF	50,000	1,091,500
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF	50,000	1,485,500
iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF	50,000	1,649,000
iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF	50,000	575,500
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF	50,000	2,504,500
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	450,000	14,746,500
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF	50,000	896,500
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF	100,000	4,956,000
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF	50,000	2,002,500
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF	50,000	1,278,500
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF	50,000	1,088,000
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF	100,000	1,652,000
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF	50,000	466,000
iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF	75,000	738,750
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF	50,000	2,458,500
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF	200,000	2,644,000

In its discretion, BFA reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of a Fund's shares that constitute a Creation Unit. The Board reserves the right to declare a split or a consolidation in the number of shares outstanding of any Fund, and to make a corresponding change in the number of shares constituting a Creation Unit, in the event that the per share price in the secondary market rises (or declines) to an amount that falls outside the range deemed desirable by the Board.

A "Business Day" with respect to each Fund is any day on which the Listing Exchange on which the Fund is listed for trading is open for business. As of the date of this SAI, each Listing Exchange observes the following holidays, as observed: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

**Fund Deposit.** The consideration for purchase of Creation Units of a Fund (except for the iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF, iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF and iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF (each, a "Cash Fund" and collectively, the "Cash Funds")), generally consists of the in-kind deposit of a designated portfolio of securities (Deposit Securities) and the Cash Component computed as described below. Together, the Deposit Securities and the Cash Component constitute the "Fund Deposit," which, when combined with the Fund's portfolio securities, is designed to generate performance that has a collective investment profile similar to that of the Underlying Index. The Fund Deposit represents the minimum initial and subsequent investment amount for a Creation Unit of any Fund.

The Cash Component is an amount equal to the difference between the NAV of the shares (per Creation Unit) and the "Deposit Amount," which is an amount equal to the market value of the Deposit Securities, and serves to compensate for any differences between the NAV per Creation Unit and the Deposit Amount. Payment of any stamp duty or other similar fees and expenses payable upon transfer of beneficial ownership of the Deposit Securities are the sole responsibility of the Authorized Participant purchasing a Creation Unit.



Each Cash Fund's current policy is to accept cash in substitution for the Deposit Securities it might otherwise accept as in-kind consideration for the purchase of Creation Units. A Cash Fund may, at times, elect to receive Deposit Securities (i.e., the in-kind deposit of a designated portfolio of securities) and a Cash Component as consideration for the purchase of Creation Units. If a Cash Fund elects to accept Deposit Securities, a purchaser's delivery of the Deposit Securities together with the Cash Component will constitute the "Fund Deposit," which will represent the consideration for a Creation Unit of the Fund. The iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF, iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF, iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF, iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF and iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF (each, a "Partial Cash Fund" and collectively, the "Partial Cash Funds") generally offer Creation Units partially for cash. Please see the *Cash Purchase Method* section below and the following discussion summarizing the Deposit Security method for further information on purchasing Creation Units of the Funds.

BFA makes available through the NSCC on each Business Day prior to the opening of business on the Listing Exchange, the list of names and the required number of shares of each Deposit Security and the amount of the Cash Component to be included in the current Fund Deposit (based on information as of the end of the previous Business Day for each Fund). Such Fund Deposit is applicable, subject to any adjustments as described below, to purchases of Creation Units of shares of a given Fund until such time as the next-announced Fund Deposit is made available.

The identity and number of shares of the Deposit Securities change pursuant to changes in the composition of a Fund's portfolio and as rebalancing adjustments and corporate action events are reflected from time to time by BFA with a view to the investment objective of the Fund. The composition of the Deposit Securities may also change in response to adjustments to the weighting or composition of the component securities constituting the relevant Underlying Index.

The Funds reserve the right to permit or require the substitution of a "cash in lieu" amount to be added to the Cash Component to replace any Deposit Security that may not be available in sufficient quantity for delivery or that may not be eligible for transfer through DTC or the clearing process (as discussed below) or that the Authorized Participant is not able to trade due to a trading restriction. The Funds also reserve the right to permit or require a "cash in lieu" amount in certain circumstances, including circumstances in which (i) the delivery of the Deposit Security by the Authorized Participant (as described below) would be restricted under applicable securities or other local laws or (ii) the delivery of the Deposit Security to the Authorized Participant would result in the disposition of the Deposit Security by the Authorized Participant becoming restricted under applicable securities or other local laws, or in certain other situations. As noted above, Creation Units of the Cash Funds currently are available only for cash purchases.

**Cash Purchase Method.** Although the Company does not ordinarily permit partial or full cash purchases of Creation Units of iShares funds, when partial or full cash purchases of Creation Units are available or specified (Creation Units of the Cash Funds are generally offered solely for cash, while Creation Units of all other Funds in this SAI are generally offered partially for cash), they will be effected in essentially the same manner as in-kind purchases thereof. In the case of a partial or full cash purchase, the Authorized Participant must pay the cash equivalent of the Deposit Securities it would otherwise be required to provide through an in-kind purchase, plus the same Cash Component required to be paid by an in-kind purchaser. The Authorized Participant will also be required to pay certain transaction fees and charges for cash purchases, as described below, and, if transacting as broker with each Fund, may be required to cover certain brokerage, tax, foreign exchange, execution and market impact costs through an Execution Performance Guarantee, as described in the *Brokerage Transactions* section of this SAI.

**Role of the Authorized Participant.** Creation Units may be purchased only by or through a DTC Participant that has entered into an authorized participant agreement with the Distributor (an "Authorized Participant"). Such Authorized Participant will agree, pursuant to the terms of such authorized participant agreement and on behalf of itself or any investor on whose behalf it will act, to certain conditions, including that such Authorized Participant will make available in advance of each purchase of shares an amount of cash sufficient to pay the Cash Component, once the net asset value of a Creation Unit is next determined after receipt of the purchase order in proper form, together with the transaction fees described below. An Authorized Participant, acting on behalf of an investor, may require the investor to enter into an agreement with such Authorized Participant with respect to certain matters, including payment of the Cash Component. Investors who are not Authorized Participants must make appropriate arrangements with an Authorized Participant. Investors should be aware that their particular broker may not be a DTC Participant or may not have executed an authorized participant agreement and that

orders to purchase Creation Units may have to be placed by the investor's broker through an Authorized Participant. As a result, purchase orders placed through an Authorized Participant may result in additional charges to such investor. The Company does not expect to enter into an authorized participant agreement with more than a small number of DTC Participants. A list of current Authorized Participants may be obtained from the Distributor. The Distributor has adopted guidelines regarding Authorized Participants' transactions in Creation Units that are made available to all Authorized Participants. These guidelines set forth the processes and standards for Authorized Participants to transact with the Distributor and its agents in connection with creation and redemption transactions. In addition, the Distributor may be appointed as the proxy of the Authorized Participant and may be granted a power of attorney under its authorized participation agreement.

**Purchase Orders.** Unless otherwise described below, to initiate an order for a Creation Unit, an Authorized Participant must submit to the Distributor or its agent an irrevocable order to purchase shares of a Fund, in proper form, generally before 4:00 p.m., Eastern time on any Business Day to receive that day's NAV. The Distributor or its agent will notify BFA and the custodian of such order. The custodian will then provide such information to any appropriate sub-custodian. Procedures and requirements governing the delivery of the Fund Deposit are set forth in the procedures handbook for Authorized Participants and may change from time to time. Investors, other than Authorized Participants, are responsible for making arrangements for a creation request to be made through an Authorized Participant. The Distributor or its agent will provide a list of current Authorized Participants upon request. Those placing orders to purchase Creation Units through an Authorized Participant should allow sufficient time to permit proper submission of the purchase order to the Distributor or its agent by the Cutoff Time (as defined below) on such Business Day.

The Authorized Participant must also make available on or before the contractual settlement date, by means satisfactory to the Funds, immediately available or same day funds estimated by the Funds to be sufficient to pay the Cash Component next determined after acceptance of the purchase order, together with the applicable purchase transaction fees. Any excess funds will be returned following settlement of the issue of the Creation Unit. Those placing orders should ascertain the applicable deadline for cash transfers by contacting the operations department of the broker or depository institution effectuating the transfer of the Cash Component. This deadline is likely to be significantly earlier than the Cutoff Time of the Funds. Investors should be aware that an Authorized Participant may require orders for purchases of shares placed with it to be in the particular form required by the individual Authorized Participant.

The Authorized Participant is responsible for any and all expenses and costs incurred by a Fund, including any applicable cash amounts, in connection with any purchase order.

**Timing of Submission of Purchase Orders.** An Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable order to purchase shares of a Fund generally before 4:00 p.m., Eastern time on any Business Day in order to receive that day's NAV. Creation Orders must be transmitted by an Authorized Participant by telephone or other transmission method acceptable to the Distributor or its agent pursuant to procedures set forth in the authorized participant agreement, as described below. Economic or market disruptions or changes, or telephone or other communication failure, may impede the ability to reach the Distributor or its agent or an Authorized Participant. Orders to create shares of a Fund that are submitted on the Business Day immediately preceding a holiday or a day (other than a weekend) when the equity markets in the relevant non-U.S. market are closed may not be accepted. Each Fund's deadline specified above for the submission of purchase orders is referred to as that Fund's "Cutoff Time." The Distributor or its agent, in their discretion, may permit the submission of such orders and requests by or through an Authorized Participant at any time (including on days on which the Listing Exchange is not open for business) via communication through the facilities of the Distributor's or its agent's proprietary website maintained for this purpose. Purchase orders and redemption requests, if accepted by the Company, will be processed based on the NAV next determined after such acceptance in accordance with a Fund's Cutoff Times as provided in the authorized participant agreement and disclosed in this SAI.

**Acceptance of Orders for Creation Units.** Subject to the conditions that (i) an irrevocable purchase order has been submitted by the Authorized Participant (either on its own or another investor's behalf) and (ii) arrangements satisfactory to the Funds are in place for payment of the Cash Component and any other cash amounts which may be due, the Funds will accept the order, subject to each Fund's right (and the right of the Distributor and BFA) to reject any order until acceptance, as set forth below.

Once a Fund has accepted an order, upon the next determination of the net asset value of the shares, the Fund will confirm the issuance of a Creation Unit, against receipt of payment, at such net asset value. The Distributor or its agent will then transmit a confirmation of acceptance to the Authorized Participant that placed the order.

Each Fund reserves the absolute right to reject or revoke a creation order transmitted to it by the Distributor or its agent if (i) the order is not in proper form; (ii) the investor(s), upon obtaining the shares ordered, would own 80% or more of the currently outstanding shares of the Fund; (iii) the Deposit Securities delivered do not conform to the identity and number of shares specified, as described above; (iv) acceptance of the Deposit Securities would have certain adverse tax consequences to the Fund; (v) acceptance of the Fund Deposit would, in the opinion of counsel, be unlawful; (vi) acceptance of the Fund Deposit would, in the discretion of the Fund or BFA, have an adverse effect on the Fund or the rights of beneficial owners; or (vii) circumstances outside the control of the Fund, the Distributor or its agent and BFA make it impracticable to process purchase orders. The Distributor or its agent shall notify a prospective purchaser of a Creation Unit and/or the Authorized Participant acting on behalf of such purchaser of its rejection of such order. The Funds, State Street, the sub-custodian and the Distributor or its agent are under no duty, however, to give notification of any defects or irregularities in the delivery of Fund Deposits nor shall any of them incur any liability for failure to give such notification.

In addition, the Company may exercise its right to reject any creation order for shares of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF on any Business Day that is a holiday in the Indian market, but not a holiday observed in the U.S. equity market, and certain other holidays during the settlement cycle for Fund shares, in order to protect Fund shareholders from any dilutive costs that may be associated with the purchase of Deposit Securities in connection with creation orders on such days.

**Issuance of a Creation Unit.** Except as provided herein, a Creation Unit will not be issued until the transfer of good title to the applicable Fund of the Deposit Securities and the payment of the Cash Component have been completed. When the sub-custodian has confirmed to the custodian that the securities included in the Fund Deposit (or the cash value thereof) have been delivered to the account of the relevant sub-custodian or sub-custodians, the Distributor or its agent and BFA shall be notified of such delivery and the applicable Fund will issue and cause the delivery of the Creation Unit. Typically, Creation Units are issued on a “T+3 basis” (i.e., three Business Days after trade date). For the iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF, iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF and iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF, Creation Units typically are issued on a “T+2 basis” (i.e., two Business Days after trade date). For the iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF, Creation Units typically are issued on a “T+1 basis” (i.e., one Business Day after trade date). However, as discussed in Appendix A to this SAI, each Fund reserves the right to settle Creation Unit transactions on a basis other than T+2 or T+3, as applicable, in order to accommodate non-U.S. market holiday schedules, to account for different treatment among non-U.S. and U.S. markets of dividend record dates and ex-dividend dates (i.e., the last day the holder of a security can sell the security and still receive dividends payable on the security) and in certain other circumstances.

To the extent contemplated by an Authorized Participant’s agreement with the Distributor, each Fund will issue Creation Units to such Authorized Participant, notwithstanding the fact that the corresponding Fund Deposits have not been received in part or in whole, in reliance on the undertaking of the Authorized Participant to deliver the missing Deposit Securities as soon as possible, which undertaking shall be secured by such Authorized Participant’s delivery and maintenance of collateral having a value at least equal to 105% and up to 115%, which percentage BFA may change at any time, in its sole discretion, of the value of the missing Deposit Securities in accordance with the Funds’ then-effective procedures. The Company may use such cash deposit at any time to buy Deposit Securities for the Funds. The only collateral that is acceptable to the Funds is cash in U.S. dollars. Such cash collateral must be delivered no later than 2:00 p.m., Eastern time on the contractual settlement date. The cash collateral posted by the Authorized Participant may be invested at the risk of the Authorized Participant, and income, if any, on invested cash collateral will be paid to that Authorized Participant. Information concerning the Funds’ current procedures for collateralization of missing Deposit Securities is available from the Distributor or its agent. The authorized participant agreement will permit the Funds to buy the missing Deposit Securities at any time and will subject the Authorized Participant to liability for any shortfall between the cost to the Funds of purchasing such securities and the cash collateral including, without limitation, liability for related brokerage, borrowings and other charges.

In certain cases, Authorized Participants may create and redeem Creation Units on the same trade date and in these instances, the Funds reserve the right to settle these transactions on a net basis or require a representation from the Authorized Participants that the creation and redemption transactions are for separate beneficial owners. All questions as to

the number of shares of each security in the Deposit Securities and the validity, form, eligibility and acceptance for deposit of any securities to be delivered shall be determined by each Fund and the Fund's determination shall be final and binding.

**Costs Associated with Creation Transactions.** A standard creation transaction fee is imposed to offset the transfer, processing and other transaction costs associated with the issuance of Creation Units. The standard creation transaction fee is charged on each Creation Unit created by an Authorized Participant on the day of the transaction. The standard creation transaction fee is generally fixed at the amount shown in the table regardless of the number of Creation Units being purchased, but may be reduced by each Fund if transfer and processing expenses associated with the creation are anticipated to be lower than the stated fee. If a purchase consists of a cash portion, the Authorized Participant may also be required to pay an additional transaction charge (up to the maximum amount shown below) to cover brokerage and certain other costs related to the creation transaction. Authorized Participants will also bear the costs of transferring the Deposit Securities to the Funds. Investors who use the services of a broker or other financial intermediary to acquire Fund shares may be charged a fee for such services.

The following table sets forth each Fund's standard creation transaction fees and maximum additional charge (as described above):

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Standard Creation Transaction Fee</u>	<u>Maximum Additional Charge*</u>
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	\$15,000	5.0%
iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF	4,200	3.0%
iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF	2,400	7.0%
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF	5,900	7.0%
iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF	3,000	3.0%
iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF	3,600	3.0%
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF	15,000	3.0%
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	7,700	3.0%
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF	10,500	3.0%
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF	6,100	3.0%
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF	15,000	3.0%
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF	6,800	5.0%
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF	5,100	3.0%
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF	6,100	3.0%
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF	8,400	3.0%
iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF	5,000	3.0%
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF	4,000	3.0%
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF	4,500	3.0%

\* As a percentage of the net asset value per Creation Unit.

If a purchase consists of a cash portion and each Fund places a brokerage transaction to purchase portfolio securities with the Authorized Participant or its affiliated broker-dealer, the Authorized Participant (or its affiliated broker-dealer) may be required, in its capacity as broker-dealer with respect to that transaction, to cover certain brokerage, tax, foreign exchange, execution, and market impact costs through an Execution Performance Guarantee, as described in the *Brokerage Transactions* section of this SAI.

**Redemption of Creation Units.** Shares of a Fund may be redeemed by Authorized Participants only in Creation Units at their NAV next determined after receipt of a redemption request in proper form by the Distributor or its agent and only on a Business Day. The Funds will not redeem shares in amounts less than Creation Units. There can be no assurance, however, that there will be sufficient liquidity in the secondary market at any time to permit assembly of a Creation Unit. Investors should expect to incur brokerage and other costs in connection with assembling a sufficient number of shares to constitute a Creation Unit that could be redeemed by an Authorized Participant. Beneficial owners also may sell shares in the secondary market.

Each Cash Fund currently redeems Creation Units solely for cash; however, each Cash Fund reserves the right to distribute securities in-kind as payment for Creation Units being redeemed. Each Partial Cash Fund generally redeems Creation Units

partially for cash. Please see the *Cash Redemption Method* section below and the following discussion summarizing the in-kind method for further information on redeeming Creation Units of the Funds.

With respect to each Fund, BFA makes available through the NSCC, prior to the opening of business on the Listing Exchange on each Business Day, the designated portfolio of securities (including any portion of such securities for which cash may be substituted) that will be applicable (subject to possible amendment or correction) to redemption requests received in proper form (as defined below) on that day (“Fund Securities”), and an amount of cash (the “Cash Amount,” as described below). Such Fund Securities and the corresponding Cash Amount (each subject to possible amendment or correction) are applicable, in order to effect redemptions of Creation Units of a Fund until such time as the next announced composition of the Fund Securities and Cash Amount is made available. Fund Securities received on redemption may not be identical to Deposit Securities that are applicable to creations of Creation Units. Procedures and requirements governing redemption transactions are set forth in the handbook for Authorized Participants and may change from time to time.

Unless cash redemptions are available or specified for a Fund, the redemption proceeds for a Creation Unit generally consist of Fund Securities, plus the Cash Amount, which is an amount equal to the difference between the net asset value of the shares being redeemed, as next determined after the receipt of a redemption request in proper form, and the value of Fund Securities, less a redemption transaction fee (as described below).

The Company may, in its sole discretion, substitute a “cash in lieu” amount to replace any Fund Security. The Company also reserves the right to permit or require a “cash in lieu” amount in certain circumstances, including circumstances in which: (i) the delivery of a Fund Security to the Authorized Participant would be restricted under applicable securities or other local laws; or (ii) the delivery of a Fund Security to the Authorized Participant would result in the disposition of the Fund Security by the Authorized Participant due to restrictions under applicable securities or other local laws, or in certain other situations. The amount of cash paid out in such cases will be equivalent to the value of the substituted security listed as a Fund Security. In the event that the Fund Securities have a value greater than the NAV of the shares, a compensating cash payment equal to the difference is required to be made by or through an Authorized Participant by the redeeming shareholder. The Cash Funds generally redeem Creation Units solely for cash. The Partial Cash Funds generally redeem Creation Units partially for cash.

**Cash Redemption Method.** Although the Company does not ordinarily permit partial or full cash redemptions of Creation Units of iShares funds or for the Funds, including the Cash Funds, that are normally redeemed on a cash basis only, when partial or full cash redemptions of Creation Units are available or specified (Creation Units of the Cash Funds are generally redeemed solely for cash and Creation Units of the Partial Cash Funds are generally redeemed partially for cash), they will be effected in essentially the same manner as in-kind redemptions thereof. In the case of partial or full cash redemption, the Authorized Participant receives the cash equivalent of the Fund Securities it would otherwise receive through an in-kind redemption, plus the same Cash Amount to be paid to an in-kind redeemer. The Authorized Participant will also be required to pay certain transaction fees and charges for cash redemptions, as described below, and, if transacting as broker with each Fund, may be required to cover certain brokerage, tax, foreign exchange, execution and market impact costs through an Execution Performance Guarantee, as described in the *Brokerage Transactions* section of this SAI.

