

MSCI ACWI IMI SDG Impact Select Index Methodology

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1 MSCI ACWI IMI SDG Impact Select Index

The MSCI ACWI IMI SDG Impact Select Index (the 'Index'¹) aims to represent the performance of a set of companies from MSCI ACWI IMI that are associated with positive contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals² (SDGs) through their products or services, as defined using the following measures:

- Alternative Energy
- Hydro Power Generation
- Energy Efficiency
- Green Building
- Sustainable Water
- Pollution Prevention
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Nutrition
- Major Disease Treatment
- Sanitation
- Contraceptives
- Affordable Real Estate
- SME Finance
- Education
- Connectivity – Digital Divide

The Index also applies a set of exclusions criteria to filter companies based on certain business activities, involvement in controversies, ESG rating, or misalignment with any of the 17 SDGs. Additionally, the Index applies a minimum weight filter, as well as sector and issuer capping.

¹ The Index is governed by a set of methodology and policy documents ("Methodology Set"), including the present index methodology document. Please refer to Appendix II for more details.

² The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted by UN Member States in 2015, serves as a shared blueprint and consists of the 17 SDGs. These goals are an urgent call for action by all countries through global partnership. (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>)

2 Constructing the MSCI ACWI IMI SDG Impact Select Index

2.1 Selection Universe

The underlying universe for the Index is defined by the constituents of the MSCI ACWI Investable Market Indexes (IMI, the 'Parent Index'), from which two separate universes of stocks are constructed (as described in sections 2.2 to 2.3).³

2.2 Filtered Universe

2.2.1 ESG Filter

The Index uses MSCI ESG Ratings, MSCI ESG Controversies, MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research, MSCI Climate Change Metrics, and MSCI Impact Solutions' SDG Alignment to determine eligibility. The exclusions filters are as follows:

Business Involvement-based Criteria

- Controversial Weapons
- Nuclear Weapons
- Conventional Weapons
- Civilian Firearms
- Tobacco
- Adult Entertainment
- Alcohol
- Gambling
- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)
- Nuclear Power
- Fossil Fuel Reserves Ownership
- Fossil Fuel Extraction
- Fossil Fuel-based Power Generation

Other ESG/SDG Criteria

- UN Global Compact Violations
- ESG Controversies Score
- Environmental Controversy Score

³ See Section 4 for further information regarding ESG and climate data used in the Index that MSCI Limited and MSCI Deutschland GmbH source from MSCI ESG Research LLC, a separate subsidiary of MSCI Inc. MSCI ESG Research is solely responsible for the creation, determination and management of such data as a provider to MSCI Limited and MSCI Deutschland GmbH. MSCI Limited and MSCI Deutschland GmbH are the benchmark administrators for the MSCI indexes.

- ESG Ratings
- SDG Net Alignment

Please refer to Appendix I for details on these criteria.

2.2.2 Country filter

Securities listed on local exchanges in any of the below select countries⁴ are excluded from the final index:

- India
- Saudi Arabia
- Kuwait
- Pakistan
- Egypt

2.3 SDG Impact Universe

The Index uses MSCI Impact Solutions' Sustainable Impact Metrics, MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research, and MSCI Climate Change Metrics to identify companies that have exposure to products and services that aim to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Companies in the Filtered Universe that have an aggregated revenue percentage of 50% or more from the following categories ('SDG Revenue') are included in the SDG Impact Universe:

- Alternative Energy
- Hydro Power Generation
- Energy Efficiency
- Green Building
- Sustainable Water
- Pollution Prevention
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Nutrition
- Major Disease Treatment
- Sanitation
- Contraceptives
- Affordable Real Estate
- SME Finance

⁴ If securities listed in Kazakhstan, Kenya, Ukraine, Russia, or Vietnam are added to MSCI ACWI IMI, they will be excluded from the Index

- Education
- Connectivity – Digital Divide

2.3.1 Selection Criteria

Within each GICS®⁵ Sector, companies selected are ranked based on their SDG Revenue, from which the top 50 securities are selected. If two or more companies have the same SDG Revenue, priority is given based on their free float-adjusted market capitalization, from largest to smallest. For sectors that have less than 50 securities, all securities are included in the Index.

