

# **MSCI Climate Paris Aligned Indexes Methodology**

**November 2023**



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# 1 Introduction

The MSCI Climate Paris Aligned Indexes<sup>1</sup> (“the Indexes”) are designed to support investors seeking to reduce their exposure to transition and physical climate risks and who wish to pursue opportunities arising from the transition to a lower-carbon economy while aligning with the Paris Agreement requirements. The Indexes incorporate the TCFD recommendations and are designed to exceed the minimum standards of the EU Paris-Aligned Benchmark<sup>2</sup>. The Indexes are constructed from their corresponding market capitalization weighted indexes (“the Parent Indexes”) through an optimization process that aims to:

- Exceed the minimum technical requirements laid out in the EU Delegated Act
- Align with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)<sup>3</sup>
- Align with a 1.5°C climate scenario using the MSCI Climate Value-at-Risk and a “self-decarbonization” rate of 10% year on year
- Reduce the Index’s exposure to physical risk arising from extreme weather events by at least 50%
- Shift index weight from companies facing climate transition risks to companies having climate transition opportunities, using the MSCI Low Carbon Transition Score, and by excluding categories of fossil fuel-linked companies
- Increase the weight of companies which are exposed to climate transition opportunities and reduce the weight of companies which are exposed to climate transition risks
- Reduce the weight of companies assessed as high carbon emitters using scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions
- Increase the weight of companies with credible carbon reduction targets through the weighting scheme
- Achieve a modest tracking error compared to the Parent Index and low turnover.

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<sup>1</sup> The Indexes are governed by a set of methodology and policy documents (“Methodology Set”), including the present index methodology document. The Methodology Set for the Indexes can be accessed from MSCI’s webpage <https://www.msci.com/index-methodology> in the section ‘Search Methodology by Index Name or Index Code’.

The Methodology Set includes a document ‘ESG Factors in Methodology’ that contains the list of environmental, social, and governance factors considered, and how they are applied in the methodology (e.g., selection, weighting or exclusion).

<sup>2</sup> On December 3, 2020, the European Commission has published the delegated acts in the Official Journal ( <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R1818&from=EN>) which contain the minimum technical requirements for the EU Paris-aligned Benchmarks. In case there are changes in the EU delegated acts and an update to the Index methodology is required, MSCI will issue an announcement prior to implementing the changes in the methodology. MSCI will not conduct a formal consultation for such an update.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fsb-tcfd.org/publications/final-recommendations-report/>

## 2 Index Construction Methodology

The Indexes use company ratings and research provided by MSCI ESG Research<sup>4</sup> to determine eligibility for index inclusion.

### 2.1 Eligible Universe

The Eligible Universe is constructed from the constituents of the Parent Index by excluding securities based on the exclusion criteria listed below:

1. **Controversial Weapons:** All companies involved in Controversial Weapons as defined by the methodology of the MSCI Ex-Controversial Weapons Indexes.
2. **Environmental Harm:** 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 ESG controversy implicating a company directly through its actions, products, or operations.
  - An Orange Flag indicates an ongoing Severe ESG controversy implicating a company directly, or a Very Severe ESG controversy that is either partially resolved or indirectly attributed to the company's actions, products, or operations.
3. **ESG Controversies:** 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.
4. **Oil & Gas:** All companies deriving 10% or more revenue from oil and gas related activities, including distribution / retail, equipment and services, extraction and production, petrochemicals, pipelines and transportation and refining but excluding biofuel production and sales and trading activities.
5. **Power Generation:** All companies deriving 50% or more revenue from thermal coal based power generation, liquid fuel based power generation and natural gas based power generation<sup>5</sup>.
6. **Tobacco:** All companies with involvement in Tobacco as defined by the methodology of the MSCI Global ex Tobacco Involvement Indexes.
7. **Thermal Coal Mining:** All companies deriving 1% or more revenue (either reported or estimated) from the mining of thermal coal (including lignite, bituminous, anthracite and steam coal) and its sale to external parties. It excludes revenue from metallurgical coal, coal mined for internal power generation

<sup>4</sup> See section 4 for further information regarding ESG and climate data used in the Indexes that MSCI Limited sources 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. MSCI Limited is the benchmark administrator for the MSCI indexes.