**Costs Associated with Redemption Transactions.** A standard redemption transaction fee is imposed to offset transfer, processing and other transaction costs that may be incurred by the relevant Fund. The standard redemption transaction fee is charged on each Creation Unit redeemed by an Authorized Participant on the day of the transaction. The standard redemption transaction fee is generally fixed at the amount shown in the table regardless of the number of Creation Units being redeemed, but may be reduced by each Fund if transfer and processing expenses associated with the redemption are anticipated to be lower than the stated fee. If a redemption consists of a cash portion, the Authorized Participant may also be required to pay an additional transaction charge (up to the maximum amount shown below) to cover brokerage and certain other costs related to the redemption transaction. Authorized Participants will also bear the costs of transferring the Fund Securities from a Fund to their account on their order. Investors who use the services of a broker or other financial intermediary to dispose of Fund shares may be charged a fee for such services.

The following table sets forth each Fund’s standard redemption transaction fees and maximum additional charge (as described above):

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Standard Redemption Transaction Fee</u>	<u>Maximum Additional Charge*</u>
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	\$15,000	2.0%



Fund	Standard Redemption Transaction Fee	Maximum Additional Charge*
iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF	4,200	2.0%
iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF	2,400	2.0%
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF	5,900	2.0%
iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF	3,000	2.0%
iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF	3,600	2.0%
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF	15,000	2.0%
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	7,700	2.0%
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Horizon ETF	10,500	2.0%
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF	6,100	2.0%
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF	15,000	2.0%
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF	6,800	2.0%
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF	5,100	2.0%
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF	6,100	2.0%
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF	8,400	2.0%
iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF	5,000	2.0%
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF	4,000	2.0%
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF	4,500	2.0%

\* As a percentage of the net asset value per Creation Unit, inclusive of the standard redemption transaction fee.

If a redemption consists of a cash portion and each Fund places a brokerage transaction to sell portfolio securities with the Authorized Participant or its affiliated broker-dealer, the Authorized Participant (or its affiliated broker-dealer) may be required, in its capacity as broker-dealer with respect to that transaction, to cover certain brokerage, tax, foreign exchange, execution, and market impact costs through an Execution Performance Guarantee, as described in the *Brokerage Transactions* section of this SAI.

**Placement of Redemption Orders.** Redemption requests for Creation Units of the Funds must be submitted to the Distributor or its agent by or through an Authorized Participant. An Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable request to redeem shares of a Fund generally before 4:00 p.m., Eastern time on any Business Day in order to receive that day's NAV. Investors, other than Authorized Participants, are responsible for making arrangements for a redemption request to be made through an Authorized Participant. The Distributor or its agent will provide a list of current Authorized Participants upon request.

The Authorized Participant must transmit the request for redemption in the form required by the Funds to the Distributor or its agent in accordance with procedures set forth in the authorized participant agreement. Investors should be aware that their particular broker may not have executed an authorized participant agreement and that, therefore, requests to redeem Creation Units may have to be placed by the investor's broker through an Authorized Participant who has executed an authorized participant agreement. At any time, only a limited number of broker-dealers will have an authorized participant agreement in effect. Investors making a redemption request should be aware that such request must be in the form specified by such Authorized Participant. Investors making a request to redeem Creation Units should allow sufficient time to permit proper submission of the request by an Authorized Participant and transfer of the shares to the Funds' transfer agent; such investors should allow for the additional time that may be required to effect redemptions through their banks, brokers or other financial intermediaries if such intermediaries are not Authorized Participants.

A redemption request is considered to be in "proper form" if (i) an Authorized Participant has transferred or caused to be transferred to the Funds' transfer agent the Creation Unit redeemed through the book-entry system of DTC so as to be effective by the Listing Exchange closing time on any Business Day; (ii) a request in form satisfactory to the applicable Fund is received by the Distributor or its agent from the Authorized Participant on behalf of itself or another redeeming investor within the time periods specified above; and (iii) all other procedures set forth in the authorized participant agreement are properly followed. If the transfer agent does not receive the investor's shares through DTC's facilities by 10:00 a.m., Eastern time on the Business Day next following the day that the redemption request is received, the redemption request shall be rejected. Investors should be aware that the deadline for such transfers of shares through the DTC system may be significantly earlier than the close of business on the Listing Exchange. Those making redemption requests should ascertain

the deadline applicable to transfers of shares through the DTC system by contacting the operations department of the broker or depositary institution effecting the transfer of the shares.

Upon receiving a redemption request, the Distributor or its agent shall notify the applicable Fund and the Fund's transfer agent of such redemption request. The tender of an investor's shares for redemption and the distribution of the securities and/or cash included in the redemption payment made in respect of Creation Units redeemed will be made through DTC and the relevant Authorized Participant to the Beneficial Owner thereof as recorded on the book-entry system of DTC or the DTC Participant through which such investor holds, as the case may be, or by such other means specified by the Authorized Participant submitting the redemption request.

A redeeming Beneficial Owner or Authorized Participant acting on behalf of such Beneficial Owner must maintain appropriate security arrangements with a qualified broker-dealer, bank or other custody providers in each jurisdiction in which any of the portfolio securities are customarily traded, to which account such portfolio securities will be delivered.

Deliveries of redemption proceeds by each Fund typically will be made within three Business Days (*i.e.*, "T+3"). For the iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF, iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF and iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF, deliveries of redemption proceeds generally will be made within two Business Days (*i.e.*, "T+2"). For the iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF and iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF, deliveries of redemption proceeds generally will be made within four Business Days (*i.e.*, "T+4"). However, as discussed in Appendix A of this SAI, each Fund reserves the right to settle redemption transactions and deliver redemption proceeds on another basis to accommodate non-U.S. market holiday schedules, to account for different treatment among non-U.S. and U.S. markets of dividend record dates and dividend ex-dates (*i.e.*, the last date the holder of a security can sell the security and still receive dividends payable on the security sold) and in certain other circumstances. Appendix A of this SAI identifies the instances, if any, where more than seven days would be needed to deliver redemption proceeds. Pursuant to an order of the SEC, the Company will make delivery of redemption proceeds within the number of days stated in Appendix A of this SAI to be the maximum number of days necessary to deliver redemption proceeds.

If neither the redeeming Beneficial Owner nor the Authorized Participant acting on behalf of such redeeming Beneficial Owner has appropriate arrangements to take delivery of Fund Securities in the applicable non-U.S. jurisdiction and it is not possible to make other such arrangements, or if it is not possible to effect deliveries of Fund Securities in such jurisdiction, a Fund may in its discretion exercise its option to redeem such shares in cash, and the redeeming Beneficial Owner will be required to receive its redemption proceeds in cash. In such case, the investor will receive a cash payment equal to the net asset value of its shares based on the NAV of the relevant Fund next determined after the redemption request is received in proper form (minus a redemption transaction fee and additional charges specified above to offset the Fund's brokerage and other transaction costs associated with the disposition of Fund Securities). Redemptions of shares for Fund Securities will be subject to compliance with applicable U.S. federal and state securities laws and each Fund (whether or not it otherwise permits cash redemptions) reserves the right to redeem Creation Units for cash to the extent that the Fund cannot lawfully deliver specific Fund Securities upon redemptions or cannot do so without first registering the Fund Securities under such laws.

Although the Company does not ordinarily permit cash redemptions of Creation Units (except that, as noted above, Creation Units of the Partial Cash Funds generally will be redeemed partially for cash and Creation Units of the Cash Funds generally will be redeemed for cash), in the event that cash redemptions are permitted or required by the Company, proceeds will be paid to the Authorized Participant redeeming shares as soon as practicable after the date of redemption (within seven calendar days thereafter, except for the instances listed in Appendix A of this SAI in which more than seven calendar days would be needed).

To the extent contemplated by an Authorized Participant's agreement with the Distributor or its agent, in the event an Authorized Participant has submitted a redemption request in proper form but is unable to transfer all or part of the Creation Unit to be redeemed to a Fund, at or prior to 10:00 a.m., Eastern time on the Listing Exchange business day after the date of submission of such redemption request, the Distributor or its agent will accept the redemption request in reliance on the undertaking by the Authorized Participant to deliver the missing shares as soon as possible. Such undertaking shall be secured by the Authorized Participant's delivery and maintenance of collateral consisting of cash, in U.S. dollars in immediately available funds, having a value at least equal to 105% and up to 115%, which percentage BFA may change at any time, in its sole discretion, of the value of the missing shares. Such cash collateral must be delivered no later than 10:00 a.m., Eastern time on the day after the date of submission of such redemption request and shall be held by State Street and

marked-to-market daily. The fees of State Street and any sub-custodians in respect of the delivery, maintenance and redelivery of the cash collateral shall be payable by the Authorized Participant. The cash collateral posted by the Authorized Participant may be invested at the risk of the Authorized Participant, and income, if any, on invested cash collateral will be paid to that Authorized Participant. The authorized participant agreement permits the Funds to acquire shares of the Funds at any time and subjects the Authorized Participant to liability for any shortfall between the aggregate of the cost to the Funds of purchasing such shares, plus the value of the Cash Amount, and the value of the cash collateral together with liability for related brokerage and other charges.

Because the portfolio securities of a Fund may trade on exchange(s) on days that the Listing Exchange is closed or are otherwise not Business Days for such Fund, shareholders may not be able to redeem their shares of such Fund, or purchase or sell shares of such Fund on the Listing Exchange on days when the NAV of such a Fund could be significantly affected by events in the relevant non-U.S. markets.

The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed with respect to any Fund: (i) for any period during which the applicable Listing Exchange is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings); (ii) for any period during which trading on the applicable Listing Exchange is suspended or restricted; (iii) for any period during which an emergency exists as a result of which disposal of the shares of the Fund's portfolio securities or determination of its net asset value is not reasonably practicable; or (iv) in such other circumstance as is permitted by the SEC.

**Taxation on Creations and Redemptions of Creation Units.** An Authorized Participant generally will recognize either gain or loss upon the exchange of Deposit Securities for Creation Units. This gain or loss is calculated by taking the market value of the Creation Units purchased over the Authorized Participant's aggregate basis in the Deposit Securities exchanged therefor. However, the IRS may apply the wash sales rules to determine that any loss realized upon the exchange of Deposit Securities for Creation Units is not currently deductible. Authorized Participants should consult their own tax advisors.

Current U.S. federal income tax laws dictate that capital gain or loss realized from the redemption of Creation Units will generally create long-term capital gain or loss if the Authorized Participant holds the Creation Units for more than one year, or short-term capital gain or loss if the Creation Units were held for one year or less, if the Creation Units are held as capital assets.

## Taxes

The following is a summary of certain material U.S. federal income tax considerations regarding the purchase, ownership and disposition of shares of a Fund. This summary does not address all of the potential U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be applicable to a Fund or to all categories of investors, some of which may be subject to special tax rules. Current and prospective shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors with respect to the specific U.S. federal, state, local and non-U.S. tax consequences of investing in a Fund. The summary is based on the laws in effect on the date of this SAI and existing judicial and administrative interpretations thereof, all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect.

**Regulated Investment Company Qualifications.** Each Fund intends to continue to qualify for treatment as a separate RIC under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code. To qualify for treatment as a RIC, each Fund must annually distribute at least 90% of its investment company taxable income (which includes dividends, interest and net short-term capital gains) and meet several other requirements. Among such other requirements are the following: (i) at least 90% of each Fund's annual gross income must be derived from dividends, interest, payments with respect to securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock or securities or non-U.S. currencies, other income (including, but not limited to, gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies, and net income derived from interests in qualified publicly-traded partnerships (*i.e.*, partnerships that are traded on an established securities market or tradable on a secondary market, other than partnerships that derive 90% of their income from interest, dividends, capital gains and other traditionally permitted mutual fund income); and (ii) at the close of each quarter of each Fund's taxable year, (a) at least 50% of the market value of each Fund's total assets must be represented by cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, securities of other RICs and other securities, with such other securities limited for purposes of this calculation in respect of any one issuer to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's assets and not greater than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (b) not more than 25% of the value of each Fund's total assets may be invested in the securities (other than U.S. government securities or the securities of

other RICs) of any one issuer, of two or more issuers of which 20% or more of the voting stock is held by the Fund and that are engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses or related trades or businesses, or the securities of one or more qualified publicly-traded partnerships.

A Fund may be able to cure a failure to derive 90% of its income from the sources specified above or a failure to diversify its holdings in the manner described above by paying a tax and/or by disposing of certain assets. If, in any taxable year, a Fund fails one of these tests and does not timely cure the failure, that Fund will be taxed in the same manner as an ordinary corporation and distributions to its shareholders will not be deductible by that Fund in computing its taxable income.

Although, in general, the passive loss rules of the Internal Revenue Code do not apply to RICs, such rules do apply to a RIC with respect to items attributable to interests in qualified publicly-traded partnerships. A Fund's investments in partnerships, including in qualified publicly-traded partnerships, may result in the Fund being subject to state, local, or non-U.S. income, franchise or withholding tax liabilities.

**Taxation of RICs.** As a RIC, a Fund will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the portion of its taxable investment income and capital gains that it distributes to its shareholders, provided that it satisfies a minimum distribution requirement. To satisfy the minimum distribution requirement, a Fund must distribute to its shareholders at least the sum of (i) 90% of its "investment company taxable income" (*i.e.*, income other than its net realized long-term capital gain over its net realized short-term capital loss), plus or minus certain adjustments, and (ii) 90% of its net tax-exempt income for the taxable year. A Fund will be subject to income tax at regular corporate rates on any taxable income or gains that it does not distribute to its shareholders. If a Fund fails to qualify for any taxable year as a RIC or fails to meet the distribution requirement, all of its taxable income will be subject to tax at regular corporate income tax rates without any deduction for distributions to shareholders, and such distributions generally will be taxable to shareholders as ordinary dividends to the extent of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits. In such event, distributions to individuals should be eligible to be treated as qualified dividend income and distributions to corporate shareholders generally should be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Although each Fund intends to distribute substantially all of its net investment income and its capital gains for each taxable year, each Fund will be subject to U.S. federal income taxation to the extent any such income or gains are not distributed. If a Fund fails to qualify as a RIC in any year, it must pay out its earnings and profits accumulated in that year in order to qualify again as a RIC. If a Fund fails to qualify as a RIC for a period greater than two taxable years, the Fund may be required to recognize any net built-in gains with respect to certain of its assets (*i.e.*, the excess of the aggregate gains, including items of income, over aggregate losses that would have been realized with respect to such assets if the Fund had been liquidated) if it qualifies as a RIC in a subsequent year.

**Excise Tax.** A Fund will be subject to a 4% excise tax on certain undistributed income if it does not distribute to its shareholders in each calendar year at least 98% of its ordinary income for the calendar year plus 98.2% of its capital gain net income for the 12 months ended October 31 of such year. For this purpose, however, any ordinary income or capital gain net income retained by a Fund that is subject to corporate income tax will be considered to have been distributed by year-end. In addition, the minimum amounts that must be distributed in any year to avoid the excise tax will be increased or decreased to reflect any underdistribution or overdistribution, as the case may be, from the previous year. Each Fund intends to declare and distribute dividends and distributions in the amounts and at the times necessary to avoid the application of this 4% excise tax.

**Net Capital Loss Carryforwards.** Net capital loss carryforwards may be applied against any net realized capital gains in each succeeding year, until they have been reduced to zero or until their respective expiration dates, whichever occurs first. Capital loss carryforwards from taxable years beginning after 2010 are not subject to expiration, and short-term and long-term capital loss carryforwards from such taxable years may only be applied against net realized short-term and long-term capital gains, respectively.

In the event that a Fund were to experience an ownership change as defined under the Internal Revenue Code, the loss carryforwards and other favorable tax attributes of a Fund, if any, may be subject to limitation.

The following Funds had tax basis net capital loss carryforwards as of August 31, 2015, the tax year-end for the Funds listed:

Fund	Non-Expiring <sup>1</sup>	Expiring 2016	Expiring 2017	Expiring 2018	Expiring 2019	Total
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	\$ 34,205,998	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 34,205,998
iShares MSCI All Country World Minimum Volatility ETF	12,815,217	—	—	—	—	12,815,217
iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF	1,053,102,706	—	—	198,226,310	—	1,251,329,016
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF	160,504,168	—	1,540,740	11,268,086	7,760,558	181,073,552
iShares MSCI Chile Capped ETF	90,296,781	—	1,886,881	11,712,090	976,991	104,872,743
iShares MSCI Colombia Capped ETF	67,112	—	—	—	—	67,112
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF	9,350,259	—	—	—	—	9,350,259
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	4,817,904,318	13,844,901	228,196,854	1,201,366,175	873,167,649	7,134,479,897
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF	112,910,321	—	—	—	—	112,910,321
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF	5,947,880	—	—	—	—	5,947,880
iShares MSCI Global Agriculture Producers ETF	558,434	—	—	—	—	558,434
iShares MSCI Global Energy Producers ETF	127,882	—	—	—	—	127,882
iShares MSCI Global Metals & Mining Producers ETF	4,586,250	—	—	—	—	4,586,250
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF	31,222,228	—	60,990,953	226,591,665	78,503,704	397,308,550
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF	69,147,354	16,734,578	343,375,145	363,052,013	19,669,958	811,979,048

<sup>1</sup> Must be utilized prior to losses subject to expiration.

**Taxation of U.S. Shareholders.** Dividends and other distributions by a Fund are generally treated under the Internal Revenue Code as received by the shareholders at the time the dividend or distribution is made. However, any dividend or distribution declared by a Fund in October, November or December of any calendar year and payable to shareholders of record on a specified date in such a month shall be deemed to have been received by each shareholder on December 31 of such calendar year and to have been paid by the Fund not later than such December 31, provided such dividend is actually paid by the Fund during January of the following calendar year.

Each Fund intends to distribute annually to its shareholders substantially all of its investment company taxable income and any net realized long-term capital gains in excess of net realized short-term capital losses (including any capital loss carryovers). However, if a Fund retains for investment an amount equal to all or a portion of its net long-term capital gains in excess of its net short-term capital losses (including any capital loss carryovers), it will be subject to a corporate tax (at a maximum rate of 35%) on the amount retained. In that event, the Fund will designate such retained amounts as undistributed capital gains in a notice to its shareholders who (a) will be required to include in income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as long-term capital gains, their proportionate shares of the undistributed amount, (b) will be entitled to credit their proportionate shares of the 35% tax paid by the Fund on the undistributed amount against their U.S. federal income tax liabilities, if any, and to claim refunds to the extent their credits exceed their liabilities, if any, and (c) will be entitled to increase their tax basis, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, in their shares by an amount equal to 65% of the amount of undistributed capital gains included in the shareholder's income. Organizations or persons not subject to U.S. federal income tax on such capital gains will be entitled to a refund of their *pro rata* share of such taxes paid by the Fund upon filing appropriate returns or claims for refund with the IRS.

Distributions of net realized long-term capital gains, if any, that a Fund reports as capital gains dividends are taxable as long-term capital gains, whether paid in cash or in shares and regardless of how long a shareholder has held shares of the Fund. All other dividends of a Fund (including dividends from short-term capital gains) from its current and accumulated earnings and profits ("regular dividends") are generally subject to tax as ordinary income, subject to the discussion of qualified dividend income below. Married couples filing jointly with income over approximately \$450,000 and unmarried individuals with income over approximately \$400,000, amounts adjusted annually for inflation, are subject to a 20% tax on any income



in excess of those amounts that is long-term capital gain or qualified dividend income, and generally all other long-term capital gain is taxed at 15% (0% at certain income levels). In addition, the top marginal ordinary income tax rate is 39.6% for income in excess of the above thresholds.