2.4 Weighting Scheme

Selected constituents of the Index are weighted as follows:

2.4.1 Security Weighting

Securities that meet the selection criteria outlined in Section 2.3 are weighted by the product of the aggregated SDG Revenue and their free float-adjusted market capitalization. The weights are then normalized to sum to 100%.

2.4.2 Minimum Weight Filter

The Index applies a filter whereby each newly added constituent's weight is held at a minimum threshold of 2 basis points, whereas an existing constituent can be retained in the Index at a minimum threshold of 1 basis point. Securities that do not meet the threshold specified are deleted from the final Index. The weights are then normalized to sum to 100%.

2.4.3 Sector and Issuer Capping

The maximum weight of any sector in the Index is capped at 20%, while the maximum weight of any issuer is capped at 4.5%. The capping is applied simultaneously for each sector and issuer, with priority on sector capping to identify the excess weights that each remaining sector can receive, as a function of the number of issuers within a sector, their initial weights, and the issuer capping threshold. Excess weights are distributed among remaining sectors in proportion of their existing sector weights in the Index. Within sectors that are allocated excess weights, the weights are distributed among constituents within the sector in proportion of their existing issuer weights in the index while meeting the issuer capping requirements. Capping may also result in a drift in the component weights, as well as in a potential breach of the minimum weight filter described in Section 2.4.3.

2.5 Treatment of Unrated Companies

Companies that are not assessed on MSCI ESG Research's ESG Controversies, ESG Ratings, and SDG Alignment are excluded from the Filtered Universe.

⁵ GICS, the Global Industry Classification Standard, jointly developed by MSCI Inc. and S&P Global.

3 Maintaining the MSCI ACWI IMI SDG Impact Select Index

3.1 Semi-Annual Index Review

The Index is reviewed on a semi-annual basis, as of the close of the last business day of May and November, coinciding with the May and November Index Reviews of the Parent Index. The pro forma index is generally announced nine business days before the effective date.

As a rule, MSCI uses MSCI ESG Research data (including MSCI Impact Solutions, MSCI ESG Ratings, MSCI ESG Controversies, MSCI Business Involvement Screening Research, and MSCI Climate Change Metrics) as of the end of the month preceding the Index Reviews for the rebalancing of the Index. For some securities, such data may not be published by MSCI ESG Research by the end of the month preceding the Index Review. For such securities, MSCI will use ESG data published after the end of month, when available, for the rebalancing of the Index.

At each Semi-Annual Index Review, the Filtered and SDG Impact universes are updated based on the criteria outlined in sections 2.2 to 2.3.

3.2 Quarterly Index Reviews

The Index is also reviewed on a quarterly basis to coincide with the regular Index Reviews of the Parent Indexes. The changes are implemented at the end of February and August. The pro forma indexes are generally announced nine business days before the effective date.

At the Quarterly Index Reviews, the Index is not reconstructed. However, issuer capping is applied, ensuring that the maximum weight of any issuer is capped at 4.5%.

3.3 Ongoing Event-Related Maintenance

The general treatment of corporate events in the Index aims to minimize turnover outside of Index Reviews. The methodology aims to appropriately represent an investor's participation in an event based on relevant deal terms and pre-event weighting of the index constituents that are involved. Further, changes in index market capitalization that occur as a result of corporate event implementation will be offset by a corresponding change in the Variable Weighting Factor (VWF) of the constituent.

The following section briefly describes the treatment of common corporate events within the Index.

No new securities will be added (except where noted below) to the Index between Index Reviews. Parent Index deletions will be reflected simultaneously.

There are no deletions from the Index between Index Reviews on account of a security becoming ineligible because of reduced SDG revenue falling below the threshold, decrease in MSCI ESG Controversies Score, change in SDG Alignment assessment, and/or change in business involvement.

EVENT TYPE

EVENT DETAILS

New additions to the Parent Index

A new security added to the Parent Index (such as IPO and other early inclusions) will not be added to the index.