<sup>5</sup> As per [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ipcc\\_wg3\\_ar5\\_chapter7.pdf](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 100gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh.

(e.g. in the case of vertically integrated power producers), intra-company sales of mined thermal coal, and revenue from coal trading (either reported or estimated)

**8. 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.

**9. Nuclear Weapons:** All companies involved meeting specific Nuclear Weapons business involvement criteria as described in Appendix 5.

## 2.2 Optimization Constraints

At each Semi-Annual Index Review, the indexes are constructed using an optimization process that aims to achieve replicability and investability as well as minimize ex-ante tracking error relative to the Parent Index subject to the following constraints:

1. Transition and physical risk objectives – constraints detailed in Table 1
2. Transition opportunities objectives – constraints detailed in Table 2
3. Diversification objectives – constraints detailed in Table 3

The definitions of the target metrics for the optimization are detailed in Appendix 3.

Table 1: Constraints imposed to meet transition and physical risk objectives

No.	Transition and Physical Risk Objective	Target Value
1.	Minimum reduction in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Intensity (Scope 1+2+3 <sup>6</sup> ) relative to Parent Index	50%
2.	Minimum average reduction (per annum) in GHG Intensity relative to GHG Intensity at the Base Date <sup>7</sup>	10%

<sup>6</sup> Prior to the May 2020 Semi-Annual Index Review (SAIR) of the Indexes, the Weighted Average Carbon Emissions Intensity has been calculated based on Scope 1+2 Emissions.

<sup>7</sup> Prior to the May 2020 Semi-Annual Index Review (SAIR) of the Indexes, the average reduction in WACI has been calculated using Scope 1+2 Emissions since Inception.

3.	Minimum active weight in High Climate Impact Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS®) <sup>8</sup> sector relative to Parent Index as defined in Appendix 3	0%
4.	Minimum increase <sup>9</sup> in the aggregate weight in companies setting targets relative to the aggregate weight of companies setting targets in the Parent Index. Eligible Universe is defined in Section 2.1.  Companies Setting Targets are defined in Appendix 3	20%
5.	Minimum reduction in Weighted Average Potential Emissions Intensity relative to Parent Index	50%
6.	Aggregated Climate Value-at-Risk <sup>10</sup> Please see more detail on Aggregated Climate Value-at-Risk in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.	$\geq \text{Max}(-5\%, \text{Aggregated Climate VaR of Parent Index})$
7.	Minimum increase in weighted average Low Carbon Transition (LCT) Score relative to Parent Index Please see more detail on LCT Score in Appendix 1	10%
8.	Minimum reduction in Weighted Average Physical Risk Climate Value-at-Risk (Aggressive Scenario) relative to Parent Index	50% <sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup> GICS, the global industry classification standard jointly developed by MSCI Inc. and S&P Dow Jones Indices.

<sup>9</sup> During the May 2022 Index review and November 2022 Index review for MSCI Canada Climate Paris Aligned Index, constraint 4 mentioned in table 1 was not applied.

<sup>10</sup> Prior to the May 2020 Semi-Annual Index Review (SAIR) of the Indexes, the Policy Risk Climate VaR using Scope 1 Emissions since Inception.

During the November 2023 Index review the Aggregated Climate VAR constraint was applied at “ $\geq \text{Max}(-10\%, \text{Aggregated Climate Value-at-Risk of Parent Index})$ ” for 6 Indexes. The Indexes are MSCI EM Climate Paris Aligned Index, MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Climate Paris Aligned Index, MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Climate Paris Aligned Index, MSCI Japan Climate Paris Aligned Index, MSCI China Climate Paris Aligned Index and MSCI China A Climate Paris Aligned Index. For more details on Climate value-at-Risk, please refer to Appendix 2.