If an individual receives a regular dividend qualifying for the long-term capital gains rates and such dividend constitutes an “extraordinary dividend,” and the individual subsequently recognizes a loss on the sale or exchange of stock in respect of which the extraordinary dividend was paid, then the loss will be long-term capital loss to the extent of such extraordinary dividend. An “extraordinary dividend” on common stock for this purpose is generally a dividend (i) in an amount greater than or equal to 10% of the taxpayer’s tax basis (or trading value) in a share of stock, aggregating dividends with ex-dividend dates within an 85-day period, or (ii) in an amount greater than 20% of the taxpayer’s tax basis (or trading value) in a share of stock, aggregating dividends with ex-dividend dates within a 365-day period.

Distributions in excess of a Fund’s current and accumulated earnings and profits will, as to each shareholder, be treated as a tax-free return of capital to the extent of a shareholder’s basis in shares of the Fund, and as a capital gain thereafter (if the shareholder holds shares of the Fund as capital assets). Distributions in excess of the Fund’s minimum distribution requirements, but not in excess of the Fund’s earnings and profits, will be taxable to shareholders and will not constitute nontaxable returns of capital. Shareholders receiving dividends or distributions in the form of additional shares should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as receiving a distribution in an amount equal to the amount of money that the shareholders receiving cash dividends or distributions will receive and should have a cost basis in the shares received equal to such amount. Dividends paid by a Fund that are attributable to dividends received by a Fund from domestic corporations may qualify for the U.S. federal dividends received deduction for corporations.

A 3.8% U.S. federal Medicare contribution tax is imposed on net investment income, including, but not limited to, interest, dividends, and net gain from investments, of U.S. individuals with income exceeding \$200,000 (or \$250,000 if married and filing jointly) and of estates and trusts.

Investors considering buying shares just prior to a dividend or capital gain distribution should be aware that, although the price of shares purchased at that time may reflect the amount of the forthcoming distribution, such dividend or distribution may nevertheless be taxable to them. If a Fund is the holder of record of any security on the record date for any dividends payable with respect to such security, such dividends will be included in the Fund’s gross income not as of the date received but as of the later of (a) the date such security became ex-dividend with respect to such dividends (*i.e.*, the date on which a buyer of the security would not be entitled to receive the declared, but unpaid, dividends); or (b) the date the Fund acquired such security. Accordingly, in order to satisfy its income distribution requirements, a Fund may be required to pay dividends based on anticipated earnings, and shareholders may receive dividends in an earlier year than would otherwise be the case.

In certain situations, a Fund may, for a taxable year, defer all or a portion of its net capital loss (or if there is no net capital loss, then any net long-term or short-term capital loss) realized after October and its late-year ordinary loss (defined as the sum of (i) the excess of post-October foreign currency and passive foreign investment company (“PFIC”) losses over post-October foreign currency and PFIC gains and (ii) the excess of post-December ordinary losses over post-December ordinary income) until the next taxable year in computing its investment company taxable income and net capital gain, which will defer the recognition of such realized losses. Such deferrals and other rules regarding gains and losses realized after October (or December) may affect the tax character of shareholder distributions.

**Sales of Shares.** Upon the sale or exchange of shares of a Fund, a shareholder will realize a taxable gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized and the shareholder’s basis in shares of the Fund. A redemption of shares by a Fund will be treated as a sale for this purpose. Such gain or loss will be treated as capital gain or loss if the shares are capital assets in the shareholder’s hands and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the shares are held for more than one year and short-term capital gain or loss if the shares are held for one year or less. Any loss realized on a sale or exchange will be disallowed to the extent the shares disposed of are replaced, including replacement through the reinvesting of dividends or capital gains distributions, or by an option on substantially identical shares within a 61-day period beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the disposition of the shares. In such a case, the basis of the shares acquired will be increased to reflect the disallowed loss. Any loss realized by a shareholder on the sale of Fund shares held by the shareholder for six months or less will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any distributions or deemed distributions of long-term capital gains received by the shareholder with respect to such share. The Medicare contribution tax described above will apply to the sale of Fund shares.

If a shareholder incurs a sales charge in acquiring shares of a Fund, disposes of those shares within 90 days and then, on or before January 31 of the following calendar year, acquires shares in a mutual fund for which the otherwise applicable sales charge is reduced by reason of a reinvestment right (e.g., an exchange privilege), the original sales charge will not be taken into account in computing gain/loss on the original shares to the extent the subsequent sales charge is reduced. Instead, the disregarded portion of the original sales charge will be added to the tax basis of the newly acquired shares. Furthermore, the same rule also applies to a disposition of the newly acquired shares made within 90 days of the second acquisition. This provision prevents shareholders from immediately deducting the sales charge by shifting their investments within a family of mutual funds.

**Back-Up Withholding.** In certain cases, a Fund will be required to withhold at a 28% rate and remit to the U.S. Treasury such amounts withheld from any distributions paid to a shareholder who: (i) has failed to provide a correct taxpayer identification number; (ii) is subject to back-up withholding by the IRS; (iii) has failed to certify to a Fund that such shareholder is not subject to back-up withholding; or (iv) has not certified that such shareholder is a U.S. person (including a U.S. resident alien). Back-up withholding is not an additional tax and any amount withheld may be credited against a shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability.

**Sections 351 and 362.** The Company, on behalf of each Fund, has the right to reject an order for a purchase of shares of the Fund if the purchaser (or group of purchasers) would, upon obtaining the shares so ordered, own 80% or more of the outstanding shares of a given Fund and if, pursuant to Sections 351 and 362 of the Internal Revenue Code, that Fund would have a basis in the securities different from the market value of such securities on the date of deposit. If a Fund's basis in such securities on the date of deposit was less than market value on such date, the Fund, upon disposition of the securities, would recognize more taxable gain or less taxable loss than if its basis in the securities had been equal to market value. It is not anticipated that the Company will exercise the right of rejection except in a case where the Company determines that accepting the order could result in material adverse tax consequences to a Fund or its shareholders. The Company also has the right to require information necessary to determine beneficial share ownership for purposes of the 80% determination.

**Taxation of Certain Derivatives.** A Fund's transactions in zero coupon securities, non-U.S. currencies, forward contracts, options and futures contracts (including options and futures contracts on non-U.S. currencies), to the extent permitted, will be subject to special provisions of the Internal Revenue Code (including provisions relating to "hedging transactions" and "straddles") that, among other things, may affect the character of gains and losses realized by the Fund (*i.e.*, may affect whether gains or losses are ordinary or capital), accelerate recognition of income to the Fund and defer Fund losses. These rules could therefore affect the character, amount and timing of distributions to shareholders. These provisions also (a) will require a Fund to mark-to-market certain types of the positions in its portfolio (*i.e.*, treat them as if they were closed out at the end of each year) and (b) may cause a Fund to recognize income without receiving cash with which to pay dividends or make distributions in amounts necessary to satisfy the distribution requirements for avoiding income and excise taxes. Each Fund will monitor its transactions, will make the appropriate tax elections and will make the appropriate entries in its books and records when it acquires any zero coupon security, non-U.S. currency, forward contract, option, futures contract or hedged investment in order to mitigate the effect of these rules and prevent disqualification of the Fund as a RIC.

A Fund's investments in so-called "Section 1256 contracts," such as regulated futures contracts, most non-U.S. currency forward contracts traded in the interbank market and options on most security indexes, are subject to special tax rules. All Section 1256 contracts held by a Fund at the end of its taxable year are required to be marked to their market value, and any unrealized gain or loss on those positions will be included in the Fund's income as if each position had been sold for its fair market value at the end of the taxable year. The resulting gain or loss will be combined with any gain or loss realized by the Fund from positions in Section 1256 contracts closed during the taxable year. Provided such positions were held as capital assets and were not part of a "hedging transaction" nor part of a "straddle," 60% of the resulting net gain or loss will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss, and 40% of such net gain or loss will be treated as short-term capital gain or loss, regardless of the period of time the positions were actually held by the Fund.

As a result of entering into swap contracts, a Fund may make or receive periodic net payments. A Fund may also make or receive a payment when a swap is terminated prior to maturity through an assignment of the swap or other closing transaction. Periodic net payments will generally constitute ordinary income or deductions, while termination of a swap will generally result in capital gain or loss (which will be a long-term capital gain or loss if the Fund has been a party to the swap for more than one year). With respect to certain types of swaps, a Fund may be required to currently recognize income or loss with respect to future payments on such swaps or may elect under certain circumstances to mark such swaps to market annually for tax purposes as ordinary income or loss.

**Qualified Dividend Income.** Distributions by a Fund of investment company taxable income (including any short-term capital gains), whether received in cash or shares, will be taxable either as ordinary income or as qualified dividend income, which is eligible to be taxed at long-term capital gain rates to the extent a Fund receives qualified dividend income on the securities it holds and a Fund reports the distribution as qualified dividend income. Qualified dividend income is, in general, dividend income from taxable U.S. corporations (but generally not from U.S. REITs) and certain non-U.S. corporations (e.g., non-U.S. corporations that are not “passive foreign investment companies” and which are incorporated in a possession of the United States or in certain countries with a comprehensive tax treaty with the United States, or the stock of which is readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States (where the dividends are paid with respect to such stock)). Under current IRS guidance, the United States has appropriate comprehensive income tax treaties with the following countries: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China (but not with Hong Kong, which is treated as a separate jurisdiction for U.S. tax purposes), Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela. Substitute payments received by a Fund for securities lent out by a Fund will not be qualified dividend income.

A dividend from a Fund will not be treated as qualified dividend income to the extent that (i) the shareholder has not held the shares on which the dividend was paid for 61 days during the 121-day period that begins on the date that is 60 days before the date on which the shares become ex-dividend with respect to such dividend or a Fund fails to satisfy those holding period requirements with respect to the securities it holds that paid the dividends distributed to the shareholder (or, in the case of certain preferred stocks, the holding requirement of 91 days during the 181-day period beginning on the date that is 90 days before the date on which the stock becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend); (ii) a Fund or the shareholder is under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to substantially similar or related property; or (iii) the shareholder elects to treat such dividend as investment income under Section 163(d)(4)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code. Dividends received by a Fund from a REIT or another RIC may be treated as qualified dividend income only to the extent the dividend distributions are attributable to qualified dividend income received by such REIT or other RIC. It is expected that dividends received by a Fund from a REIT and distributed to a shareholder generally will be taxable to the shareholder as ordinary income. Distributions by a Fund of its net short-term capital gains will be taxable as ordinary income.

**Corporate Dividends Received Deduction.** Dividends paid by a Fund that are attributable to dividends received by the Fund from U.S. corporations may qualify for the U.S. federal dividends received deduction for corporations. A 46-day minimum holding period during the 90-day period that begins 45 days prior to ex-dividend date (or 91-day minimum holding period during the 180 period beginning 90 days prior to ex-dividend date for certain preference dividends) during which risk of loss may not be diminished is required for the applicable shares, at both the Fund and shareholder level, for a dividend to be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Restrictions may apply if indebtedness, including a short sale, is attributable to the investment.

**Issues Related to India and Mauritius Taxes.** The following discussion does not address the effect on investors, including residents of India and citizens of India (whether or not residing in India or other countries, including the United States), of holding shares of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF. Investors should consult their own tax advisors as to these issues based upon their own personal situations.

Indian tax matters discussed herein are based on the provisions of the IT Act, the provisions of the DTAA and other laws currently in force as of the date of this SAI. All such laws and the DTAA are subject to prospective and retrospective legislative amendment, administrative rulings and judicial review.

Each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF invests in India through its Subsidiary. For U.S. federal income tax purposes, each Subsidiary has elected to be treated as an entity disregarded from its owner. Thus, for U.S. federal tax purposes, any income or loss realized by a Subsidiary will be treated as realized by the applicable fund. Therefore, any investment made by each Fund into a

Subsidiary and any distributions received by the Fund from a Subsidiary are disregarded for U.S. federal tax purposes. Furthermore, there is no tax on each Fund's investment in a Subsidiary or on distributions made from a Subsidiary to the Fund.

No investor in the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF will be subject to taxation in India unless such investor is a resident of India or, if a non-resident, has an Indian source income or income received (whether accrued or otherwise) in India. FA 15 has introduced the concept of "place of effective management" for the determination of the residency of a foreign company. Accordingly, a company would be said to be resident in India if its place of effective management is situated in India. "Place of effective management" is defined as a place where the key management and commercial decisions that are necessary for the conduct of the business of an entity as a whole are, in substance made. A set of guiding principles for the determination of place of effective management is proposed to be issued for the benefit of the taxpayer as well as the tax authorities. The taxation of a Subsidiary and a Fund in India is governed by the provisions of the ITA, read with the provisions of the DTAA. As per Section 90(2) of the ITA, the provisions of the ITA would apply to the extent they are more beneficial than the provisions of the DTAA. In order to claim the beneficial provisions of the DTAA, a Subsidiary must be a tax resident of Mauritius.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes in India in its Circular 789, issued on April 13, 2000, concluded that a valid residence certificate issued by the Mauritius authorities demonstrated Mauritian residency for purposes of establishing eligibility to qualify for benefits under the DTAA. The Circular was subject to judicial challenge in India by those asserting that the standards for establishing Mauritian residency for purposes of obtaining such a certificate were insufficient to establish residency for purposes of the DTAA. The Circular was successfully overturned in certain lower Indian courts but was eventually upheld by the highest applicable court, the Supreme Court of India, on October 7, 2003, accordingly each Subsidiary should be eligible for benefits under the DTAA. However, recently issued rulings suggest that a number of factors are being considered by the Indian tax administration when assessing whether a foreign entity is eligible for the benefit of the provisions of a tax treaty, including, among others, the place of management of the foreign resident company and the level of substance in the jurisdiction in which it is incorporated. In addition, both the Indian tax administration and Indian courts seem to be very aggressive towards structures involving offshore funds investing directly or indirectly in India, in particular from Mauritius.

Each Subsidiary has been incorporated in Mauritius and has obtained a tax residency certificate ("TRC") from the Mauritius authorities that establishes its residency in Mauritius under the DTAA. The TRC must be renewed annually. Each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF expects its Subsidiary to maintain its Mauritius tax residency, but it cannot be assured that the Mauritius authorities will successfully renew its TRC annually or that it will continue to be eligible to the DTAA benefits, particularly in light of the new requirements that may be introduced if the DTAA is re-negotiated.

Further, an investor is required to submit the TRC as issued in the country of residence and provide other documents and information as prescribed by the Government to claim benefits under the DTAA.

Each Subsidiary holds a Category 1 Global Business License issued by the Financial Services Commission of Mauritius. Each Subsidiary is subject to tax in Mauritius on its net income at the rate of 15%. However, a system of foreign tax credits which allows a tax credit against Mauritian taxes for foreign tax on a Mauritian entity's foreign source income effectively reduces the Mauritius income tax rate to a maximum of 3% because the system presumes, in the absence of evidence, that the foreign tax paid is equal to 80% of the Mauritian tax. Further, a Subsidiary is not subject to capital gains tax in Mauritius nor is it subject to tax in Mauritius on any gains from the sale of securities. Any dividends paid by a Subsidiary to each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF will also be exempt from tax in Mauritius.

Each Subsidiary will attempt to abide by the requirements of the DTAA, to maintain its residency in Mauritius, and to ensure that management and control of the Subsidiary remain in Mauritius. It is uncertain whether the terms of this treaty will be renegotiated or subject to a different interpretation in the future. Any change in the provisions of the DTAA or in its applicability to a Subsidiary could result in a Subsidiary and indirectly each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI



Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF being subject to Indian income taxes, withholding taxes, and other taxes, as well as being subject to administrative or judicial assertion of such tax liabilities by the tax authorities of India. This could significantly reduce the return of a Fund on its investments and the return received by Fund shareholders. Further, it is possible even with renegotiation of the DTAA that the Indian tax authorities may seek to take the position that a Fund is not entitled to the benefits of the DTAA.

Each Subsidiary is expected to have income in the form of capital gains, income from dividends and income from interest. The Indian tax consequences for a Subsidiary on account of the application of the DTAA, read with the provisions of the ITA, would be as follows (the rates are inclusive of the highest applicable surcharges):

- Capital gains resulting from the sale of Indian securities (including depositary receipts issued by Indian companies) will not be subject to tax in India, provided the Subsidiary does not have Permanent Establishments (“PE”) in India;
- Dividends on shares received from an Indian company on which dividend distribution tax has been paid are exempt from tax in the hands of the shareholders. However, the Indian company distributing dividends is subject to a dividend distribution tax at the rate of 20.36% (effective starting April 1, 2015); and
- Interest paid to a Subsidiary in respect of the debt obligations of Indian issuers will be subject to Indian income tax. The tax rate, in the case of rupee-denominated debt obligations, is 43.26%. However if the Subsidiary is a SEBI registered sub-account, interest income earned from June 1, 2013 to June 30, 2017 on rupee-denominated bonds of Indian companies and Government securities, will be subject to tax at the rate of 5.41%, provided that the rate of interest does not exceed the prescribed rates. In the case of foreign currency-denominated debt obligations, the tax rate is 21.63%. For approved foreign currency loans advanced from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2017, the tax rate on interest is 5.41% and for approved foreign currency long-term bonds issued from October 1, 2014 to June 30, 2017, the tax rate on interest is 5.41%. However, if the Subsidiary is a SEBI registered sub-account, the interest from securities will be subject to tax at the rate of 21.63%.

In the event that the benefits of the DTAA are not available to the Subsidiary, or if the Subsidiary is held to have PE in India, taxation of interest and dividend income of the Subsidiary would be the same as described above. The taxation of capital gains would be as follows:

- Long-term capital gains (being gains on sale of shares held for a period of more than twelve months) listed on a recognized stock exchange would not be taxable in India provided Securities Transaction Tax (“STT”) has been paid on the same (as discussed below);
- Short-term capital gains (being gains on sale of shares held for a period of twelve months or less) from the sale of Indian shares listed on a recognized stock exchange will be taxed at the rate of 16.223% provided STT has been paid on the same;
- Long-term capital gains (being gains on sale of shares held for a period of more than 36 months) arising to the Subsidiary from the sale of unlisted securities will be taxed at the rate of 10.815% (without indexation) and short-term capital gains (being gains on sale of shares held for a period of 36 months or less) will be taxed at the rate of 43.26%\*;
- Capital gains realized on sale of listed equity shares not executed on a recognized stock exchange in India would be taxed at the rate of 21.63% for long-term gains (being gains on sale of shares held for a period of more than 12 months) and at 43.26% in the case of short-term gains (being gains on sale of shares held for a period of 12 months or less)\*; and
- Capital gains arising from the transfer of depositary receipts outside India between non-resident investors will not be subject to tax in India.

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\* However, if the Subsidiary is a SEBI registered sub-account, the rates will be 10.816% and 32.45%, respectively.

In a ruling issued by the Authority for Advance Rulings (“AAR”) in India, gains earned by a private equity fund based in Mauritius were held to be “business income.” In view of the amendment by the Finance Act 2014, in case a Subsidiary is a SEBI registered sub-account, the gains arising from transfer of securities would be characterized as “capital gains” and not business income. It is possible that the Indian tax authorities may take a similar view in the case of each Subsidiary. In that event, such gains will not be taxable in India so long as the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum



Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF/Subsidiaries do not have a PE in India. In the event that the Funds/Subsidiaries are held to have a PE in India, gains attributable to the PE would be taxable in India at the rate of 43.26%.

#### *Indian Minimum Alternate Tax*

The question of whether foreign companies (which would include FII's) are liable for Minimum Alternate Tax ("MAT") has been a subject matter of controversy in India. Under the MAT provisions, in the event a company's tax liability is less than 18.5% of its book profits, then instead of paying income tax at rates provided otherwise under the ITA, the company is liable to pay MAT on the adjusted book profits at the rate of 18.5% (plus applicable taxes and surcharges).

