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# MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets Index Methodology

August 2009



# 1. INTRODUCTION

The MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index designed to serve as a benchmark covering all countries from the MSCI Frontier Markets Index and the lower size spectrum of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index.

## 2. CONSTRUCTING THE MSCI FRONTIER EMERGING MARKETS INDEX

The MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets Index is constructed by aggregating all the country indices in the MSCI Frontier Markets Index and some selected country indices in the MSCI Emerging Markets Indices.

At initial construction, Emerging Markets countries are included in the MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets Index if:

- The country's weight in the MSCI All Countries World Index (ACWI) is below 10bp; and
- The country's GNI per capita is lower than the average GNI per capita of countries classified in the upper middle income category as defined by the World Bank.

### 3. MAINTAINING THE MSCI FRONTIER EMERGING MARKETS INDEX

The changes in the country composition of the MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets Index may result from:

- Emerging Markets Annual Eligibility Review, which coincides with November Semi-Annual Index Reviews;
- Ongoing inclusion of new countries to the MSCI Frontier Markets Indices, which may take place during November or May Semi-Annual Index Reviews;
- Country migration between the MSCI Emerging Markets Index and the MSCI Frontier Markets Index, which may take place during November or May Semi-Annual Index Reviews;
- Country deletion from the MSCI Emerging Markets Index or Frontier Markets Index, not resulting from the migration.

### 3.1. Emerging Markets Annual Eligibility Review

The Emerging Markets country composition of the MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets Index is reviewed once a year at the November Semi-Annual Index Review. The Annual Eligibility Review is based on the latest GNI per capita statistics and the country weights in the MSCI ACWI Index.

During the Annual Eligibility Reviews an Emerging Market country is added if:

- The country's weight in the MSCI ACWI Index has been below 10bp for at least 3 consecutive years or below 5bp for at least 2 consecutive years;
- and
- The country's GNI per capita is lower than the threshold for the upper middle income categories of the World Bank.



During Annual Eligibility Review an Emerging Market country is deleted if:

- The country's weight in the MSCI ACWI Index has been above 15bp for at least 3 consecutive years or above 20bp for at least 2 consecutive years;
- or
- The country's GNI per capita is greater than the threshold for the high-income categories of the World Bank.

### 3.2. Ongoing Inclusion of Frontier Markets

The new countries included in the MSCI Frontier Markets Index will be simultaneously included in the MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets Index. The addition of new countries to the MSCI Frontier Markets may take place during May or November Semi-Annual Index Reviews.

### 3.3. Country Migration

If a country is reclassified from Frontier Markets to Emerging Markets, the country will be deleted if:

- The country's weight in the MSCI ACWI Index is above 20bp;
- The country's GNI per capita is greater than the threshold for the high-income categories of the World Bank.

If a country, which was excluded from the MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets Index is reclassified from Emerging Markets to Frontier Markets, it will be simultaneously included in the MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets Index.

Such migrations between Emerging Markets and Frontier Markets Index may take place during November or May Semi-Annual Index Reviews.

### 3.4. Announcement Policy

In order to give sufficient lead-time, the changes resulting from the Emerging Markets Annual Eligibility Review will be announced as part of the August Quarterly Index Review and implemented as part of subsequent November Semi-Annual Index Review.

The potential additions of countries to the MSCI Frontier Markets Index and migrations between the Emerging Markets and Frontier Markets are usually announced at least three months before the implementation.



### **APPENDIX I: SIMULATED INDEX HISTORY**

Exhibit 1 provides a performance comparison of the MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets Index with the MSCI Frontier Markets Index and MSCI Emerging Markets Index.

Exhibit 1: USD Gross Total Return of the Simulated MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets Index, the MSCI Frontier Markets Index and the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (December 1, 2002 to September 1, 2008)



With the exception of Argentina, the simulated historical list of constituent countries remained unchanged since the simulated initial construction in December 2002. In addition to the countries from the MSCI Frontier Markets Index, the following Emerging Markets countries were included in the simulated historical index calculations at the history inception: Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Thailand and Turkey. Argentina was added to the MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets Index as part of November 2004 Semi-Annual Index Review.

## **APPENDIX II: LIST OF ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES**

In addition to the countries from the MSCI Frontier Markets Index the following countries from the MSCI Emerging Markets Index are included in the MSCI Frontier Emerging Markets Index: Egypt, Peru, Philippines, Colombia and Morocco.



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### **Contact Information**

clientservice@mscibarra.com

### Americas

Americas	1.888.588.4567 (toll free)
Atlanta	+ 1.404.551.3212
Boston	+ 1.617.532.0920
Chicago	+ 1.312.706.4999
Montreal	+ 1.514.847.7506
New York	+ 1.212.804.3901
San Francisco	+ 1.415.576.2323
Sao Paulo	+ 55.11.3706.1340
Toronto	+ 1.416.628.1007

### Europe, Middle East & Africa

Amsterdam	+ 31.20.462.1382
Cape Town	+ 27.21.683.3245
Frankfurt	+ 49.69.133.859.00
Geneva	+ 41.22.817.9000
London	+ 44.20.7618.2222
Madrid	+ 34.91.700.7275
Milan	+ 39.02.5849.0415
Paris	0800.91.59.17 (toll free)
Zurich	+ 41.44.220.9300

### Asia Pacific

China Netcom	10800.852.1032 (toll free)
China Telecom	10800.152.1032 (toll free)
Hong Kong	+ 852.2844.9333
Singapore	+800.852.3749(toll-free)
Sydney	+ 61.2.9033.9333
Tokyo	+ 81.3.5226.8222

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