<sup>11</sup> In case the Parent Index has a positive Weighted Average Physical Risk Climate VaR, the floor will be applied at the level of the Weighted Average Physical Risk Climate VaR of the Parent Index

Table 2: Constraints imposed in order to meet transition opportunity objectives

No.	Transition Opportunity Objective	Target Value
9.	Minimum increase in weighted average LCT Score <sup>12</sup> relative to the Parent Index <sup>13</sup>	10%
10.	Minimum ratio of Weighted Average Green Revenue/ Weighted Average Fossil fuels-based Revenue relative to the Parent Index	4 times
11.	Minimum increase in Weighted Average Green Revenue relative to the Parent Index	100%

Table 3: Constraints imposed to meet diversification objectives

No.	Diversification Objective	Target Value
12.	Constituent Active Weight <sup>14</sup>	+/- 2%
13.	Minimum constituent weight	0.01%
14.	Security Weight as a multiple of its weight in the Parent Index	20x
15.	Active Sector Weights (the Energy GICS Sector is not constrained)	+/-5%
16.	Active Country Weights <sup>15</sup>	+/-5%
17.	One Way Turnover <sup>16</sup>	5%
18.	Common Factor Risk Aversion	0.0075
19.	Specific Risk Aversion	0.075

During the Semi-Annual Index Review, in the event that there is no optimal solution that satisfies all the optimization constraints, the following constraints will be relaxed, until an optimal solution is found:

- Relax the one-way index turnover constraint in steps of 1% up to 20%

<sup>12</sup> The constraint on increase in LCT Score is designed to underweight companies with a low LCT Score (assessed as companies facing risks from a low carbon transition) and overweight companies with a high LCT Score (assessed as companies which may have opportunities from a low carbon transition). Thus, the constraint has been repeated in Table 2 to illustrate how the constraint meets both the objectives.

<sup>13</sup> For the MSCI USA Climate Paris Aligned Index and the MSCI Japan Climate Paris Aligned Index, the minimum Increase in weighted average LCT Score relative to the Parent Index constraint is applied at 5% instead of 10%.

<sup>14</sup> For the MSCI Canada Climate Paris Aligned Index, the constituent active weight constraint is set to +/- 5% instead of +/- 2%.

<sup>15</sup> In case there are countries in the parent index which weigh less than 2.5% in the parent index then for such countries the active country upper bound of +5% is not applicable. When a country weighs less than 2.5% in parent index then the upper bound of country weight in the Index is set at three times of the country's weight in parent index.

<sup>16</sup> The May 2022 Index review for MSCI Canada Climate Paris Aligned Index was conducted by relaxing the one-way turnover constraint to 25%.

- Relax the active sector weight constraint in steps of 1% up/down to +/-20%
- The one-way index turnover constraint and the active sector weight constraint are alternately relaxed until a feasible solution is achieved.

In the event that no optimal solution is found after the above constraint relaxations are exhausted, the relevant Index will not be rebalanced for that Semi-Annual Index Review.

## 2.3 Determining the Optimized Index

The Indexes are constructed using the Barra Open Optimizer<sup>17</sup> in combination with the relevant Barra Equity Model. The optimization uses universe of eligible securities and the specified optimization objectives and constraints to determine the constituents of the Indexes.

## 2.4 Treatment of Unrated Companies

Companies not assessed by MSCI ESG Research on data for any of the following MSCI ESG Research products are not eligible for inclusion in the Indexes:

- MSCI ESG Controversies

For the treatment of unrated companies in the calculation of target metrics for the optimization, please refer to Appendix 3.

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<sup>17</sup> Please refer to Appendix 5 and 6 for more details.



### 3 Maintaining the Indexes

#### 3.1 Semi-Annual Index Reviews

The Indexes are rebalanced 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 Review of the MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes. The pro forma Indexes are in general announced nine business days before the effective date.

In general, MSCI uses MSCI ESG Research data (including MSCI Climate Change Metrics, MSCI Climate Value-at-Risk, MSCI ESG Sustainable Impact Metrics, MSCI ESG Controversies and MSCI Business Involvement Screening Research) as of the end of the month preceding the Index Reviews for the rebalancing of the Indexes.

#### 3.2 Ongoing Event Related Changes

The general treatment of corporate events in the Indexes 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.

Additionally, if the frequency of Index Reviews in the Parent Index is greater than the frequency of Index Reviews in the Index, the changes made to the Parent Index during intermediate Index Reviews will be neutralized in the Index.