In certain recent rulings issued by the AAR, it was held that MAT is applicable to foreign companies, irrespective of the existence of a permanent establishment in India. In these cases, it was held that the capital gains earned by the Mauritius assessee-company from sale of shares of an Indian company would be entitled to the benefits under the DTAA. However, in relation to applicability of MAT, it was held that the MAT provisions would apply to the Mauritius company. Due to this decision, it became unclear whether MAT would be applicable to the Subsidiary even though the benefits of the DTAA are available to the Subsidiary.

FA 15 has amended the provisions of MAT to exclude the levy of MAT on foreign companies, on income from capital gains arising on transactions in securities as well as income from interest, royalty, or fees for technical services which are liable to tax at a lower rate, with effect from April 1, 2015. Thus, it is clear that MAT would not be applicable to the Subsidiary for the periods starting from April 1, 2015 onwards.

With respect to notices already issued to foreign companies for the periods prior to April 1, 2015, their status continues to be uncertain because the matter is currently pending before the Supreme Court of India, the hearing for which has been expedited. The CBDT has also instructed tax officers to expedite the processing of claims, particularly with respect to FIIs claiming treaty benefits. Further, the Government of India has set up a committee to examine the levy of MAT on FIIs for the period prior to April 1, 2015 and the Committee will examine all the related legal provisions, judicial/quasi-judicial pronouncements and such other relevant aspects as it may consider appropriate and provide its recommendations to the Government of India.

#### *Indian Securities Transaction Tax*

All transactions entered on a recognized stock exchange in India will be subject to STT levied on the transaction value. In the case of the purchase/sale of listed equity shares which is settled by way of actual delivery or transfer of the equity share, no STT will be levied on the buyer and will be levied at the rate of 0.001% on the seller and at the rate of 0.2% on the sale of unlisted shares in an initial public offering. For sale of equity shares settled otherwise than by way actual delivery or transfer of the equity share, STT will be levied at the rate of 0.025% on the seller of the equity share. A seller of derivatives would be subjected to an STT of 0.01%. The STT can be set off against business income tax calculated as per provisions of ITA.

The foregoing is based upon current interpretation and practice and is subject to future changes in the tax laws of India or Mauritius and in the DTAA. Any change in the DTAA's application could have a material adverse effect on the returns of each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF. Further, it is possible that the Indian tax authorities may seek to take the position that a Fund is not entitled to the benefits of the DTAA.

#### *Indirect Transfers*

The current legislation imposes Indian tax and withholding obligations with respect to the transfer of shares in an overseas company that derives its value substantially from assets situated in India ("indirect transfers"). Because each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF invest in Indian securities through the Subsidiaries, this legislation by its terms subjects shareholder redemptions of Fund shares and sales of Fund investments to Indian tax and withholding obligations, both prospectively as well as retroactively. However, the CBDT issued a letter on May 29, 2012 clarifying the reopening of completed assessments as a result of the retroactive amendments introduced by the Finance Act. Under this letter, CBDT has directed Indian tax authorities to not reopen any assessment proceedings that were completed before April 1, 2012 and where no notice for reassessment has

been issued prior to that date. The CBDT also clarified that any assessment or any other order which stands validated due to the amendments in the Finance Act would be enforced. Given this clarification issued by the CBDT, the Funds do not expect that shareholders or the Funds will become subject to tax or to withholding obligations with respect to completed assessments.

FA 15 has provided clarification with respect to the taxability of indirect transfers. It provides that the share or interest of the foreign entity shall be deemed to derive its value substantially from the assets located in India, if the value of such Indian assets exceeds INR 100 million, and represents at least 50% of the value of all the assets owned by the foreign entity. The value of an asset shall be the fair market value as of the specified date, of such an asset without reduction of liabilities. The fair market value will be determined in accordance with the rules to be prescribed. It also provides that where all the assets of the foreign entity are not located in India, only such part of the income as is reasonably attributable to the Indian assets shall be subject to capital gains tax in India.

Further, it provides exemption from indirect transfer provisions to the small shareholders of such foreign entity in the following cases:

- With respect to a foreign entity that holds the Indian assets directly, if the transferor of share or interest in such a foreign entity (along with its associated enterprises), at any time in the twelve months preceding the year of transfer neither holds the right of control or management in the foreign entity, nor holds voting power or share capital or interest exceeding 5% of the total voting power or total share capital in such foreign entity.
- With respect to a foreign entity that holds the Indian assets indirectly, if the transferor of share or interest in such foreign entity (along with its associated enterprises), at any time in the twelve months preceding the year of transfer does not hold the right of control or management in relation to the foreign entity, which would entitle them to the right of control or management in the foreign entity which directly holds the Indian assets; or does not hold voting power or share capital or interest exceeding 5% of the total voting power or total share capital in the foreign entity, which results in holding the same share capital or voting power in the entity which directly holds the Indian assets.

If the gains arising from transfer of share or interest in a foreign entity are taxable in India in accordance with the aforementioned provisions of indirect transfer, the purchaser of the securities will be required to withhold applicable Indian taxes.

#### *General Anti-Avoidance Rules.*

The GAAR introduced in the Income Tax Act, 1961 ("IT Act") provides the Indian tax authorities a mechanism to deny any tax benefits in a transaction or any other arrangement that is believed to not have any commercial substance or purpose other than to obtain tax benefit(s) under a treaty. The provisions of GAAR will be applicable to arrangements (including a step in or a part thereof) entered into by a taxpayer, which may be declared as an "impermissible avoidance arrangement".

GAAR would have been effective from the financial year beginning from April 1, 2015 onwards (assessment year 2016-17). However, under FA 15, the application of GAAR has been deferred by two years, i.e. GAAR will be applicable with effect from April 1, 2017. Further, investments made up until March 31, 2017 would be protected from the applicability of GAAR by amendment to the relevant rules in this regard.

The CBDT has notified the GAAR rules on September 23, 2013, for the application of GAAR. As per these rules, GAAR shall not apply in the following circumstances:

- any arrangement where the aggregate tax benefit to all the parties of the arrangement in the relevant financial year does not exceed INR 30 Million;
- FII's that choose not to take any benefit under any tax treaty entered with India and have invested in listed or unlisted securities with prior permission of the competent authority in accordance with the applicable regulations;
- non-resident investor in an FII who has invested in an FII, directly or indirectly, by way of an offshore derivative instrument or otherwise; or
- any income derived from the transfer of investments made prior to August 30, 2010.

If the Funds' use of the Subsidiaries were considered to be such an impermissible avoidance arrangement, the Fund would become subject directly to taxation in India. GAAR is expected to come into force from April 1, 2017. The burden of proof in enforcing the rule will reside with the Indian government, not the taxpayer, and India's current double tax treaty

arrangements will remain in force. However, GAAR may prevent the Funds from realizing the planned tax benefits of the Subsidiaries, irrespective of existing beneficial treaty provisions and may lead to the imposition of tax liabilities and withholding obligations, which may lead the Fund to modify or disassemble its Subsidiaries structure.

Provisions of indirect transfers, GAAR and MAT could change the manner in which the Subsidiaries are currently taxed in India and could adversely impact the returns to each of the iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI BRIC ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Asia ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF and iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Small-Cap ETF/Subsidiaries and their respective shareholders. The Funds will continue to monitor developments in India with respect to these matters. Investors are urged to consult their own tax advisers with respect to their own tax situations and the tax consequences of an investment in each of the Funds.

**Excess Inclusion Income.** Under current law, the Funds serve to block unrelated business taxable income from being realized by its tax-exempt shareholders. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a tax-exempt shareholder could realize unrelated business taxable income by virtue of its investment in a Fund if shares in the Fund constitute debt-financed property in the hands of the tax-exempt shareholder within the meaning of Section 514(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. Certain types of income received by a Fund from REITs, real estate mortgage investment conduits, taxable mortgage pools or other investments may cause the Fund to report some or all of its distributions as “excess inclusion income.” To Fund shareholders, such excess inclusion income may (i) constitute taxable income, as unrelated business taxable income for those shareholders who would otherwise be tax-exempt such as individual retirement accounts, 401(k) accounts, Keogh plans, pension plans and certain charitable entities; (ii) not be offset by otherwise allowable deductions for tax purposes; (iii) not be eligible for reduced U.S. withholding for non-U.S. shareholders even from tax treaty countries; and (iv) cause the Fund to be subject to tax if certain “disqualified organizations,” as defined by the Internal Revenue Code, are Fund shareholders. If a charitable remainder annuity trust or a charitable remainder unitrust (each as defined in Section 664 of the Internal Revenue Code) has unrelated business taxable income (“UBTI”) for a taxable year, a 100% excise tax on the UBTI is imposed on the trust.

**Non-U.S. Investments.** Under Section 988 of the Internal Revenue Code, gains or losses attributable to fluctuations in exchange rates between the time a Fund accrues income or receivables or expenses or other liabilities denominated in a non-U.S. currency and the time the Fund actually collects such income or pays such liabilities are generally treated as ordinary income or ordinary loss. In general, gains (and losses) realized on debt instruments will be treated as Section 988 gain (or loss) to the extent attributable to changes in exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and the currencies in which the instruments are denominated. Similarly, gains or losses on non-U.S. currency, non-U.S. currency forward contracts and certain non-U.S. currency options or futures contracts denominated in non-U.S. currency, to the extent attributable to fluctuations in exchange rates between the acquisition and disposition dates, are also treated as ordinary income or loss unless the Fund were to elect otherwise.

Each Fund may be subject to non-U.S. income taxes withheld at the source. Each Fund, if permitted to do so, may elect to “pass through” to its investors the amount of non-U.S. income taxes paid by the Fund provided that the Fund held the security on the dividend settlement date and for at least 15 additional days immediately before and/or thereafter, with the result that each investor with respect to shares of the Fund held for a minimum 16-day holding period at the time of deemed distribution will (i) include in gross income, even though not actually received, the investor’s *pro rata* share of the Fund’s non-U.S. income taxes, and (ii) either deduct (in calculating U.S. taxable income, but only for investors who itemize their deductions on their personal tax returns) or credit (in calculating U.S. federal income tax) the investor’s *pro rata* share of the Fund’s non-U.S. income taxes. A non-U.S. person invested in the Fund in a year that the Fund elects to “pass through” its non-U.S. taxes may be treated as receiving additional dividend income subject to U.S. withholding tax. A non-U.S. tax credit may not exceed the investor’s U.S. federal income tax otherwise payable with respect to the investor’s non-U.S. source income. For this purpose, shareholders must treat as non-U.S. source gross income (i) their proportionate shares of non-U.S. taxes paid by the Fund and (ii) the portion of any dividend paid by the Fund that represents income derived from non-U.S. sources; the Fund’s gain from the sale of securities will generally be treated as U.S.-source income. Certain limitations will be imposed to the extent to which the non-U.S. tax credit may be claimed. If your Fund shares are loaned pursuant to securities lending arrangements, you may lose the ability to use any non-U.S. tax credits passed through by a Fund or to treat Fund dividends (paid while the shares are held by the borrower) as qualified dividends. Regarding a short sale with respect to shares of a Fund, substitute payments made to the lender of such shares may not be deductible under certain circumstances. Consult your financial intermediary or tax advisor.

With respect to Brazil, a 6% Imposto sobre Operações Financeiras (“IOF”) tax, with the rate subject to change, applies to certain foreign exchange inflows into Brazil. A previous 1% IOF tax on currency derivatives has been eliminated. A previous

1.5% IOF tax applicable to the creation of new American or Global Depositary Receipt issuances with respect to Brazilian equities and a previous 0.38% IOF tax applicable to the cancellation of American or Global Depositary Receipts if the underlying equities are issued in the Brazil (local) markets have been removed. If incurred by the Fund, an IOF tax would not be creditable against U.S. income tax liability.

**Passive Foreign Investment Companies.** If a Fund purchases shares in PFICs, it may be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a portion of any “excess distribution” or gain from the disposition of such shares even if such income is distributed as a taxable dividend by the Fund to its shareholders. Additional charges in the nature of interest may be imposed on the Fund in respect of deferred taxes arising from such distributions or gains.

If a Fund were to invest in a PFIC and elect to treat the PFIC as a “qualified electing fund” under the Internal Revenue Code, in lieu of the foregoing requirements, the Fund might be required to include in income each year a portion of the ordinary earnings and net capital gains of the qualified electing fund, even if not distributed to the Fund, and such amounts would be subject to the 90% and excise tax distribution requirements described above. In order to make this election, the Fund would be required to obtain certain annual information from the PFICs in which it invests, which may be difficult or impossible to obtain.

Alternatively, a Fund may make a mark-to-market election that would result in the Fund being treated as if it had sold and repurchased its PFIC stock at the end of each year. In such case, the Fund would report any such gains as ordinary income and would deduct any such losses as ordinary losses to the extent of previously recognized gains. The election must be made separately for each PFIC owned by the Fund and, once made, would be effective for all subsequent taxable years, unless revoked with the consent of the IRS. By making the election, the Fund could potentially ameliorate the adverse tax consequences with respect to its ownership of shares in a PFIC, but in any particular year may be required to recognize income in excess of the distributions it receives from PFICs and its proceeds from dispositions of PFIC stock. The Fund may have to distribute this “phantom” income and gain to satisfy the 90% distribution requirement and to avoid imposition of the 4% excise tax.

A Fund will make the appropriate tax elections, if possible, and take any additional steps that are necessary to mitigate the effects of these rules.

**Reporting.** If a shareholder recognizes a loss with respect to a Fund’s shares of \$2 million or more for an individual shareholder or \$10 million or more for a corporate shareholder, the shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on IRS Form 8886. Direct shareholders of portfolio securities are in many cases exempted from this reporting requirement, but under current guidance, shareholders of a RIC are not exempted. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer’s treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

**Other Taxes.** Dividends, distributions and redemption proceeds may also be subject to additional state, local and non-U.S. taxes depending on each shareholder’s particular situation.

**Taxation of Non-U.S. Shareholders.** Dividends paid by a Fund to non-U.S. shareholders are generally subject to withholding tax at a 30% rate or a reduced rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty to the extent derived from investment income and short-term capital gains. Dividends paid by a Fund from net tax-exempt income or long-term capital gains are generally not subject to such withholding tax. In order to obtain a reduced rate of withholding, a non-U.S. shareholder will be required to provide an IRS Form W-8BEN or IRS Form W-8BEN-E certifying its entitlement to benefits under a treaty. The withholding tax does not apply to regular dividends paid to a non-U.S. shareholder who provides an IRS Form W-8ECI, certifying that the dividends are effectively connected with the non-U.S. shareholder’s conduct of a trade or business within the United States. Instead, the effectively connected dividends will be subject to regular U.S. income tax as if the non-U.S. shareholder were a U.S. shareholder. A non-U.S. corporation receiving effectively connected dividends may also be subject to additional “branch profits tax” imposed at a rate of 30% (or lower treaty rate). A non-U.S. shareholder who fails to provide an IRS Form W-8BEN, IRS Form W-8BEN-E or other applicable form may be subject to back-up withholding at the appropriate rate.

For taxable years beginning before January 1, 2015, properly-reported dividends are generally exempt from U.S. federal withholding tax where they (i) are paid in respect of the Fund’s “qualified net interest income” (generally, the Fund’s U.S. source interest income, other than certain contingent interest and interest from obligations of a corporation or partnership in which the Fund is at least a 10% shareholder, reduced by expenses that are allocable to such income) or (ii) are paid in respect of the Fund’s “qualified short-term capital gains” (generally, the excess of the Fund’s net short-term capital gain over

the Fund's long-term capital loss for such taxable year). However, depending on its circumstances, the Fund may report all, some or none of its potentially eligible dividends as such qualified net interest income or as qualified short-term capital gains and/or treat such dividends, in whole or in part, as ineligible for this exemption from withholding. In order to qualify for this exemption from withholding, a non-U.S. shareholder will need to comply with applicable certification requirements relating to its non-U.S. status (including, in general, furnishing an IRS Form W-8BEN, IRS Form W-8BEN-E or substitute Form). In the case of shares held through an intermediary, the intermediary may withhold even if the Fund reports the payment as qualified net interest income or qualified short-term capital gain. Non-U.S. shareholders should contact their intermediaries with respect to the application of these rules to their accounts.

For taxable years beginning before January 1, 2015, distributions that the Fund reports as "short-term capital gain dividends" or "long-term capital gain dividends" will not be treated as such to a recipient foreign shareholder if the distribution is attributable to gain received from the sale or exchange of U.S. real property or an interest in a U.S. real property holding corporation and the Fund's direct or indirect interests in U.S. real property exceeded certain levels. Instead, if the foreign shareholder has not owned more than 5% of the outstanding shares of the Fund at any time during the one year period ending on the date of distribution, such distributions will be subject to 30% withholding by the Fund and will be treated as ordinary dividends to the foreign shareholder; if the foreign shareholder owned more than 5% of the outstanding shares of the Fund at any time during the one year period ending on the date of the distribution, such distribution will be treated as real property gain subject to 35% withholding tax and could subject the foreign shareholder to U.S. filing requirements. Additionally, if the Fund's direct or indirect interests in U.S. real property were to exceed certain levels, a foreign shareholder realizing gains upon redemption from the Fund on or before December 31, 2014 could be subject to the 35% withholding tax and U.S. filing requirements unless more than 50% of the Fund's shares were owned by U.S. persons at such time or unless the foreign person had not held more than 5% of the Fund's outstanding shares throughout either such person's holding period for the redeemed shares or, if shorter, the previous five years.

The rules laid out in the previous paragraph, other than the withholding rules, will apply notwithstanding the Fund's participation in a wash sale transaction or its payment of a substitute dividend.

Provided that 50% or more of the value of a Fund's stock is held by U.S. shareholders, distributions of U.S. real property interests (including securities in a U.S. real property holding corporation, unless such corporation is regularly traded on an established securities market and the Fund has held 5% or less of the outstanding shares of the corporation during the five-year period ending on the date of distribution) occurring on or before December 31, 2014, in redemption of a foreign shareholder's shares of the Fund will cause the Fund to recognize gain. If the Fund is required to recognize gain, the amount of gain recognized will equal to the fair market value of such interests over the Fund's adjusted bases to the extent of the greatest foreign ownership percentage of the Fund during the five-year period ending on the date of redemption.

Legislation has been proposed to extend the above expiration dates, but no assurance can be provided that such legislation will be enacted.

A 30% withholding tax is currently imposed on U.S.-source dividends, interest and other income items and will be imposed on proceeds from the sale of property producing U.S.-source dividends and interest paid after December 31, 2018, to (i) foreign financial institutions, including non-U.S. investment funds, unless they agree to collect and disclose to the IRS information regarding their direct and indirect U.S. account holders; and (ii) certain other foreign entities, unless they certify certain information regarding their direct and indirect U.S. owners. To avoid withholding, foreign financial institutions will need to (i) enter into agreements with the IRS that state that they will provide the IRS information, including the names, addresses and taxpayer identification numbers of direct and indirect U.S. account holders; comply with due diligence procedures with respect to the identification of U.S. accounts; report to the IRS certain information with respect to U.S. accounts maintained; agree to withhold tax on certain payments made to non-compliant foreign financial institutions or to account holders who fail to provide the required information; and determine certain other information concerning their account holders, or (ii) in the event an intergovernmental agreement and implementing legislation are adopted, provide local revenue authorities with similar account holder information. Other foreign entities may need to report the name, address, and taxpayer identification number of each substantial U.S. owner or provide certifications of no substantial U.S. ownership unless certain exceptions apply.

Shares of a Fund held by a non-U.S. shareholder at death will be considered situated within the United States and subject to the U.S. estate tax.



The foregoing discussion is a summary of certain material U.S. federal income tax considerations only and is not intended as a substitute for careful tax planning. Purchasers of shares should consult their own tax advisors as to the tax consequences of investing in such shares, including consequences under state, local and non-U.S. tax laws. Finally, the foregoing discussion is based on applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, regulations, judicial authority and administrative interpretations in effect on the date of this SAI. Changes in applicable authority could materially affect the conclusions discussed above, and such changes often occur.