Spin-Offs

All securities created as a result of the spin-off of an existing Index constituent will be added to the Index at the time of event implementation if the spin-off security is also added to the Parent Index. Reevaluation for continued inclusion in the Index will occur at the subsequent Index Review.

Merger/Acquisition

For Mergers and Acquisitions, the acquirer's post event weight will account for the proportionate amount of shares involved in deal consideration, while cash proceeds will be invested across the Index.

If an existing Index constituent is acquired by a non-Index constituent, the existing constituent will be deleted from the Index and the acquiring non-constituent will not be added to the Index.

Changes in Security Characteristics

A security will continue to be an Index constituent if there are changes in characteristics (country, sector, size segment, etc.). Reevaluation for continued inclusion in the Index will occur at the subsequent Index Review.

Further detail and illustration regarding specific treatment of corporate events relevant to this Index can be found in the MSCI Corporate Events Methodology.

The MSCI Corporate Events methodology book is available at:
<https://www.msci.com/index-methodology>.

4 MSCI ESG Research

The Index is a product of MSCI Inc. that utilizes information such as company ratings and research produced and provided by MSCI ESG Research LLC (MSCI ESG Research), a subsidiary of MSCI Inc. In particular, the Index uses the following MSCI ESG Research products: MSCI Impact Solutions, MSCI ESG Ratings, MSCI ESG Controversies, MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research, and MSCI Climate Change Metrics.

4.1 MSCI Impact Solutions: Sustainable Impact Metrics

MSCI Impact Solutions' Sustainable Impact Metrics is designed to identify companies that derive revenue from products or services with positive impact on society and the environment. The Sustainable Impact Metrics are comprised of six Environmental Impact categories and seven Social Impact categories arranged by theme.

MSCI Sustainable Impact Taxonomy

Pillar	Themes	Categories
Environmental Impact	Climate Change	1. Alternative energy 2. Energy efficiency 3. Green building
	Natural capital	4. Sustainable water 5. Pollution prevention 6. Sustainable agriculture
Social Impact	Basic needs	7. Nutrition 8. Major Disease Treatment 9. Sanitation 10. Affordable Real Estate
	Empowerment	11. SME Finance 12. Education 13. Connectivity – Digital divide

Under each of the actionable environmental and social impact themes, MSCI ESG Research has identified specific categories of products and services that it has determined companies can offer as potential solutions to environmental and social challenges.

For more details on MSCI Sustainable Impact Metrics, please refer to <https://www.msci.com/legal/disclosures/esg-disclosures>.

4.2 MSCI Impact Solutions: SDG Alignment

MSCI Impact Solutions' SDG Alignment is designed to provide a holistic view of companies' net contribution – both positive and negative – towards addressing each of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG Alignment assessments and scores include analysis of companies' operations, products and services, policies, and practices and their net contribution – positive and adverse – to addressing key global challenges.

The MSCI SDG Alignment framework provides 17 SDG Net Alignment scores and 17 SDG Net Alignment assessments (including Strongly Aligned, Aligned, Neutral, Misaligned and Strongly Misaligned) for each of the 17 global goals. In addition, the model offers assessments and scores

for two dimensions, product alignment and operation alignment, for each company and for each of the 17 goals.

The MSCI SDG Alignment methodology can be found at:
<https://www.msci.com/legal/disclosures/esg-disclosures>.

4.3 MSCI ESG Ratings

MSCI ESG Ratings aim to measure entities' management of environmental, social and governance risks and opportunities. MSCI ESG Ratings use a weighted average key issue calculation that is normalized by industry to arrive at an industry-adjusted ESG score (0-10), which is then translated to a seven-point scale from 'AAA' to 'CCC', indicating how an entity manages relevant key issues relative to industry peers.

The MSCI ESG Ratings methodology can be found at: <https://www.msci.com/legal/disclosures/esg-disclosures>.

4.4 MSCI ESG Controversies

MSCI ESG Controversies provide assessments of controversies concerning the potential negative environmental, social, and/or governance impact of company operations, products and services. The evaluation framework used in MSCI ESG Controversies is designed to be consistent with international norms represented by the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and the UN Global Compact. MSCI ESG Controversies Score falls on a 0-10 scale, with "0" being the most severe controversy.