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.

**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. 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 book under the sections detailing the treatment of events in Capped Weighted and Non-Market Capitalization Weighted indexes.

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

## 4 MSCI ESG Research

The Indexes are products of MSCI Inc. that utilize 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 Indexes use the following MSCI ESG Research products: MSCI Climate Change Metrics, MSCI Climate Value-at-Risk, MSCI Impact Solutions, MSCI ESG Controversies and MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research. MSCI Indexes are administered by MSCI Limited.

### 4.1 MSCI Climate Change Metrics

MSCI Climate Change Metrics provides climate data & tools to support institutional investors seeking to integrate climate risk & 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.

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

### 4.2 MSCI Climate Value-at-Risk

Climate Value-at-Risk (Climate VaR) is designed to provide a forward-looking and return-based valuation assessment to measure climate related risks and opportunities in an investment portfolio. The fully quantitative model offers deep insights into how climate change could affect company valuations.

For more details on MSCI Climate Value-at-Risk, please refer to

<https://www.msci.com/climate-data-and-metrics>.

### 4.3 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alternative energy</li> <li>2. Energy efficiency</li> <li>3. Green building</li> </ol>
	Natural capital	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Sustainable water</li> <li>5. Pollution prevention</li> <li>6. Sustainable agriculture</li> </ol>
Social Impact	Basic needs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Nutrition</li> <li>8. Major Disease Treatment</li> <li>9. Sanitation</li> <li>10. Affordable Real Estate</li> </ol>
	Empowerment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. SME Finance</li> <li>12. Education</li> <li>13. Connectivity – Digital divide</li> </ol>

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.

More detailed taxonomy for each category can be found in Section 2.4 of the MSCI ACWI Sustainable Impact Index Methodology available at <https://www.msci.com/index-methodology>.

## 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/esg-and-climate-methodologies>.

## 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.

For more details on MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research, please refer to [http://www.msci.com/resources/factsheets/MSCI\\_ESG\\_BISR.pdf](http://www.msci.com/resources/factsheets/MSCI_ESG_BISR.pdf).

## Appendix 1: MSCI Low Carbon Transition Risk Assessment

MSCI ESG Research’s Low Carbon Transition Risk assessment<sup>18</sup> is designed to identify potential leaders and laggards by holistically measuring companies’ exposure to and management of risks and opportunities related to the low carbon transition.

The outputs of this assessment are two company-level factors:

- (1) **Low Carbon Transition Category:** This factor groups companies in five categories that highlight the predominant risks and opportunities they are most likely to face in the transition (Exhibit 1).
- (2) **Low Carbon Transition Score:** This score is based on a multi-dimensional risks and opportunities assessment and considers both predominant and secondary risks a company faces. It is industry agnostic and represents an absolute assessment of a company’s position vis-à-vis the transition.

*Exhibit 1: Low Carbon Transition Categories and Scores*

LOW CARBON TRANSITION SCORE	LOW CARBON TRANSITION CATEGORY		LOW CARBON TRANSITION RISK / OPPORTUNITY	
<div style="background: linear-gradient(to bottom, #f08080, #ffcc00, #90ee90); width: 100%; height: 100%;"></div> <p>Score = 0</p>	<b>ASSET STRANDING</b>		Potential to experience “stranding” of physical / natural assets due to regulatory, market, or technological forces arising from low carbon transition.	Coal mining & coal based power generation; Oil sands exploration/production
	<b>TRANSITION</b>	<b>PRODUCT</b>	Reduced demand for carbon-intensive products and services. Leaders and laggards are defined by the ability to shift product portfolio to low-carbon products.	Oil & gas exploration & production; Petrol/diesel based automobile manufacturers, thermal power plant turbine manufacturers etc.
		<b>OPERATIONAL</b>	Increased operational and/or capital cost due to carbon taxes and/or investment in carbon emission mitigation measures leading to lower profitability of the companies.	Fossil fuel based power generation, cement, steel etc.
	<b>NEUTRAL</b>		Limited exposure to low carbon transition carbon risk. Though companies in this category could have exposure to physical risk and/or indirect exposure to low carbon transition risk via lending, investment etc.	Consumer staples, healthcare, etc.
	<b>SOLUTIONS</b>		Potential to benefit through the growth of low-carbon products and services.	Renewable electricity, electric vehicles, solar cell manufacturers etc.
Score = 10				

<sup>18</sup> For more details on MSCI Climate Change Metrics: <https://www.msci.com/climate-change-solutions>

**Calculation methodology**

The Low Carbon Transition Categories and Scores are determined by a combination of each company’s current risk exposure and its efforts to manage the risks and opportunities presented by the low carbon transition. The 3-step process followed by MSCI ESG Research is explained below.