## Financial Statements

Each Fund's audited Financial Statements, including the Financial Highlights, appearing in the applicable Annual Report to Shareholders and the report therein of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, are hereby incorporated by reference in this SAI. The applicable Annual Report to Shareholders, which contains the referenced audited financial statements, is available upon request and without charge.

## Miscellaneous Information

**Counsel.** Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, located at 787 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019, is counsel to the Company.

**Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.** PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, located at Three Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, CA 94111, serves as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, audits the Funds' financial statements, and may perform other services.

**Shareholder Communications to the Board.** The Board has established a process for shareholders to communicate with the Board. Shareholders may contact the Board by mail. Correspondence should be addressed to iShares Board of Directors, c/o BlackRock Fund Advisors, iShares Fund Administration, 400 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. Shareholder communications to the Board should include the following information: (i) the name and address of the shareholder; (ii) the number of shares owned by the shareholder; (iii) the Fund(s) of which the shareholder owns shares; and (iv) if these shares are owned indirectly through a broker, financial intermediary or other record owner, the name of the broker, financial intermediary or other record owner. All correspondence received as set forth above shall be reviewed by the Secretary of the Company and reported to the Board.

**Regulation Under the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive.** The Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive ("AIFMD") imposes detailed and prescriptive obligations on fund managers established in the EU ("EU Operative Provisions"). These do not currently apply to managers established outside of the EU, such as BFA. Rather, non-EU managers are only required to comply with certain disclosure, reporting and transparency obligations of AIFMD ("AIFMD Disclosure Provisions") if such managers market a fund to EU investors.

Where the AIFMD Disclosure Provisions relate to EU Operative Provisions that do not apply to BFA, no meaningful disclosure can be made. These EU Operative Provisions include prescriptive rules on: measuring and capping leverage in line with known European standards; the treatment of investors; the use of "depositories"; and coverage for professional liability risks.

AIFMD imposes certain conditions on the marketing of funds, such as the Funds, to EU investors. AIFMD requires that an 'alternative investment fund manager' ("AIFM") be identified to meet such conditions where such marketing is sought. For these purposes BFA, as the legal entity responsible for performing the portfolio and risk management of the Funds, shall be the AIFM.

AIFMD requires disclosure on an ongoing basis of certain information relating to the use of special arrangements, leverage, rights of reuse of collateral, guarantees granted under leverage arrangements and the use of gates, side pockets and similar liquidity management tools. Given that the Funds do not use any special arrangements or allow for collateral reuse, it is not intended that such disclosures will need to be made by the Funds. Each Fund will, however, to the extent relevant and appropriate, disclose in its annual report information on the Fund's leverage, risk profile and risk management systems employed by BFA. Each Fund will also disclose material changes, if any, to the liquidity management systems and procedures employed in respect of the Fund.

BFA intends to market the following Funds to EU investors in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, and Luxembourg:

iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF  
iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF  
iShares MSCI BRIC ETF  
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ETF  
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Minimum Volatility ETF  
iShares MSCI Frontier 100 ETF  
iShares MSCI Malaysia ETF  
iShares MSCI South Korea Capped ETF  
iShares MSCI Taiwan ETF

**Investors' Rights.** Each Fund relies on the services of BFA and its other service providers, including the Distributor, administrator, custodian and transfer agent. Further information about the duties and roles of these service providers is set out in this SAI. Investors who acquire shares of a Fund are not parties to the relevant agreement with these service providers and do not have express contractual rights against the Fund or its service providers, except certain institutional investors that are Authorized Participants may have certain express contractual rights with respect to the Distributor under the terms of the relevant authorized participant agreement. Investors may have certain legal rights under federal or state law against a Fund or its service providers. In the event that an investor considers that it may have a claim against a Fund, or against any service provider in connection with its investment in the Fund, such investor should consult its own legal advisor.

By contract, Authorized Participants irrevocably submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of any New York State or U.S. federal court sitting in New York City over any suit, action or proceeding arising out of or relating to the authorized participant agreement. Jurisdiction over other claims, whether by investors or Authorized Participants, will turn on the facts of the particular case and the law of the jurisdiction in which the proceeding is brought.

# Appendix A

## BlackRock U.S. Registered Funds

### iShares by BlackRock

#### Open-End Fund<sup>1</sup> and ETF Proxy Voting Policy

#### Procedures Governing Delegation of Proxy Voting to Fund Adviser

September 28, 2015

The Boards of Trustees/Directors (“Directors”) of open-end funds advised by BlackRock Fund Advisors or BlackRock Advisors, LLC (“BlackRock”) (the “Funds”), have the responsibility for the oversight of voting proxies relating to portfolio securities of the Funds, and have determined that it is in the best interests of the Funds and their shareholders to delegate that responsibility to BlackRock as part of BlackRock’s authority to manage, acquire and dispose of account assets, all as contemplated by the Funds’ respective investment management agreements.

BlackRock has adopted guidelines and procedures (together and as from time to time amended, the “BlackRock Proxy Voting Guidelines”) governing proxy voting by accounts managed by BlackRock.

BlackRock will cast votes on behalf of each of the Funds on specific proxy issues in respect of securities held by each such Fund in accordance with the BlackRock Proxy Voting Guidelines.<sup>1</sup>

BlackRock will report on an annual basis to the Directors on (1) all proxy votes that BlackRock has made on behalf of the Funds in the preceding year together with a certification from the Funds’ Chief Compliance Officer that all votes were in accordance with the BlackRock Proxy Voting Guidelines, and (2) any changes to the BlackRock Proxy Voting Guidelines that have not previously been reported.

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<sup>1</sup> iShares MSCI All Peru Capped ETF, iShares MSCI KLD 400 Social ETF, iShares MSCI USA ESG Select ETF and iShares MSCI ACWI Low Carbon Target ETF have separate Fund Proxy Voting Policies.

## BlackRock

### Global corporate governance & engagement principles

June 2014

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- Social, ethical, and environmental issues
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BlackRock's oversight of its corporate governance activities

- Oversight
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## INTRODUCTION TO BLACKROCK

BlackRock is the world's preeminent asset management firm and a premier provider of global investment management, risk management and advisory services to institutional and individual clients around the world. BlackRock offers a wide range of investment strategies and product structures to meet clients' needs, including individual and institutional separate accounts, mutual funds, closed-end funds, and other pooled investment vehicles and the industry-leading iShares exchange traded funds. Through BlackRock Solutions<sup>®</sup>, we offer risk management, strategic advisory and enterprise investment system services to a broad base of clients.

## PHILOSOPHY ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

BlackRock's corporate governance program is focused on protecting and enhancing the economic value of the companies in which it invests on behalf of clients. We do this through engagement with boards and management of investee companies and, for those clients who have given us authority, through voting at shareholder meetings.

We believe that there are certain fundamental rights attached to share ownership. Companies and their boards should be accountable to shareholders and structured with appropriate checks and balances to ensure that they operate in shareholders' interests. Effective voting rights are central to the rights of ownership and there should be one vote for one share. Shareholders should have the right to elect, remove and nominate directors, approve the appointment of the auditor and to amend the corporate charter or by-laws. Shareholders should be able to vote on matters that are material to the protection of their investment including but not limited to changes to the purpose of the business, dilution levels and pre-emptive rights, the distribution of income and the capital structure. In order to exercise these rights effectively, we believe shareholders have the right to sufficient and timely information to be able to take an informed view of the proposals, and of the performance of the company and management.

Our focus is on the board of directors, as the agent of shareholders, which should set the company's strategic aims within a framework of prudent and effective controls which enables risk to be assessed and managed. The board should provide direction and leadership to the management and oversee management's performance. Our starting position is to be supportive of boards in their oversight efforts on our behalf and we would generally expect to support the items of business they put to a vote at shareholder meetings. Votes cast against or withheld from resolutions proposed by the board are a signal that we are concerned that the directors or management have either not acted in the interests of shareholders or have not responded adequately to shareholder concerns regarding strategy or performance.

These principles set out our approach to engaging with companies, provide guidance on our position on corporate governance and outline how our views might be reflected in our voting decisions. Corporate governance practices vary internationally and our expectations in relation to individual companies are based on the legal and regulatory framework of each market. However, as noted above, we do believe that there are some overarching principles of corporate governance that apply globally. We assess voting matters on a case-by-case basis and in light of each company's unique circumstances. We are interested to understand from the company's reporting its approach to corporate governance, particularly where it is different from the usual market practice, and how it benefits shareholders.

BlackRock also believes that shareholders have responsibilities in relation to monitoring and providing feedback to companies, sometimes known as stewardship. These ownership responsibilities include, in our view, engaging with management or board members on corporate governance matters, voting proxies in the best long-term economic interests of shareholders and engaging with regulatory bodies to ensure a sound policy framework consistent with promoting long-term shareholder value creation. Institutional shareholders also have responsibilities to their clients to have appropriate resources and oversight structures. Our own approach to oversight in relation to our corporate governance activities is set out in the section below titled "BlackRock's oversight of its corporate governance activities".

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, ENGAGEMENT AND VOTING

We recognize that accepted standards of corporate governance differ between markets but we believe that there are sufficient common threads globally to identify an overarching set of principles. The primary objective of our corporate governance activities is the protection and enhancement of the value of our clients' investments in public corporations. Thus, these principles focus on practices and structures that we consider to be supportive of long-term value creation. We discuss below the principles under six key themes. In our regional and market-specific voting guidelines we explain how these



principles inform our voting decisions in relation to specific resolutions that may appear on the agenda of a shareholder meeting in the relevant market.

The six key themes are:

- Boards and directors
- Auditors and audit-related issues
- Capital structure, mergers, asset sales and other special transactions
- Remuneration and benefits
- Social, ethical and environmental issues
- General corporate governance matters

At a minimum we would expect companies to observe the accepted corporate governance standard in their domestic market or to explain why doing so is not in the interests of shareholders. Where company reporting and disclosure is inadequate or the approach taken is inconsistent with our view of what is in the best interests of shareholders, we will engage with the company and/or use our vote to encourage a change in practice. In making voting decisions, we take into account research from proxy advisors, other internal and external research, information published by the company or provided through engagement and the views of our equity portfolio managers.

BlackRock views engagement as an important activity; engagement provides BlackRock with the opportunity to improve our understanding of investee companies and their governance structures, so that our voting decisions may be better informed. Engagement also allows us to share our philosophy and approach to investment and corporate governance with companies to enhance their understanding of our objectives. There are a range of approaches we may take in engaging companies depending on the nature of the issue under consideration, the company and the market.

## **Boards and directors**

The performance of the board is critical to the economic success of the company and to the protection of shareholders' interests. Board members serve as agents of shareholders in overseeing the strategic direction and operation of the company. For this reason, BlackRock focuses on directors in many of its engagements and sees the election of directors as one of its most important responsibilities in the proxy voting context.

We expect the board of directors to promote and protect shareholder interests by:

- establishing an appropriate corporate governance structure;
- supporting and overseeing management in setting strategy;
- ensuring the integrity of financial statements;
- making decisions regarding mergers, acquisitions and disposals;
- establishing appropriate executive compensation structures; and
- addressing business issues including social, ethical and environmental issues when they have the potential to materially impact company reputation and performance.

There should be clear definitions of the role of the board, the sub-committees of the board and the senior management such that the responsibilities of each are well understood and accepted. Companies should report publicly the approach taken to governance (including in relation to board structure) and why this approach is in the interest of shareholders. We will engage with the appropriate directors where we have concerns about the performance of the board or the company, the broad strategy of the company or the performance of individual board members. Concerns about directors may include their role on the board of a different company where that board has performed poorly and failed to protect shareholder interests.

BlackRock believes that directors should stand for re-election on a regular basis. We assess directors nominated for election or re-election in the context of the composition of the board as a whole. There should be detailed disclosure of the relevant credentials of the individual directors in order that shareholders can assess the caliber of an individual nominee. We expect there to be a sufficient number of independent directors on the board to ensure the protection of the interests of all shareholders. Common impediments to independence may include but are not limited to:

- current employment at the company or a subsidiary;

- former employment within the past several years as an executive of the company;
- providing substantial professional services to the company and/or members of the company's management;
- having had a substantial business relationship in the past three years;
- having, or representing a shareholder with, a substantial shareholding in the company;
- being an immediate family member of any of the aforementioned; and
- interlocking directorships.

BlackRock believes that the operation of the board is enhanced when there is a clearly independent, senior non-executive director to lead it. Where the chairman is also the CEO or is otherwise not independent the company should have an independent lead director. The role of this director is to enhance the effectiveness of the independent members of the board through shaping the agenda, ensuring adequate information is provided to the board and encouraging independent participation in board deliberations. The lead independent board director should be available to shareholders if they have concerns that they wish to discuss.

To ensure that the board remains effective, regular reviews of board performance should be carried out and assessments made of gaps in skills or experience amongst the members. BlackRock believes it is beneficial for new directors to be brought onto the board periodically to refresh the group's thinking and to ensure both continuity and adequate succession planning. In identifying potential candidates, boards should take into consideration the diversity of experience and expertise of the current directors and how that might be augmented by incoming directors. We believe that directors are in the best position to assess the optimal size for the board, but we would be concerned if a board seemed too small to have an appropriate balance of directors or too large to be effective.

There are matters for which the board has responsibility that may involve a conflict of interest for executives or for affiliated directors. BlackRock believes that shareholders' interests are best served when the independent members of the board form a sub-committee to deal with such matters. In many markets, these sub-committees of the board specialize in audit, director nominations and compensation matters. An ad hoc committee might also be formed to decide on a special transaction, particularly one with a related party.

#### **Auditors and audit-related issues**

BlackRock recognizes the critical importance of financial statements which should provide a complete and accurate picture of a company's financial condition. We will hold the members of the audit committee or equivalent responsible for overseeing the management of the audit function. We take particular note of cases involving significant financial restatements or ad hoc notifications of material financial weakness.

The integrity of financial statements depends on the auditor being free of any impediments to being an effective check on management. To that end, we believe it is important that auditors are, and are seen to be, independent. Where the audit firm provides services to the company in addition to the audit, the fees earned should be disclosed and explained. Audit committees should also have in place a procedure for assuring annually the independence of the auditor.

#### **Capital structure, mergers, asset sales and other special transactions**

The capital structure of a company is critical to its owners, the shareholders, as it impacts the value of their investment and the priority of their interest in the company relative to that of other equity or debt investors. Pre-emption rights are a key protection for shareholders against the dilution of their interests.

In assessing mergers, asset sales or other special transactions, BlackRock's primary consideration is the long-term economic interests of shareholders. Boards proposing a transaction need to clearly explain the economic and strategic rationale behind it. We will review a proposed transaction to determine the degree to which it enhances long-term shareholder value. We would prefer that proposed transactions have the unanimous support of the board and have been negotiated at arm's length. We may seek reassurance from the board that executive and/or board members' financial interests in a given transaction have not affected their ability to place shareholders' interests before their own. Where the transaction involves related parties, we would expect the recommendation to support it to come from the independent directors and would prefer only non-conflicted shareholders to vote on the proposal.

BlackRock believes that shareholders have a right to dispose of company shares in the open market without unnecessary restriction. In our view, corporate mechanisms designed to limit shareholders' ability to sell their shares are contrary to basic property rights. Such mechanisms can serve to protect and entrench interests other than those of the shareholders. We believe that shareholders are broadly capable of making decisions in their own best interests. We would expect any so-called 'shareholder rights plans' being proposed by a board to be subject to shareholder approval on introduction and periodically thereafter for continuation.

### **Remuneration and benefits**

BlackRock expects a company's board of directors to put in place a compensation structure that incentivizes and rewards executives appropriately and is aligned with shareholder interests, particularly long-term shareholder returns. We would expect the compensation committee to take into account the specific circumstances of the company and the key individuals the board is trying to incentivize. We encourage companies to ensure that their compensation packages incorporate appropriate and challenging performance conditions consistent with corporate strategy and market practice. We use third party research, in addition to our own analysis, to evaluate existing and proposed compensation structures. We hold members of the compensation committee or equivalent accountable for poor compensation practices or structures.

BlackRock believes that there should be a clear link between variable pay and company performance as reflected in returns to shareholders. We are not supportive of one-off or special bonuses unrelated to company or individual performance. We support incentive plans that pay out rewards earned over multiple and extended time periods. We believe consideration should be given to building claw back provisions into incentive plans such that executives would be required to repay rewards where they were not justified by actual performance. Compensation committees should guard against contractual arrangements that would entitle executives to material compensation for early termination of their contract. Finally, pension contributions should be reasonable in light of market practice.

Outside directors should be compensated in a manner that does not risk compromising their independence or aligning their interests too closely with those of the management, whom they are charged with overseeing.

### **Social, ethical, and environmental issues**

Our fiduciary duty to clients is to protect and enhance their economic interest in the companies in which we invest on their behalf. It is within this context that we undertake our corporate governance activities. We believe that well-managed companies will deal effectively with the social, ethical and environmental ("SEE") aspects of their businesses.

BlackRock expects companies to identify and report on the material, business-specific SEE risks and opportunities and to explain how these are managed. This explanation should make clear how the approach taken by the company best serves the interests of shareholders and protects and enhances the long-term economic value of the company. The key performance indicators in relation to SEE matters should also be disclosed and performance against them discussed, along with any peer group benchmarking and verification processes in place. This helps shareholders assess how well management is dealing with the SEE aspects of the business. Any global standards adopted should also be disclosed and discussed in this context.

We may vote against the election of directors where we have concerns that a company might not be dealing with SEE issues appropriately. Sometimes we may reflect such concerns by supporting a shareholder proposal on the issue, where there seems to be either a significant potential threat or realized harm to shareholders' interests caused by poor management of SEE matters. In deciding our course of action, we will assess whether the company has already taken sufficient steps to address the concern and whether there is a clear and material economic disadvantage to the company if the issue is not addressed.

More commonly, given that these are often not voting issues, we will engage directly with the board or management. The trigger for engagement on a particular SEE concern is our assessment that there is potential for material economic ramifications for shareholders.

We do not see it as our role to make social, ethical or political judgments on behalf of clients. We expect investee companies to comply, at a minimum, with the laws and regulations of the jurisdictions in which they operate. They should explain how they manage situations where such laws or regulations are contradictory or ambiguous.

### **General corporate governance matters**

BlackRock believes that shareholders have a right to timely and detailed information on the financial performance and viability of the companies in which they invest. In addition, companies should also publish information on the governance structures in place and the rights of shareholders to influence these. The reporting and disclosure provided by companies helps shareholders assess whether the economic interests of shareholders have been protected and the quality of the board's oversight of management. BlackRock believes shareholders should have the right to vote on key corporate governance matters, including on changes to governance mechanisms, to submit proposals to the shareholders' meeting and to call special meetings of shareholders.

## **BLACKROCK'S OVERSIGHT OF ITS CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ACTIVITIES**

### **Oversight**

BlackRock holds itself to a very high standard in its corporate governance activities, including in relation to executing proxy votes. This function is executed by a team of dedicated BlackRock employees without sales responsibilities (the "Corporate Governance Group"), and which is considered an investment function. BlackRock maintains three regional oversight committees ("Corporate Governance Committees") for the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) and Asia-Pacific, consisting of senior BlackRock investment professionals. All of the regional Corporate Governance Committees report to a Global Corporate Governance Oversight Committee, which is a risk-focused committee composed of senior representatives of the active and index equity investment businesses, the Deputy General Counsel, the Global Executive Committee member to whom the Corporate Governance Group reports and the head of the Corporate Governance Group. The Corporate Governance Committees review and approve amendments to their respective proxy voting guidelines ("Guidelines") and grant authority to the Global Head of Corporate Governance ("Global Head"), a dedicated BlackRock employee without sales responsibilities, to vote in accordance with the Guidelines. The Global Head leads the Corporate Governance Group to carry out engagement, voting and vote operations in a manner consistent with the relevant Corporate Governance Committee's mandate. The Corporate Governance Group engages companies in conjunction with the portfolio managers in discussions of significant governance issues, conducts research on corporate governance issues and participates in industry discussions to keep abreast of the field of corporate governance. The Corporate Governance Group, or vendors overseen by the Corporate Governance Group, also monitor upcoming proxy votes, execute proxy votes and maintain records of votes cast. The Corporate Governance Group may refer complicated or particularly controversial matters or discussions to the appropriate investors and/or regional Corporate Governance Committees for their review, discussion and guidance prior to making a voting decision.