The MSCI ESG Controversies methodology can be found at:
<https://www.msci.com/legal/disclosures/esg-disclosures>.

4.5 MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research

MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research (BISR) aims to enable institutional investors to manage environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards and restrictions reliably and efficiently.

The MSCI Business Involvement Screening Research methodology can be found at:
<https://www.msci.com/legal/disclosures/esg-disclosures>.

4.6 MSCI Climate Change Metrics

MSCI Climate Change Metrics provides climate data and tools to support institutional investors seeking to integrate climate risk and opportunities into their investment strategy and processes. This includes investors seeking to achieve a range of objectives, including measuring and reporting on climate risk exposure, implementing low carbon and fossil fuel-free strategies, alignment with temperature pathways and factoring climate change research into their risk management processes, in particular through climate scenario analysis for both transition and physical risks.

The dataset spans across the four dimensions of a climate strategy: transition risks, green opportunities, physical risks and 1.5° alignment.

- **Fossil Fuels and Power Generation Metrics**

MSCI ESG Research identifies companies involved in fossil fuel-related assets and activities including fossil fuel reserves, resource extraction, power generation and generation capacity, revenue from such assets and activities and capital investments in such assets and activities. The metrics are based on disclosed activities, disclosed revenue and estimates of revenue that are extrapolated from company disclosures and eligible third-party sources (such as NGOs).

For more details on MSCI Climate Change Metrics, please refer to
<https://www.msci.com/legal/disclosures/climate-disclosures>

Appendix I: ESG Exclusions Criteria

Companies are excluded based on the following MSCI Business Involvement Screening Research, MSCI Climate Change Metrics, MSCI ESG Controversies, MSCI ESG Ratings and MSCI SDG Alignment filters:

BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT-BASED CRITERIA

- **Controversial Weapons**
 - All companies with any tie to Controversial Weapons (cluster munitions, landmines, depleted uranium weapons, biological/chemical weapons, blinding lasers, non-detectable fragments and incendiary weapons), as defined by the methodology of the MSCI Global Ex-Controversial Weapons Indexes available at <https://www.msci.com/index-methodology>
- **Nuclear Weapons**
 - All companies that manufacture nuclear warheads and/or whole nuclear missiles
 - All companies that manufacture components that were developed or are significantly modified for exclusive use in nuclear weapons (warheads and missiles)
 - All companies that manufacture or assemble delivery platforms that were developed or significantly modified for the exclusive delivery of nuclear weapons
 - All companies that provide auxiliary services related to nuclear weapons
 - All companies that manufacture components that were not developed or not significantly modified for exclusive use in nuclear weapons (warheads and missiles) but can be used in nuclear weapons
 - All companies that manufacture or assemble delivery platforms that were not developed or not significantly modified for the exclusive delivery of nuclear weapons but have the capability to deliver nuclear weapons
 - All companies that manufacture components for nuclear-exclusive delivery platforms
- **Conventional Weapons**
 - All companies deriving 5% or more revenue from the production of conventional weapons
 - All companies deriving 5% or more aggregate revenue from weapons systems, components, and support systems and services

- **Civilian Firearms**
 - All companies classified as “Producer” of firearms and small arms ammunitions for civilian markets. It does not include companies that cater to the military, government, and law enforcement markets
 - All companies deriving 5% or more aggregate revenue from the production and distribution (wholesale or retail) of firearms or small arms ammunition intended for civilian use
- **Tobacco**
 - All companies that manufacture tobacco products, such as cigars, blunts, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, inhalers, beedis, kreteks, smokeless tobacco, snuff, snus, dissolvable and chewing tobacco. This category also covers companies that grow or process raw tobacco leaves
 - All companies deriving 5% or more aggregate revenue from the production, distribution, retail, supply, and licensing of tobacco-related products
- **Adult Entertainment**
 - All companies deriving 5% or more revenue from the production of adult entertainment materials
 - All companies deriving 15% or more aggregate revenue from the production, distribution and retail of adult entertainment materials
- **Alcohol**
 - All companies deriving 5% or more revenue from the production of alcohol-related products
 - All companies deriving 15% or more aggregate revenue from the production, distribution, retail and supply of alcohol-related products
- **Gambling**
 - All companies deriving 5% or more revenue from ownership or operation of gambling-related business activities
 - All companies deriving 15% or more aggregate revenue from gambling-related business activities
- **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)**
 - All companies deriving 5% or more revenue from activities like genetically modifying plants, such as seeds and crops, and other organisms intended for agricultural use or human consumption