BlackRock's Equity Policy Oversight Committee (EPOC) is informed of certain aspects of the work of the Global Corporate Governance Oversight Committee and the Corporate Governance Group.

### **Vote execution**

BlackRock carefully considers proxies submitted to funds and other fiduciary accounts ("Funds") for which it has voting authority. BlackRock votes (or refrains from voting) proxies for each Fund for which it has voting authority based on BlackRock's evaluation of the best long-term economic interests of shareholders, in the exercise of its independent business judgment, and without regard to the relationship of the issuer of the proxy (or any dissident shareholder) to the Fund, the Fund's affiliates (if any), BlackRock or BlackRock's affiliates.

When exercising voting rights, BlackRock will normally vote on specific proxy issues in accordance with its Guidelines for the relevant market. The Guidelines are reviewed regularly and are amended consistent with changes in the local market practice, as developments in corporate governance occur, or as otherwise deemed advisable by BlackRock's Corporate Governance Committees. The Corporate Governance Committees may, in the exercise of their business judgment, conclude that the Guidelines do not cover the specific matter upon which a proxy vote is requested or that an exception to the Guidelines would be in the best long-term economic interests of BlackRock's clients.

In the uncommon circumstance of there being a vote with respect to fixed income securities or the securities of privately held issuers the decision generally will be made by a Fund's portfolio managers and/or the Corporate Governance Group based on their assessment of the particular transactions or other matters at issue.

In certain markets, proxy voting involves logistical issues which can affect BlackRock's ability to vote such proxies, as well as the desirability of voting such proxies. These issues include but are not limited to: (i) untimely notice of shareholder

meetings; (ii) restrictions on a foreigner's ability to exercise votes; (iii) requirements to vote proxies in person; (iv) "share-blocking" (requirements that investors who exercise their voting rights surrender the right to dispose of their holdings for some specified period in proximity to the shareholder meeting); (v) potential difficulties in translating the proxy; and (vi) requirements to provide local agents with unrestricted powers of attorney to facilitate voting instructions. We are not supportive of impediments to the exercise of voting rights such as shareblocking or overly burdensome administrative requirements.

As a consequence, BlackRock votes proxies in these markets only on a "best-efforts" basis. In addition, the Corporate Governance Committees may determine that it is generally in the best interests of BlackRock clients not to vote proxies of companies in certain countries if the committee determines that the costs (including but not limited to opportunity costs associated with shareblocking constraints) associated with exercising a vote are expected to outweigh the benefit the client would derive by voting on the issuer's proposal.

While it is expected that BlackRock, as a fiduciary, will generally seek to vote proxies over which BlackRock exercises voting authority in a uniform manner for all BlackRock clients, the relevant Corporate Governance Committee, in conjunction with the portfolio manager of an account, may determine that the specific circumstances of such an account require that such account's proxies be voted differently due to such account's investment objective or other factors that differentiate it from other accounts. In addition, BlackRock believes portfolio managers may from time to time legitimately reach differing but equally valid views, as fiduciaries for their funds and the client assets in those Funds, on how best to maximize economic value in respect of a particular investment. Accordingly, portfolio managers retain full discretion to vote the shares in the Funds they manage based on their analysis of the economic impact of a particular ballot item.

### Conflicts management

BlackRock maintains policies and procedures that are designed to prevent undue influence on BlackRock's proxy voting activity that might stem from any relationship between the issuer of a proxy (or any dissident shareholder) and BlackRock, BlackRock's affiliates, a Fund or a Fund's affiliates. Some of the steps BlackRock has taken to prevent conflicts include, but are not limited to:

- BlackRock has adopted a proxy voting oversight structure whereby the Corporate Governance Committees oversee the voting decisions and other activities of the Corporate Governance Group, and particularly its activities with respect to voting in the relevant region of each Corporate Governance Committee's jurisdiction.
- The Corporate Governance Committees have adopted Guidelines for each region, which set forth the firm's views with respect to certain corporate governance and other issues that typically arise in the proxy voting context. The Corporate Governance Committees receive periodic reports regarding the specific votes cast by the Corporate Governance Group and regular updates on material process issues, procedural changes and other matters of concern to the Corporate Governance Committees.
- BlackRock's Global Corporate Governance Oversight Committee oversees the Global Head, the Corporate Governance Group and the Corporate Governance Committees. The Global Corporate Governance Oversight Committee conducts a review, at least annually, of the proxy voting process to ensure compliance with BlackRock's risk policies and procedures.
- BlackRock maintains a reporting structure that separates the Global Head and Corporate Governance Group from employees with sales responsibilities. In addition, BlackRock maintains procedures intended to ensure that all engagements with corporate issuers or dissident shareholders are managed consistently and without regard to BlackRock's relationship with the issuer of the proxy or dissident shareholder. Within the normal course of business, the Global Head or Corporate Governance Group may engage directly with BlackRock clients, and with employees with sales responsibilities, in discussions regarding general corporate governance policy matters, and to otherwise ensure that proxy-related client service levels are met. The Global Head or Corporate Governance Group does not discuss any specific voting matter with a client prior to the disclosure of the vote decision to all applicable clients after the shareholder meeting has taken place, except if the client is acting in the capacity as issuer of the proxy or dissident shareholder and is engaging through the established procedures independent of the client relationship.
- In certain instances, BlackRock may determine to engage an independent fiduciary to vote proxies as a further safeguard to avoid potential conflicts of interest or as otherwise required by applicable law. The independent fiduciary may either vote such proxies or provide BlackRock with instructions as to how to vote such proxies. In the latter case, BlackRock votes the proxy in accordance with the independent fiduciary's determination. Use of an independent fiduciary has been



adopted for voting the proxies related to any company that is affiliated with BlackRock or any company that includes BlackRock employees on its board of directors.

With regard to the relationship between securities lending and proxy voting, BlackRock's approach is driven by our clients' economic interests. The evaluation of the economic desirability of recalling loans involves balancing the revenue producing value of loans against the likely economic value of casting votes. Based on our evaluation of this relationship, we believe that generally the likely economic value of casting most votes is less than the securities lending income, either because the votes will not have significant economic consequences or because the outcome of the vote would not be affected by BlackRock recalling loaned securities in order to ensure they are voted. Periodically, BlackRock analyzes the process and benefits of voting proxies for securities on loan, and will consider whether any modification of its proxy voting policies or procedures is necessary in light of future conditions. In addition, BlackRock may in its discretion determine that the value of voting outweighs the cost of recalling shares, and thus recall shares to vote in that instance.

### **Voting guidelines**

The issue-specific voting Guidelines published for each region/country in which we vote are intended to summarize BlackRock's general philosophy and approach to issues that may commonly arise in the proxy voting context in each market where we invest. These Guidelines are not intended to be exhaustive. BlackRock applies the Guidelines on a case-by-case basis, in the context of the individual circumstances of each company and the specific issue under review.

As such, these Guidelines do not provide a guide to how BlackRock will vote in every instance. Rather, they share our view about corporate governance issues generally, and provide insight into how we typically approach issues that commonly arise on corporate ballots.

### **Reporting**

We report our proxy voting activity directly to clients and publically as required. In addition, we publish for clients a more detailed discussion of our corporate governance activities, including engagement with companies and with other relevant parties.

# Appendix B

**Regular Holidays.** For every occurrence of one or more intervening holidays in the applicable non-U.S. market that are not holidays observed in the U.S. equity market, the redemption settlement cycle may be extended by the number of such intervening holidays. In addition to holidays, other unforeseeable closings in a non-U.S. market due to emergencies and delivery cycles for transferring securities to redeeming investors may also prevent the Company from delivering securities within the normal settlement period.

The securities delivery cycles currently practicable for transferring portfolio securities to redeeming investors, coupled with non-U.S. market holiday schedules, will require a delivery process longer than seven calendar days, in certain circumstances. The holidays applicable to each Fund during such periods are listed below, as are instances where more than seven days will be needed to deliver redemption proceeds. Although certain holidays may occur on different dates in subsequent years, the number of days required to deliver redemption proceeds in any given year is not expected to exceed the maximum number of days listed below for each Fund. The proclamation of new holidays, the treatment by market participants of certain days as “informal holidays” (e.g., days on which no or limited securities transactions occur, as a result of substantially shortened trading hours), the elimination of existing holidays, or changes in local securities delivery practices, could affect the information set forth herein in the future.

In calendar years 2015 and 2016 (the only years for which holidays are known at the time of filing of this SAI), the dates of regular holidays affecting the relevant securities markets in which a Fund invests are as follows (please note these holiday schedules are subject to potential changes in the relevant securities markets):

## 2015

### Albania

January 1	April 6	September 24	December 8
January 2	April 13	October 19	December 25
March 16	May 1	November 30	
March 23	July 20	December 1	

### Angola

January 1	February 17	April 4	
January 2	March 8	May 1	
January 25	March 9	September 17	
February 4	April 3		

### Argentina

January 1	March 23	May 25	November 23
February 16	March 24	July 9	December 7
February 17	April 2	August 17	December 8
March 3	April 3	October 12	December 25
March 4	May 1	November 6	

### Australia

January 1	April 6	August 12	December 25
January 26	May 4	September 28	December 28
March 2	June 1	October 5	December 31
March 9	June 8	November 3	
April 3	August 3	December 24	

### Austria

January 1	May 1	October 26	December 31
January 6	May 14	December 8	
April 3	May 25	December 24	
April 6	June 4	December 25	

**Azerbaijan**

January 1	March 21	March 27	July 17
January 2	March 22	May 9	July 18
January 20	March 23	May 11	July 20
March 8	March 24	May 28	September 24
March 9	March 25	June 15	September 25
March 20	March 26	June 26	

**Bahamas**

January 1	May 25	October 12
April 3	July 10	December 25
April 6	August 3	December 26

**Bahrain**

January 1	July 18	September 25	December 16
January 4	July 19	October 14	December 17
May 1	September 23	October 22	December 23
July 17	September 24	October 23	

The Bahraini market is closed every Friday.

**Bangladesh**

January 4	June 3	July 19	December 16
March 17	July 1	September 24	December 24
March 26	July 15	September 25	December 31
April 14	July 17	September 26	
May 3	July 18	October 24	

The Bangladeshi market is closed every Friday.

**Barbados**

January 1	April 29	November 30
January 21	May 1	December 25
April 3	May 25	December 26
April 6	August 1	
April 28	August 3	

**Belarus**

January 1	March 15	May 9	December 25
January 7	April 13	July 3	
March 3	May 1	November 7	

**Belgium**

January 1	April 6	December 25
April 3	May 1	December 31

**Bermuda**

January 1	June 15	September 7
April 3	July 30	November 11
May 25	July 31	December 25

**Bosnia and Herezgovina**

January 1	September 24
January 2	November 25
April 6	December 25
May 1	

**Botswana**

January 1	May 1	July 21
January 2	May 14	September 30
April 3	July 1	October 1
April 6	July 20	December 25

**Brazil**

January 1	April 3	July 9	November 20
February 16	April 21	September 7	December 24
February 17	May 1	October 12	December 25
February 18	June 4	November 2	December 31

**Bulgaria**

January 1	April 3	May 1	December 24
January 2	April 6	May 6	December 25
March 2	April 10	September 21	December 31
March 3	April 13	September 22	

**Canada**

January 1	April 3	August 3	December 25
January 2	May 18	September 7	December 28
February 9	June 24	October 12	
February 16	July 1	November 11	

## The Cayman Islands

January 1	April 6	July 6
February 18	May 18	November 11
April 3	June 15	December 25

## Chile

January 1	June 29	December 8
April 3	July 16	December 25
May 1	September 18	December 31
May 21	October 12	

## China

January 1	February 20	May 1	October 2
January 2	February 23	June 22	October 5
February 18	February 24	September 27	October 6
February 19	April 6	October 1	October 7

## Colombia

January 1	May 1	July 20	November 16
January 12	May 18	August 7	December 8
March 23	June 8	August 17	December 25
April 2	June 15	October 12	
April 3	June 29	November 2	

## Costa Rica

January 1	May 1	December 25
April 2	September 15	
April 3	October 12	

## Cote d'Ivoire

January 1	May 1	July 17
January 4	May 14	August 7
February 9	May 25	August 15
April 6	July 15	September 23

## Croatia

January 1	May 1	August 5	December 31
January 6	June 4	October 8	
April 3	June 22	December 24	
April 6	June 25	December 25	

## Cyprus

January 1	April 1	April 13	October 1
January 6	April 3	April 14	October 28
February 23	April 6	May 1	December 24
March 25	April 10	June 1	December 25

## The Czech Republic

January 1	May 8	November 17
April 3	July 6	December 24
April 6	September 28	December 25
May 1	October 28	December 31

## Denmark

January 1	April 6	May 15	December 24
April 2	May 1	May 25	December 25
April 3	May 14	June 5	December 31

## The Dominican Republic

January 1	April 3	September 24
January 5	May 1	November 9
January 26	June 3	December 25
February 27	August 16	

## Ecuador

January 1	April 3	November 2
January 2	May 1	November 3
February 16	August 10	December 25
February 17	October 9	

## Egypt

January 1	April 12	July 18	September 24
January 3	April 13	July 23	October 6
January 7	July 1	September 22	October 14
January 25	July 17	September 23	December 23

The Egyptian market is closed every Friday.

## El Salvador

January 1	June 17	September 15
April 2	August 4	November 2
April 3	August 5	December 25
May 1	August 6	

## Estonia

January 1	April 6	June 23	December 24
February 23	May 1	June 24	December 25
February 24	May 14	August 20	December 31
April 3	June 22	December 23	

## Finland

January 1	April 3	May 14	December 25
January 6	April 6	June 19	December 31
April 2	May 1	December 24	

## France

January 1	April 6	December 25
April 3	May 1	December 31

## Gabon

January 1	May 1	August 15
January 2	May 14	August 16
April 6	May 25	August 17
April 17	July 17	September 23

## Georgia

January 1	March 3	May 12	November 23
January 2	April 9	May 26	
January 7	April 10	August 28	
January 19	April 13	October 14	

## Germany

January 1	May 1	June 4	December 31
April 3	May 14	December 24	
April 6	May 25	December 25	

## Ghana

January 1	May 1	September 21	December 28
March 6	May 25	September 24	
April 3	July 1	December 4	
April 6	July 20	December 25	

## Guernsey

January 1	May 4	December 25
April 3	May 25	December 26
April 6	August 24	

## Hong Kong

January 1	April 6	September 28	December 31
February 18	April 7	October 1	
February 19	May 1	October 21	
February 20	May 25	December 24	
April 3	July 1	December 25	

## Hungary

January 1	April 6	August 20	December 24
January 2	May 1	August 21	December 25
April 3	May 25	October 23	



## Iceland

January 1	April 23	June 17	December 31
April 2	May 1	August 3	
April 3	May 14	December 24	
April 6	May 25	December 25	

## India

January 26	April 2	August 18	November 11
February 17	April 3	September 17	November 12
February 19	April 14	September 25	November 25
March 6	May 1	October 2	December 24
April 1	May 4	October 22	December 25

## Greece

January 1	April 3	May 1	December 25
January 6	April 6	June 1	
February 23	April 10	October 28	
March 25	April 13	December 24	

## Indonesia

January 1	May 14	July 20	October 14
February 19	June 2	July 21	December 24
April 3	July 16	August 17	December 25
May 1	July 17	September 24	December 31

## Ivory Coast

January 1	May 1	May 25	December 25
April 6	May 14	August 7	

## Jamaica

January 1	April 6	October 19	
February 18	May 25	December 25	
April 3	August 6	December 26	

## Jordan

January 1	July 18	September 23	October 14
January 3	July 19	September 24	
May 25	July 20	September 25	
July 17	September 22	September 26	

The Jordanian market is closed every Friday.

## Kuwait

January 1	May 16	September 22	October 14
January 3	July 17	September 23	December 24
February 25	July 18	September 24	
February 26	July 19	September 25	

The Kuwaiti market is closed every Friday.

## Kazakhstan

January 1	March 25	August 31	December 16
January 2	May 1	September 23	December 17
January 7	May 7	September 24	
March 9	May 11	September 25	
March 24	July 6	December 1	

## Japan

January 1	May 4	September 22	December 23
January 2	May 5	September 23	December 31
January 12	May 6	October 12	
February 11	July 20	November 3	
April 29	September 21	November 23	

## Italy

January 1	April 6	December 24	December 31
April 3	May 1	December 25	

## Ireland

January 1	May 1	October 26	December 29
March 17	May 4	December 24	December 31
April 3	June 1	December 25	
April 6	August 3	December 28	

## Iraq

January 1	April 17	September 22	December 24
January 6	July 14	October 13	
March 20	July 15	October 23	

## Israel

March 5	April 8	September 13	September 28
March 17	April 9	September 14	September 29
April 3	April 22	September 15	September 30
April 5	April 23	September 22	October 1
April 6	May 24	September 23	October 4
April 7	July 26	September 27	October 5

The Israeli market is closed every Friday.

## Kenya

January 1	May 1	December 25
April 3	June 1	
April 6	October 20	

## Latvia

January 1	April 30	June 23	December 25
January 2	May 1	June 24	December 30
April 2	May 4	November 18	December 31
April 3	May 14	December 23	
April 6	June 22	December 24	

## Lebanon

January 1	April 3	September 23	December 25
January 6	April 10	September 24	
February 9	May 1	October 14	
March 25	July 17	October 23	

## Lithuania

January 1	April 3	May 14	December 24
February 16	April 6	June 24	December 25
March 11	May 1	July 6	December 31

## Luxembourg

January 1	May 1	June 23
April 3	May 14	December 24
April 6	May 25	December 25

## Malaysia

January 1	February 20	July 18	October 14
February 2	May 1	August 31	November 10
February 3	May 4	September 16	December 24
February 19	July 17	September 24	December 25

## Malaysia

January 1	February 20	July 18	October 14
February 2	May 1	August 31	November 10
February 3	May 4	September 16	December 24
February 19	July 17	September 24	December 25

## Mauritius

January 1	February 19	September 18	December 25
January 2	March 12	November 2	December 31
February 3	May 1	November 11	
February 17	July 18	December 24	

## Mongolia

January 1	February 20	July 11
January 2	February 21	July 12
February 18	March 8	July 13
February 19	June 1	

## Namibia

January 1	May 1	May 25	December 25
April 3	May 4	August 26	
April 6	May 14	December 10	

## Morocco

January 1	July 30	August 21	November 6
January 5	August 14	September 23	November 18
May 1	August 20	October 13	

## Mexico

January 1	April 2	September 16
February 2	April 3	November 20
March 16	May 1	December 25

## Malta

January 1	April 3	September 8	December 25
February 10	April 23	September 21	
March 19	May 1	November 2	
March 31	June 29	December 8	

## The Netherlands

January 1	April 6	December 25
April 3	May 1	December 31

## The Netherlands Antilles

January 1	April 30	December 25
April 3	May 1	December 31
April 6	May 25	

## New Zealand

January 1	April 3	June 1	December 28
January 2	April 6	October 26	
February 6	April 27	December 25	

## Nigeria

January 1	April 6	July 18	December 24
January 2	May 1	September 24	December 25
April 3	May 29	October 1	

## Norway

January 1	April 3	May 14	December 25
April 1	April 6	May 25	December 31
April 2	May 1	December 24	

## Oman

January 1	July 20	September 25	November 18
January 4	July 21	September 26	November 19
May 16	July 22	September 27	December 24
July 18	July 23	September 28	
July 19	September 24	October 13	

The Omani market is closed every Friday.

## Pakistan

January 1	June 30	September 22	October 23
February 5	July 1	September 23	November 9
March 23	July 20	September 24	December 24
May 1	August 14	October 22	December 25

## Palestine

January 1	July 17	September 22	October 14
January 7	July 18	September 23	November 15
March 8	July 19	September 24	
July 16	September 21	September 25	

The Palestinian market is closed every Friday.

## Panama

January 1	February 18	November 3	December 8
January 9	April 3	November 4	December 25
February 17	May 1	November 5	

## Papua

January 1	June 8	November 11
April 3	July 23	November 18
April 6	September 16	December 25

## Paraguay

January 1	April 3	June 12
March 1	May 1	August 15
April 1	May 14	September 28
April 2	May 15	

## Peru

January 1	April 3	October 8
January 2	May 1	December 8
April 2	July 28	December 25

## The Philippines

January 1	February 19	June 12	December 25
January 2	April 2	August 21	December 30
January 15	April 3	August 31	December 31
January 16	April 9	November 30	
January 19	May 1	December 24	

## Poland

January 1	April 6	November 11	December 31
January 6	May 1	December 24	
April 3	June 4	December 25	

## Romania

January 1	April 13	November 30
January 2	May 1	December 1
April 3	June 1	December 25

## Russia

January 1	January 8	May 4
January 2	January 9	May 11
January 5	February 23	June 12
January 6	March 9	November 4
January 7	May 1	December 31

## Saudi Arabia

July 17	July 20	September 28	October 1
July 18	July 21	September 29	October 2
July 19	September 23	September 30	

The Saudi Arabian market is closed every Friday.

## Serbia

January 1	February 16	April 13
January 2	February 17	May 1
January 7	April 10	November 11

## Singapore

January 1	April 3	July 17	November 10
February 19	May 1	August 10	December 25
February 20	June 1	September 24	

## The Slovak Republic

January 1	April 6	September 1	December 24
January 6	May 1	September 15	December 25
April 3	May 8	November 17	

## Slovenia

January 1	April 27	December 24
April 3	May 1	December 25
April 6	June 25	

## Qatar

January 1	July 19	September 14
February 10	July 20	September 15
March 1	July 21	September 16

The Qatari market is closed every Friday.

## Portugal

January 1	April 6	December 25
April 3	May 1	December 31

## South Africa

January 1	April 27	August 10	December 25
April 3	May 1	September 24	
April 6	June 16	December 16	

## South Korea

Jan 1	February 20	May 25	October 9
February 18	May 1	September 28	December 25
February 19	May 5	September 29	December 31

## Spain

January 1	April 6	December 24	December 31
April 3	May 1	December 25	

## Sri Lanka

January 1	February 17	May 4	November 10
January 5	March 5	June 2	November 25
January 8	April 3	July 1	December 24
January 15	April 13	July 31	December 25
February 3	April 14	September 24	
February 4	May 1	October 27	

## Srpska

January 1	January 7	April 13
January 2	January 9	May 1
January 6	April 10	

## Swaziland

January 1	April 6	July 22
January 8	May 1	December 25
April 3	May 14	

## Sweden

January 1	April 3	May 13	December 24
January 5	April 6	May 14	December 25
January 6	April 30	June 19	December 31
April 2	May 1	October 30	

## Switzerland

January 1	April 6	May 25	December 31
January 2	May 1	December 24	
April 3	May 14	December 25	

## Taiwan

January 1	February 20	April 6	October 9
January 2	February 23	May 1	
February 18	February 27	June 19	
February 19	April 3	September 28	

## Thailand

January 1	April 14	July 1	December 10
January 2	April 15	July 30	December 31
March 4	May 1	August 12	
April 6	May 5	October 23	
April 13	June 1	December 7	

## Trinidad and Tobago

January 1	April 3	July 17	December 25
February 16	April 6	August 31	
February 17	June 4	September 24	
March 30	June 19	November 11	

## Tunisia

January 1	April 9	August 13	October 25
January 3	May 1	September 24	December 24
January 14	July 18	September 25	
March 20	July 19	October 15	

## Turkey

January 1	May 19	September 23	October 28
April 23	July 16	September 24	October 29
May 1	July 17	September 25	

## Uganda

January 1	April 6	June 9	
January 26	May 1	October 9	
April 3	June 3	December 25	

## Ukraine

January 1	January 7	May 1	June 1
January 2	March 9	May 4	June 29
January 5	April 13	May 11	August 24

## The United Arab Emirates

January 1	July 20	September 27	December 24
May 15	September 24	October 15	
July 18	September 25	December 2	
July 19	September 26	December 3	

The United Arab Emirates market is closed every Friday.

## The United Kingdom

January 1	May 4	December 24	December 31
April 3	May 25	December 25	
April 6	August 31	December 28	

## The United States Bond Market

January 1	April 3	September 7	November 27*
January 19	May 22*	October 12	December 24*
February 16	May 25	November 11	December 25
April 2*	July 3	November 26	December 31*

\* The U.S. bond market has recommended early close.



## Uruguay

January 1	April 2	June 19	December 25
January 6	April 3	August 25	
February 16	May 1	October 12	
February 17	May 18	November 2	

## Venezuela

January 1	April 2	June 24	December 25
January 6	April 3	July 24	December 31
February 16	May 1	August 18	
February 17	May 14	December 8	
March 19	June 4	December 24	

## Vietnam

January 1	February 18	April 28	September 2
January 2	February 19	April 29	
February 16	February 20	April 30	
February 17	February 23	May 1	

## 2016 [TO BE UPDATED]

## Angola

January 1	March 8
January 25	March 25
February 4	April 4
February 9	

## Argentina

January 1	March 24	June 20	November 28
February 8	March 25	August 15	December 8
February 9	May 25	October 10	December 30

## Australia

January 1	April 12	August 1	December 26
January 26	April 25	August 17	December 27
March 7	May 2	September 26	December 28
March 8	May 16	October 3	December 30
March 14	June 6	November 1	
March 25	June 13	November 2	
March 28	June 14	December 23	

## Zambia

January 1	March 12	May 1	July 7
January 2	April 3	May 25	August 3
March 9	April 6	July 6	December 25

## Zimbabwe

January 1	May 1	August 11
April 3	May 25	December 22
April 6	August 10	December 25

## Austria

January 1	May 5	October 26	December 30
January 6	May 16	November 1	
March 25	May 26	December 8	
March 28	August 15	December 26	

## Azerbaijan

January 1	March 8	March 23
January 2	March 20	March 24
January 4	March 21	March 25
January 20	March 22	

## Bahamas

January 1	May 16	August 1	December 27
March 25	June 3	October 14	
March 28	July 11	December 26	

**Bahrain**

May 1	September 12	October 10	December 12
July 6	September 13	October 11	December 18
July 7	September 14	October 12	
September 11	October 2	December 11	

The Bahraini market is closed every Friday.

**Bangladesh**

February 21	July 3	September 11	November 7
March 17	July 6	September 12	December 12
March 26	July 7	September 13	December 13
April 14	August 15	September 14	December 25
May 1	August 24	October 11	
May 23	August 25	October 12	

The Bangladeshi market is closed every Friday.

**Belgium**

January 1	May 5	July 21	November 11
March 25	May 6	August 15	December 26
March 28	May 16	November 1	

**Bermuda**

January 1	June 20	September 5	December 27
March 25	July 28	November 11	
May 24	July 29	December 26	

**Botswana**

January 1	March 28	July 18	December 26
January 2	May 2	July 19	December 27
March 25	May 5	September 30	
March 26	July 1	October 1	

**Brazil**

January 1	February 9	September 7	December 30
January 20	March 25	October 12	
January 25	April 21	November 2	
February 8	May 26	November 15	

**Canada**

January 1	May 23	September 5	December 27
January 4	June 24	October 10	
February 15	July 1	November 11	
March 25	August 1	December 26	

**The Cayman Islands**

January 1	March 28	November 14	December 30
January 25	May 16	December 23	
February 10	June 13	December 26	
March 25	July 4	December 27	

**Chile**

January 1	June 27	September 19	December 8
March 24	August 15	October 10	December 23
March 25	September 16	October 31	December 30
May 23	September 18	November 1	

**China**

January 1	February 16	June 9	October 7
January 18	April 4	July 4	October 10
February 8	May 2	September 5	November 11
February 9	May 3	September 15	November 24
February 10	May 4	October 3	December 26
February 11	May 5	October 4	
February 12	May 6	October 5	
February 15	May 30	October 6	

**Colombia**

January 1	March 25	July 4	November 7
January 11	May 9	July 20	November 14
March 21	May 30	August 15	December 8
March 24	June 6	October 17	December 30

## Costa Rica

January 1	July 25	October 17	December 29
March 24	August 2	December 26	December 30
March 25	August 15	December 27	
April 11	September 15	December 28	

## Cote d'Ivoire

January 1
March 28

## Croatia

January 1	March 28	August 5	December 26
January 6	May 26	August 15	
March 25	June 22	November 1	

## Cyprus

January 1	March 28	May 3	December 26
January 6	April 1	June 20	
March 14	April 29	August 15	
March 25	May 2	October 28	

## The Czech Republic

January 1	July 6	November 17
March 28	September 28	December 26
July 5	October 28	December 30

## Denmark

January 1	March 28	May 6
March 24	April 22	May 16
March 25	May 5	December 26

## The Dominican Republic

January 1	January 25	May 16
January 4	March 25	May 26
January 21	May 2	August 16

## Ecuador

January 1	March 25	November 2	December 30
February 8	May 27	November 3	
February 9	August 12	December 6	

## Egypt

January 7	May 2	September 12	December 11
January 25	July 6	September 13	December 12
April 25	July 7	October 2	
May 1	September 11	October 6	

The Egyptian market is closed every Friday.

## El Salvador

January 1	March 25
March 24	March 26

## Estonia

January 1	March 25	May 5	June 24
February 24	March 28	June 23	December 26

## Finland

January 1	March 25	May 5	December 6
January 6	March 28	June 24	December 26

## France

January 1	May 16	July 15	November 11
March 25	May 20	August 15	December 26
March 28	May 31	October 31	
May 5	July 14	November 1	

## Gabon

January 1
March 28
April 17

## Germany

January 1	March 28	August 15	December 30
January 6	May 5	October 3	
February 8	May 16	November 1	
March 25	May 26	December 26	

## Ghana

January 1	May 2	September 12	December 27
March 7	May 25	September 21	
March 25	July 1	December 2	
March 28	July 6	December 26	

## Greece

January 1	March 25	May 16	December 26
January 6	March 28	June 20	
February 8	April 29	August 15	
March 14	May 2	October 28	

## Guernsey

January 1	May 2	August 29	December 27
March 25	May 9	December 23	December 30
March 28	May 30	December 26	

## Hong Kong

January 1	March 25	June 9	December 26
February 8	March 28	July 1	December 27
February 9	April 4	September 16	
February 10	May 2	October 10	

## Hungary

January 1	March 25	October 31	December 30
March 14	March 28	November 1	
March 15	May 16	November 26	

## Iceland

January 1	March 25	May 5	August 1
January 4	March 28	May 16	December 26
March 24	April 21	June 17	

## India

January 1	April 15	August 17	October 12
January 26	April 19	August 19	October 31
March 7	May 21	August 22	November 1
March 23	June 30	September 5	November 14
March 25	July 1	September 12	December 12
April 1	July 6	September 13	December 13
April 8	July 7	September 30	
April 14	August 15	October 11	

## Indonesia

January 1	May 5	July 7	October 3
February 8	May 6	July 8	December 12
March 9	July 4	August 17	December 26
March 25	July 5	September 12	December 30
April 8	July 6	September 13	

## Bahrain

March 20	April 2	June 26	October 10
March 21	May 22	July 6	October 11
March 22	June 4	September 12	November 28
March 23	June 5	September 20	December 12

The Irani market is closed every Thursday and Friday.

## Iraq

January 1	March 5	April 9
January 6	March 21	

## Ireland

January 1	May 2	December 23	December 30
March 17	June 6	December 26	
March 25	August 1	December 27	
March 28	October 31	December 28	

## Israel

March 24	May 11	October 4	October 20
April 24	May 12	October 11	October 23
April 25	May 13	October 12	October 24
April 26	June 12	October 16	December 25
April 27	August 14	October 17	
April 28	October 2	October 18	
April 29	October 3	October 19	

The Israeli market is closed every Friday.

## Italy

January 1	March 28	June 9	December 8
January 6	April 25	August 15	December 26
March 25	June 2	November 1	

## Jamaica

January 1	March 28	October 17	
February 10	May 23	December 26	
March 25	August 1	December 27	

## Japan

January 1	April 29	July 18	October 10
January 11	May 3	August 11	November 3
February 11	May 4	September 19	November 23
March 21	May 5	September 22	December 23

## Jordan

May 1	July 6	September 13	December 12
May 5	July 7	September 14	December 25
May 25	July 10	September 15	December 29
July 4	September 11	October 2	
July 5	September 12	November 14	

The Jordanian market is closed every Friday.

## Kazakhstan

January 1	March 21	May 9	December 1
January 4	March 22	July 6	December 16
January 7	March 23	August 30	December 19
March 8	May 2	September 12	

## Kenya

January 1	June 1	October 20	
March 25	July 6	December 12	
March 28	July 7	December 26	
May 2	October 10	December 27	

## Kuwait

January 3	July 6	September 13	December 15
February 25	July 7	September 14	December 29
February 28	September 8	October 2	
May 5	September 11	October 6	
July 5	September 12	December 12	

The Kuwaiti market is closed every Friday.

## Latvia

January 1	May 2	June 23	December 26
March 25	May 4	June 24	
March 28	May 5	November 18	

## Lebanon

January 1	March 28	July 6	September 13
January 6	April 29	July 7	October 11
February 9	May 2	August 15	November 12
March 25	May 25	September 12	December 12

## Lithuania

January 1	March 25	May 5	October 31
February 15	March 28	June 24	November 1
February 16	March 29	July 6	December 26
March 11	May 2	August 15	December 27



## Luxembourg

January 1	May 5	August 15
March 25	May 16	November 1
March 28	June 23	December 26

## Malaysia

January 1	May 23	July 7	October 3
February 1	May 30	July 8	October 31
February 8	May 31	August 31	December 12
February 9	June 4	September 12	December 26
May 2	July 6	September 16	

## Malta

January 1	March 31	September 8	December 26
February 10	June 7	September 21	
March 25	June 29	December 8	
March 28	August 15	December 13	

## Mauritius

January 1	March 7	August 15	October 31
February 1	April 8	September 5	November 2
February 8	July 6	September 6	

## Mexico

January 1	March 21	September 16	December 12
February 1	March 24	November 2	
February 5	March 25	November 21	

## Mexico

January 1	January 8	May 2	August 31
January 7	March 8	May 9	October 14

## Mongolia

January 1	February 10
February 8	February 11
February 9	March 8

## Morocco

January 1	July 7	September 14	December 12
January 11	September 12	October 3	December 13
July 6	September 13	November 18	

## Namibia

January 1	April 27	May 25	December 16
March 21	May 2	June 16	December 26
March 25	May 4	August 9	
March 28	May 5	August 26	

## The Netherlands

January 1	March 28	May 5	May 16
March 25	April 27	May 12	December 26

## The Netherlands Antilles

January 1	March 25	May 5	December 26
February 8	March 28	October 21	

## New Zealand

January 1	March 24	June 6	December 27
January 4	March 25	October 24	December 30
January 25	March 28	December 23	
February 1	April 25	December 26	

## Nigeria

January 1	May 30	September 13	December 27
March 25	July 6	October 3	
March 28	July 7	December 12	
May 2	September 12	December 26	

## Norway

January 1	March 25	May 16
March 23	March 28	May 17
March 24	May 5	December 26

## Oman

May 7	July 9	September 13	November 19
July 6	September 11	September 14	December 12
July 7	September 12	October 2	

The Omani market is closed every Friday.

## Pakistan

January 1	June 24	July 9	October 11
February 5	July 1	September 12	October 12
March 23	July 6	September 13	November 9
June 6	July 7	September 14	December 12
June 7	July 8	September 15	December 13

## Panama

January 1	March 24	November 3	December 8
February 8	March 25	November 4	December 26
February 9	May 2	November 10	
February 10	August 15	November 28	

## Papua

January 1	March 28	June 13	December 26
March 25	April 25	September 16	December 27

## Paraguay

January 1	March 24
March 1	March 25
March 23	

## Peru

January 1	June 29	August 30
March 24	July 28	November 1
March 25	July 29	December 8

## The Philippines

January 1	March 25	August 26	November 2
February 8	May 9	August 29	November 30
February 25	July 6	September 12	December 30
March 24	July 7	November 1	

## Poland

January 1	March 28	August 15	December 26
January 6	May 3	November 1	
March 25	May 26	November 11	

## Portugal

January 1	April 25	August 15	December 8
February 9	May 26	October 5	December 26
March 25	June 10	November 1	
March 28	June 13	December 1	

## Qatar

March 6	September 11	September 14
July 6	September 12	September 15
July 7	September 13	December 18

The Qatari market is closed every Friday.

## Romania

January 1	June 20	December 1
May 2	August 15	December 26

## Russia

January 1	January 7	March 7	May 10
January 4	January 8	March 8	June 13
January 5	February 22	May 2	November 4
January 6	February 23	May 9	

## Saudi Arabia

July 4	July 7	September 11	September 14
July 5	July 9	September 12	September 15
July 6	September 10	September 13	September 24

The Saudi Arabian market is closed every Friday.

## Serbia

January 1	February 15	April 29	May 3
January 7	February 16	May 2	November 11

## Singapore

January 1	May 2	July 7	October 29
February 8	May 21	August 9	October 31
February 9	May 23	September 12	December 26
March 25	July 6	September 13	

## The Slovak Republic

January 1	July 5	November 1	December 28
January 6	August 29	November 17	December 29
March 25	September 1	December 26	December 30
March 28	September 15	December 27	

## Slovenia

January 1
February 8

## South Africa

January 1	April 27	December 16	December 30
March 21	May 2	December 23	
March 25	June 16	December 26	
March 28	August 9	December 27	

## South Korea

January 1	March 1	June 6	October 3
January 4	April 5	August 15	November 10
February 8	April 13	September 14	December 30
February 9	April 14	September 15	
February 10	May 5	September 16	

## Spain

January 1	April 8	July 25	November 1
January 6	April 12	August 15	November 9
March 24	May 2	August 16	December 6
March 25	May 3	September 9	December 8
March 28	May 26	October 12	December 26

## Sri Lanka

January 1	March 25	July 6	November 14
January 15	April 13	July 19	December 12
February 4	April 14	August 17	December 13
February 22	April 21	September 12	December 26
March 7	May 2	September 16	
March 22	May 23	October 31	

## Sweden

January 1	March 24	May 4	June 24
January 5	March 25	May 5	November 4
January 6	March 28	June 6	December 26

## Switzerland

January 1	May 5	August 1	December 8
January 6	May 16	August 15	December 26
March 25	May 26	September 8	
March 28	June 29	November 1	

## Taiwan

January 1	February 10	May 2	October 5
February 4	February 11	June 9	October 10
February 5	February 12	September 15	
February 8	April 4	October 3	
February 9	April 5	October 4	

## Thailand

January 1	April 14	May 23	August 12
February 22	April 15	July 1	October 24
April 6	May 2	July 18	December 5
April 13	May 5	July 19	December 12

## Trinidad and Tobago

January 1	March 28	June 20	October 31
February 8	March 30	July 6	December 26
February 9	May 26	August 1	December 27
March 25	May 30	August 31	

## Tunisia

January 1	July 6	August 19	November 7
February 4	July 7	September 12	November 15
March 21	July 25	October 26	December 12

## Turkey

January 1	July 5	August 30	September 15
April 23	July 6	September 12	September 16
May 1	July 7	September 13	October 28
May 19	July 8	September 14	October 29

## Ukraine

January 1	March 8	May 9	August 24
January 4	May 2	June 20	
January 7	May 3	June 28	

## The United Arab Emirates

January 2	July 7	September 13	December 11
May 4	August 6	September 14	December 12
May 5	September 10	October 2	
July 5	September 11	December 3	
July 6	September 12	December 4	

The United Arab Emirates market is closed every Friday.