- **Nuclear Power**

- All companies generating 5% or more of their total electricity from nuclear power in a given year
- All companies that have 5% or more of installed capacity attributed to nuclear sources in a given fiscal year
- All companies deriving 15% or more aggregate revenue from nuclear power activities

- **Fossil Fuel Reserves Ownership**

- All companies with evidence of owning proven & probable coal reserves and/or proven oil and natural gas reserves used for energy purposes, as defined by the methodology of the MSCI Global Ex Fossil Fuels Indexes available at <https://www.msci.com/index-methodology>

- **Fossil Fuel Extraction**

- All companies deriving any revenue (either reported or estimated) from thermal coal mining or unconventional oil and gas extraction.
 - *Thermal Coal Mining:* Revenue from the mining of thermal coal (including lignite, bituminous, anthracite and steam coal) and its sale to external parties. It does not cover revenue from metallurgical coal; coal mined for internal power generation (e.g., in the case of vertically integrated power producers); intra-company sales of mined thermal coal; and revenue from coal trading
 - *Unconventional Oil & Gas Extraction:* Revenue from oil sands, oil shale (kerogen-rich deposits), shale gas, shale oil, coal seam gas, and coal bed methane. It does not cover all types of conventional oil and gas production including Arctic onshore/offshore, deep water, shallow water and other onshore/offshore.
- *Oil Sands:* All companies deriving 5% or more revenue (either reported or estimated) from oil sands extraction for a set of companies that own oil sands reserves and disclose evidence of deriving revenue from oil sands extraction. It does not cover revenue from non-extraction activities (e.g. exploration, surveying, processing, refining); ownership of oil sands reserves with no associated extraction revenues; revenue from intra-company sales.
- *Select Oil & Gas-related Activities:* All companies deriving 10% or more aggregate revenue from oil and gas related activities, including distribution / retail, equipment and services, extraction and production, pipelines and transportation and refining but excluding biofuel production and sales and trading activities.

- **Fossil Fuel-based Power Generation**

- All companies deriving 5% or more revenue (either reported or estimated) from the thermal coal-based power generation.

- All companies deriving 50% or more aggregate revenue from thermal coal based power generation, liquid fuel based power generation and natural gas based power generation⁶.

OTHER ESG/SDG CRITERIA

- **United Nations Global Compact Compliance**
 - All companies that fail to comply with the United Nations Global Compact principles
- **ESG Controversies Score**
 - All companies assessed as having involvement in ESG controversies that are classified as Red Flags (MSCI ESG Controversy Score of 0). A Red Flag indicates an ongoing, Very Severe ESG controversy implicating a company directly through its actions, products, or operations.
- **Environmental Controversy Score**
 - All companies assessed as having involvement in environmental controversies that are classified as Red (MSCI Environmental Controversy Score of 0) or Orange Flags (score of 1).
 - A Red Flag indicates an ongoing, Very Severe environmental controversy implicating a company directly through its actions, products, or operations.
 - An Orange Flag indicates an ongoing Severe environmental controversy implicating a company directly, or a Very Severe environmental controversy that is either partially resolved or indirectly attributed to the company's actions, products, or operations.
- **ESG Ratings**
 - All companies assessed as having an MSCI ESG Rating of 'B' and 'CCC'
- **SDG Net Alignment**
 - All companies that are assessed as Strongly Misaligned and Misaligned on their Net Alignment to any of the 17 SDGs

Note on Unrated Securities or Securities with Missing Coverage:

Companies that are not assessed on MSCI ESG Research's ESG Controversies, ESG Ratings, and SDG Alignment are excluded from the Filtered Universe.