## The United Kingdom

January 1	May 2	December 23	December 30
March 25	May 30	December 26	
March 28	August 29	December 27	

## The United States Bond Market

January 1	March 25	September 5	November 25*
January 18	May 29*	October 10	December 24*
February 15	May 30	November 11	December 25
March 24*	July 4	November 24	December 31*

\* The U.S. bond market has recommended early close.

## Uruguay

January 1	February 9	April 18	August 25
January 6	March 24	May 16	October 10
February 8	March 25	July 18	November 2

## Venezuela

January 1	March 24	May 30	August 15
January 11	March 25	June 24	October 12
February 8	April 19	June 27	October 31
February 9	May 9	July 5	December 12

## Vietnam

January 1	February 9	April 18	May 3
February 8	February 10	May 2	September 2

## Zambia

January 1	March 28	July 4	October 24
March 8	May 5	July 5	December 26
March 25	May 25	August 1	

## Zimbabwe

January 1	April 18	August 8	December 26
March 25	May 2	August 9	
March 28	May 25	December 22	

**Redemptions** The longest redemption cycle for a Fund is a function of the longest redemption cycle among the countries and regions whose securities comprise the Fund. In the calendar years 2015 and 2016 (the only years for which holidays are known at the time of this SAI filing), the dates of regular holidays affecting the following securities markets present the worst-case redemption cycles\* for a Fund as follows:

2015

Country	Trade Date	Settlement Date	Number of Days to Settle
Australia	12/21/15	12/29/15	8
	12/22/15	12/30/15	8
	12/23/15	01/04/16	12
Brazil	02/11/15	02/19/15	8
	02/12/15	02/20/15	8
	02/13/15	02/23/15	10
China	02/13/15	02/25/15	12
	02/16/15	02/26/15	10
	02/17/15	02/27/15	10
	09/28/15	10/08/15	10
	09/29/15	10/09/15	10
	09/30/15	10/12/15	12
Indonesia	07/13/15	07/22/15	9
	07/14/15	07/23/15	9
	07/15/15	07/24/15	9
Ireland	12/22/15	12/30/15	8
	12/23/15	12/31/15	8
Israel	04/01/15	04/12/15	11
	04/02/15	04/13/15	11
	09/21/15	10/06/15	15
	09/24/15	10/07/15	13
Japan	04/28/15	05/07/15	9
	04/30/15	05/08/15	8
	05/01/15	05/11/15	10
	09/16/15	09/24/15	8
	09/17/15	09/25/15	8
	09/18/15	09/28/15	10
Kazakhstan	09/18/15	09/28/15	10
Namibia	03/27/15	04/07/15	11
	03/30/15	04/08/15	9
	03/31/15	04/09/15	9
	04/01/15	04/10/15	9
	04/02/15	04/13/15	12
	04/24/15	05/05/15	11
	04/27/15	05/06/15	9
	04/28/15	05/07/15	9
	04/29/15	05/08/15	9
	04/30/15	05/11/15	12
	05/07/15	05/15/15	8
	05/08/15	05/18/15	11
	05/11/15	05/19/15	8
	05/12/15	05/20/15	8



2015

Country	Trade Date	Settlement Date	Number of Days to Settle
	05/13/15	05/21/15	8
	05/18/15	05/26/15	8
	05/19/15	05/27/15	8
	05/20/15	05/28/15	8
	05/21/15	05/29/15	8
	05/22/15	06/01/15	11
	08/19/15	08/27/15	8
	08/20/15	08/28/15	8
	08/21/15	08/31/15	11
	08/24/15	09/01/15	11
	08/25/15	09/02/15	11
	12/03/15	12/11/15	8
	12/04/15	12/14/15	11
	12/07/15	12/15/15	8
	12/08/15	12/16/15	8
	12/09/15	12/17/15	8
	12/18/15	12/28/15	10
	12/21/15	12/29/15	8
	12/22/15	12/30/15	8
	12/23/15	12/31/15	8
	12/24/15	01/04/16	11
Norway	03/30/15	04/07/15	8
	03/31/15	04/08/15	8
Oman	07/14/15	07/26/15	12
	07/15/15	07/27/15	12
	07/16/15	07/28/15	12
	09/21/15	09/29/15	9
	09/22/15	09/30/15	9
	09/23/15	10/01/15	9
Palestine	09/16/15	09/27/15	11
	09/17/15	09/28/15	11
	09/20/15	09/29/15	9
Philippines	01/12/15	01/20/15	8
	01/13/15	01/21/15	8
	01/14/15	01/22/15	8
	12/23/15	01/04/16	12
	12/28/15	01/05/16	8
	12/29/15	01/06/16	8
Qatar	07/14/15	07/22/15	8
	07/15/15	07/23/15	8
	07/16/15	07/26/15	10
	09/09/15	09/17/15	8
	09/10/15	09/20/15	10
	09/13/15	09/21/15	8

2015

Country	Trade Date	Settlement Date	Number of Days to Settle
Russia	12/28/15	01/13/16	16
	12/29/15	01/14/16	16
	12/30/15	01/15/16	16
Saudi Arabia	09/24/15	10/04/15	10
	09/27/15	10/05/15	8
South Africa	03/27/15	04/07/15	11
	03/30/15	04/08/15	9
	03/31/15	04/09/15	9
	04/01/15	04/10/15	9
	04/02/15	04/13/15	11
	04/20/15	04/28/15	8
	04/21/15	04/29/15	8
	04/22/15	04/30/15	8
	04/23/15	05/01/15	8
	04/24/15	05/05/15	11
	04/28/15	05/06/15	8
	04/29/15	05/07/15	8
	04/30/15	05/08/15	8
	06/09/15	06/17/15	8
	06/10/15	06/18/15	8
	06/11/15	06/19/15	8
	06/12/15	06/22/15	10
	06/15/15	06/23/15	8
	08/03/15	08/11/15	8
	08/04/15	08/12/15	8
	08/05/15	08/13/15	8
	08/06/15	08/14/15	8
	08/07/15	08/17/15	10
	09/17/15	09/25/15	8
	09/18/15	09/28/15	10
	09/21/15	09/29/15	8
	09/22/15	09/30/15	8
	09/23/15	10/01/15	8
	12/09/15	12/17/15	8
	12/10/15	12/18/15	8
	12/11/15	12/21/15	10
	12/14/15	12/22/15	8
	12/15/15	12/23/15	8
	12/18/15	12/28/15	10
	12/21/15	12/29/15	8
	12/22/15	12/30/15	8
	12/23/15	12/31/15	8
	12/24/15	01/04/16	11
Spain	03/30/15	04/07/15	8
	03/31/15	04/08/15	8
	04/01/15	04/09/15	8

2015

Country	Trade Date	Settlement Date	Number of Days to Settle
Swaziland	01/01/15	01/09/15	8
	01/02/15	01/12/15	10
	01/05/15	01/13/15	8
	01/06/15	01/14/15	8
	01/07/15	01/15/15	8
	03/27/15	04/07/15	11
	03/30/15	04/08/15	9
	03/31/15	04/09/15	9
	04/01/15	04/10/15	9
	04/02/15	04/13/15	11
	04/24/15	05/04/15	10
	04/27/15	05/05/15	8
	04/28/15	05/06/15	8
	04/29/15	05/07/15	8
	04/30/15	05/08/15	8
	05/07/15	05/15/15	8
	05/08/15	05/18/15	10
	05/11/15	05/19/15	8
	05/12/15	05/20/15	8
	05/13/15	05/21/15	8
	07/15/15	07/23/15	8
	07/16/15	07/24/15	8
	07/17/15	07/27/15	10
	07/20/15	07/28/15	8
	07/21/15	07/29/15	8
	12/18/15	12/28/15	10
	12/21/15	12/29/15	8
	12/22/15	12/30/15	8
	12/23/15	12/31/15	8
	12/24/15	01/04/16	11
Taiwan	02/16/15	02/24/15	8
	02/17/15	02/25/15	8
Thailand	04/08/15	04/16/15	8
	04/09/15	04/17/15	8
	04/10/15	04/20/15	10
Uganda	01/19/15	01/27/15	8
	01/20/15	01/28/15	8
	01/21/15	01/29/15	8
	01/22/15	01/30/15	8
	01/23/15	02/02/15	10
	03/27/15	04/07/15	11
	03/30/15	04/08/15	9
	03/31/15	04/09/15	9
	04/01/15	04/10/15	9
	04/02/15	04/13/15	11
	04/24/15	05/04/15	10
	04/27/15	05/05/15	8

2015

Country	Trade Date	Settlement Date	Number of Days to Settle
	04/28/15	05/06/15	8
	04/29/15	05/07/15	8
	04/30/15	05/08/15	8
	05/27/15	06/04/15	8
	05/28/15	06/05/15	8
	05/29/15	06/08/15	10
	06/01/15	06/10/15	9
	06/02/15	06/11/15	9
	06/04/15	06/12/15	8
	06/05/15	06/15/15	10
	06/08/15	06/16/15	8
	10/02/15	10/12/15	10
	10/05/15	10/13/15	8
	10/06/15	10/14/15	8
	10/07/15	10/15/15	8
	10/08/15	10/16/15	8
	12/18/15	12/28/15	10
	12/21/15	12/29/15	8
	12/22/15	12/30/15	8
	12/23/15	12/31/15	8
	12/24/15	01/04/16	11
Vietnam	02/11/15	02/24/15	13
	02/12/15	02/25/15	13
	02/13/15	02/26/15	13
	04/23/15	05/04/15	11
	04/24/15	05/05/15	11
	04/27/15	05/06/15	9
Zimbabwe	03/27/15	04/07/15	11
	03/30/15	04/08/15	9
	03/31/15	04/09/15	9
	04/01/15	04/10/15	9
	04/02/15	04/13/15	11
	04/24/15	05/04/15	10
	04/27/15	05/05/15	8
	04/28/15	05/06/15	8
	04/29/15	05/07/15	8
	04/30/15	05/08/15	8
	05/18/15	05/26/15	8
	05/19/15	05/27/15	8
	05/20/15	05/28/15	8
	05/21/15	05/29/15	8
	05/22/15	06/01/15	10
	08/03/15	08/12/15	9
	08/04/15	08/13/15	9
	08/05/15	08/14/15	9
	08/06/15	08/17/15	11
	08/07/15	08/18/15	11
	12/15/15	12/23/15	8

2015

Country	Trade Date	Settlement Date	Number of Days to Settle
	12/16/15	12/24/15	8
	12/17/15	12/28/15	11
	12/18/15	12/29/15	11
	12/21/15	12/30/15	9
	12/23/15	12/31/15	8
	12/24/15	01/04/16	11

2016 [TO BE UPDATED]

Country	Trade Date	Settlement Date	Number of Days to Settle
Australia	12/23/15	01/04/16	12
	12/20/16	12/29/16	9
	12/21/16	01/02/17	12
	12/22/16	01/03/17	12
Bahrain	09/07/16	09/15/16	8
	09/08/16	09/18/16	10
Bangladesh	06/30/16	07/10/16	10
	09/06/16	09/15/16	9
	09/07/16	09/18/16	11
	09/08/16	09/19/16	11
China	02/03/16	02/17/16	14
	02/04/16	02/18/16	14
	02/05/16	02/19/16	14
	04/27/16	05/09/16	12
	04/28/16	05/10/16	12
	04/29/16	05/11/16	12
	09/28/16	10/11/16	13
	09/29/16	10/12/16	13
Colombia	03/18/16	03/28/16	10
Costa Rica	12/21/16	01/02/17	12
	12/22/16	01/03/17	12
	12/23/16	01/04/17	12
Indonesia	06/29/16	07/11/16	12
	06/30/16	07/12/16	12
	07/01/16	07/13/16	12
Ireland	12/21/16	12/29/16	8
	12/22/16	01/02/17	11
Israel	04/20/16	05/01/16	11
	04/21/16	05/02/16	11

2016 [TO BE UPDATED]

Country	Trade Date	Settlement Date	Number of Days to Settle
	10/10/16	10/25/16	15
	10/13/16	10/26/16	13
Japan	04/27/16	05/06/16	9
	04/28/16	05/09/16	11
	05/02/16	05/10/16	8
Jordan	06/30/16	07/11/16	11
	07/03/16	07/12/16	9
	09/08/16	09/18/16	10
	09/11/16	09/19/16	8
Kuwait	09/06/16	09/15/16	9
	09/07/16	09/18/16	11
Malaysia	07/01/16	07/11/16	10
	07/04/16	07/12/16	8
	07/05/16	07/13/16	8
Mexico	03/18/16	03/28/16	10
Morocco	09/07/16	09/15/16	8
	09/08/16	09/16/16	8
	09/09/16	09/19/16	10
Nambia	12/23/15	01/04/16	12
	12/24/15	01/05/16	12
	12/28/15	01/06/16	9
	12/29/15	01/07/16	9
	12/30/15	01/08/16	9
	03/14/16	03/22/16	8
	03/15/16	03/23/16	8
	03/16/16	03/24/16	8
	03/17/16	03/29/16	12
	03/18/16	03/30/16	12
	03/22/16	03/31/16	9
	03/23/16	04/01/16	9
	03/24/16	04/04/16	11
	04/20/16	04/28/16	8
	04/21/16	04/29/16	8
	04/22/16	05/03/16	11
	04/25/16	05/06/16	11
	04/26/16	05/09/16	13
	04/28/16	05/10/16	12
	04/29/16	05/11/16	12
	05/03/16	05/12/16	9
	05/18/16	05/26/16	8
	05/19/16	05/27/16	8
	05/20/16	05/30/16	10
	05/23/16	05/31/16	8



2016 [TO BE UPDATED]

Country	Trade Date	Settlement Date	Number of Days to Settle
	05/24/16	06/01/16	8
	06/09/16	06/17/16	8
	06/10/16	06/20/16	10
	06/13/16	06/21/16	8
	06/14/16	06/22/16	8
	06/15/16	06/23/16	8
	08/02/16	08/10/16	8
	08/03/16	08/11/16	8
	08/04/16	08/12/16	8
	08/05/16	08/15/16	10
	08/08/16	08/16/16	8
	08/19/16	08/29/16	10
	08/22/16	08/30/16	8
	08/23/16	08/31/16	8
	08/24/16	09/01/16	8
	08/25/16	09/02/16	8
	12/09/16	12/19/16	10
	12/12/16	12/20/16	8
	12/13/16	12/21/16	8
	12/14/16	12/22/16	8
	12/15/16	12/23/16	8
	12/19/16	12/27/16	8
	12/20/16	12/28/16	8
	12/21/16	12/29/16	8
	12/22/16	12/30/16	8
	12/23/16	01/02/17	10
New Zealand	03/21/16	03/29/16	8
	03/22/16	03/30/16	8
	03/23/16	03/31/16	8
	12/20/16	12/28/16	8
	12/21/16	12/29/16	8
	12/22/16	01/02/17	11
Norway	03/21/16	03/29/16	8
	03/22/16	03/30/16	8
Oman	09/06/16	09/15/16	9
	09/07/16	09/18/16	11
	09/08/16	09/19/16	11
Pakistan	09/08/16	09/16/16	8
	09/09/16	09/19/16	10
Philippines	12/23/15	01/04/16	12
	12/28/15	01/05/16	8
	12/29/15	01/06/16	8
Qatar	09/06/16	09/18/16	12
	09/07/16	09/19/16	12

2016 [TO BE UPDATED]

Country	Trade Date	Settlement Date	Number of Days to Settle
	09/08/16	09/20/16	12
Saudi Arabia	06/30/16	07/10/16	10
	07/03/16	07/11/16	8
	09/07/16	09/18/16	11
	09/08/16	09/19/16	11
Serbia	04/26/16	05/04/16	8
	04/27/16	05/05/16	8
	04/28/16	05/06/16	8
Slovakia	12/22/16	01/02/17	11
	12/23/16	01/03/17	11
South Africa	12/24/15	01/04/16	11
	12/28/15	01/05/16	8
	12/29/15	01/06/16	8
	12/30/15	01/07/16	8
	12/31/15	01/08/16	8
	03/14/16	03/22/16	8
	03/15/16	03/23/16	8
	03/16/16	03/24/16	8
	03/17/16	03/29/16	12
	03/18/16	03/30/16	12
	03/22/16	03/31/16	9
	03/23/16	04/01/16	9
	03/24/16	04/04/16	11
	04/20/16	04/28/16	8
	04/21/16	04/29/16	8
	04/22/16	05/03/16	11
	04/25/16	05/04/16	9
	04/26/16	05/05/16	9
	04/28/16	05/06/16	8
	04/29/16	05/09/16	10
	06/09/16	06/17/16	8
	06/10/16	06/20/16	10
	06/13/16	06/21/16	8
	06/14/16	06/22/16	8
	06/15/16	06/23/16	8
	08/02/16	08/10/16	8
	08/03/16	08/11/16	8
	08/04/16	08/12/16	8
	08/05/16	08/15/16	10
	08/08/16	08/16/16	8
	12/09/16	12/19/16	10
	12/12/16	12/20/16	8
	12/13/16	12/21/16	8
	12/14/16	12/22/16	8
	12/15/16	12/28/16	13
	12/16/16	12/28/16	12

2016 [TO BE UPDATED]

Country	Trade Date	Settlement Date	Number of Days to Settle
	12/19/16	12/29/16	10
	12/20/16	01/02/17	13
	12/21/16	01/03/17	13
	12/22/16	01/04/17	13
	12/28/16	01/05/17	8
	12/29/16	01/06/17	8
Sweden	12/30/15	01/07/16	8
Taiwan	02/02/16	02/15/16	13
	02/03/16	02/16/16	13
Thailand	04/08/16	04/18/16	10
	04/11/16	04/19/16	8
	04/12/16	04/20/16	8
Trinidad and Tobago	03/23/16	03/31/16	8
	03/24/16	04/01/16	8
Turkey	07/01/16	07/11/16	10
	07/04/16	07/12/16	8
	09/08/16	09/19/16	11
	09/09/16	09/20/16	11
Ukraine	12/31/15	01/08/16	8
United Arab Emirates	09/07/16	09/15/16	8
	09/08/16	09/18/16	10
Vietnam	02/03/16	02/11/16	8
	02/04/16	02/12/16	8
	02/05/16	02/15/16	10
Zimbabwe	12/24/15	01/04/16	11
	12/28/15	01/05/16	8
	12/29/15	01/06/16	8
	12/30/15	01/07/16	8
	12/31/15	01/08/16	8
	03/18/16	03/29/16	9
	03/21/16	03/30/16	9
	03/22/16	03/31/16	9
	03/23/16	04/01/16	8
	03/24/16	04/04/16	11
	04/11/16	04/19/16	8
	04/12/16	04/20/16	8
	04/13/16	04/21/16	8
	04/14/16	04/22/16	8
	04/15/16	04/25/16	10
	04/25/16	05/03/16	8
	04/26/16	05/04/16	8

2016 [TO BE UPDATED]

Country	Trade Date	Settlement Date	Number of Days to Settle
	04/27/16	05/05/16	8
	04/28/16	05/06/16	8
	04/29/16	05/09/16	10
	05/18/16	05/26/16	8
	05/19/16	05/27/16	8
	05/20/16	05/30/16	10
	05/23/16	05/31/16	8
	05/24/16	06/01/16	8
	08/01/16	08/10/16	9
	08/02/16	08/11/16	9
	08/03/16	08/12/16	9
	08/04/16	08/15/16	11
	08/05/16	08/16/16	11
	12/15/16	12/23/16	8
	12/16/16	12/27/16	11
	12/19/16	12/28/16	9
	12/20/16	12/29/16	9
	12/21/16	12/30/16	9
	12/23/16	01/02/17	10

\* These worst-case redemption cycles are based on information regarding regular holidays, which may be out of date. Based on changes in holidays, longer (worse) redemption cycles are possible.