⁶ As per https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ipcc_wg3_ar5_chapter7.pdf, thermal coal based power generation, liquid fuel based power generation and natural gas based power generation have median lifecycle emissions exceeding 100gCO2/kWh.

Appendix II: Methodology Set

The Index is governed by a set of methodology and policy documents (“Methodology Set”), including the present index methodology document as mentioned below:

- Description of methodology set – www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/ReadMe
- MSCI Corporate Events Methodology – www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/CE
- MSCI Fundamental Data Methodology – www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/FundData
- MSCI Index Calculation Methodology – www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/IndexCalc
- MSCI Index Glossary of Terms – www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/IndexGlossary
- MSCI Index Policies – www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/IndexPolicy
- MSCI Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) Methodology – www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/GICS
- MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes Methodology – www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/GIMI
- ESG Factors In Methodology⁷
- MSCI ACWI IMI Sustainable Impact Indexes Methodology – www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/SI
- MSCI Capped Indexes Methodology – <https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/Capped>
- MSCI Global ex Controversial Weapons Indexes Methodology – <https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/XCW>
- MSCI Global Fossil Fuels Exclusion Indexes Methodology – <https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/XFF>
- MSCI ESG Rating Select Indexes Methodology – <https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/ESGRatingSelect>

The Methodology Set for the Indexes can also be accessed from MSCI’s webpage <https://www.msci.com/index-methodology> in the section ‘Search Methodology by Index Name or Index Code’.

⁷ ‘ESG Factors in Methodology’ contains the list of environmental, social, and governance factors considered, and how they are applied in the methodology (e.g., selection, weighting or exclusion). It can be accessed in the Methodology Set as described above.

Appendix III: Changes to this Document

The following sections have been modified as of August 2023:

Section 2.2.1 and Appendix 1

- Updated to reflect the lower threshold for the Conventional Weapons and Thermal Coal Mining criteria
- Updated to reflect the addition of the Environmental Controversy Score, Adult Entertainment, Alcohol, Gambling, Genetically Modified Organisms, Nuclear Power, Fossil Fuel Reserves Ownership, and Unconventional Oil & Gas Extraction criteria
- The MSCI ESG Controversies-related language was updated to reflect MSCI ESG Research's enhancement to the underlying MSCI ESG Controversies framework

Section 3.1

- The Methodology book was updated to reflect the transition of the MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes (GIMI) to Quarterly Comprehensive Index Reviews.
- All references to "Semi-Annual Index Reviews" and "Quarterly Index Reviews" of the MSCI GIMI were replaced with "Index Reviews".

Section 4

- ESG Research Section moved to the end (changed from Section 2 to Section 4)

The following sections have been modified as of February 2025:

Section 2.2 and Appendix I

- Updated the ESG filter related to Fossil Fuel Extraction and Power Generation
- Moved the description under "Note on Unrated Securities or Securities with Missing Coverage" from Appendix I to Section 2.6 Treatment of Unrated Companies.

Section 4

- Updated the description of MSCI ESG Research products.

Appendix II

- Added details on the Methodology Set for the Index.

Contact us

[msci.com/contact-us](https://www.msci.com/contact-us)

AMERICAS

United States	+ 1 888 588 4567 *
Canada	+ 1 416 687 6270
Brazil	+ 55 11 4040 7830
Mexico	+ 52 81 1253 4020

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

South Africa	+ 27 21 673 0103
Germany	+ 49 69 133 859 00
Switzerland	+ 41 22 817 9777
United Kingdom	+ 44 20 7618 2222
Italy	+ 39 02 5849 0415
France	+ 33 17 6769 810

ASIA PACIFIC

China	+ 86 21 61326611
Hong Kong	+ 852 2844 9333
India	+ 91 22 6784 9160
Malaysia	1800818185 *
South Korea	+ 82 70 4769 4231
Singapore	+ 65 67011177
Australia	+ 612 9033 9333
Taiwan	008 0112 7513 *
Thailand	0018 0015 6207 7181 *
Japan	+ 81 3 4579 0333

* toll-free

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To learn more, please visit www.msci.com.

The process for submitting a formal index complaint can be found on the index regulation page of MSCI's website at: <https://www.msci.com/index-regulation>.

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