**Step 1: Measure Low Carbon Transition Risk Exposure**

The first step towards measuring the Low Carbon Transition Risk Exposure for a company is the computation of its Carbon Intensity profile – which is informed by its Product Carbon Intensity, Operational Carbon Intensity and Total Carbon Intensity. In the next step, we compute Low Carbon Transition Risk Exposure Category and Score based on Total Carbon Intensity.

**Step 2: Assess Low Carbon Transition Risk Management**

In the second step, we assess a company’s management of risks and opportunities presented by the low carbon transition. This assessment is based on policies and commitments to mitigate transition risk, governance structures, risk management programs and initiatives, targets and performance, and involvement in any controversies.

**Step 3: Calculate Low Carbon Transition Category and Score**

In the final step, the Low Carbon Transition Risk Exposure Category and Score that was calculated in Step 1 are adjusted for the strength of management efforts. Following this adjustment, Low Carbon Transition Risk Exposure Score of companies with top or second quartile risk management improves and some top and second quartile companies may move up one category.

## Appendix 2: MSCI Climate Value-at-Risk

The MSCI Climate Value-at-Risk measurement helps investors to assess future costs related to climate change and understand what those future costs could mean in the current valuation of securities. The premise of Climate Value-at-Risk is to aggregate costs related to specific climate risks and calculate what these costs might signify about financial performance into the foreseeable future.

### **1.5°C Aggregated Policy Risk Equity Climate VaR (REMIND NGFS Orderly) [%]**

An equity's aggregated downside policy risk exposure according to all emission sources (Scope 1, 2, 3), expressed as a percentage of the equity's market value, assuming a global 1.5°C target and using carbon prices from the REMIND model under the NGFS Orderly scenario. Please refer to the Climate VaR methodology document for further details on scenario options.

### **1.5°C Technology Opportunities Equity Climate VaR (REMIND NGFS Orderly) [%]**

An equity's upside technology opportunity exposure, expressed as a percentage of the equity's market value capped at 100%, assuming a global 1.5°C target and calculated using carbon prices from the REMIND model under the NGFS Orderly scenario. Please refer to the Climate VaR methodology document for further details on scenario options.

### **4°C Aggregated Physical Risk Equity Climate VaR (IPCC SSP3-7.0, Aggressive Outcome) [%]**

An equity's "worst-case" (95th percentile) downside or upside potential, expressed as a percentage of the equity's market value, assuming trends in extreme cold, extreme heat, extreme precipitation, heavy snowfall, extreme wind, coastal flooding, fluvial flooding, river low flow, tropical cyclones and wildfires continue along the 4°C IPCC SSP3-7.0 scenario.



## Appendix 3: Calculation of Target Metrics

### Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Intensity

MSCI ESG Research collects company-specific direct (Scope 1) and indirect (Scope 2) greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) data from company public documents and/or the Carbon Disclosure Project. If a company does not report GHG emissions, then MSCI ESG Research estimates Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions.

MSCI ESG Research estimates company-specific indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions from the Scope 3 Carbon Emissions Estimation Model. The data is generally updated on an annual basis.

### Calculation of GHG Intensity

Carbon emissions of a company are normalized for size by dividing annual carbon emissions by Enterprise Value including Cash (EVIC). The Carbon Emissions Intensity is calculated using the latest Scope 1+2 carbon emissions, Scope 3 carbon emissions and EVIC of a company.

Security Level GHG Intensity (Scope 1+2+3) =

*(Unadjusted Security Level GHG Intensity (Scope 1+2) + Unadjusted Security Level GHG Intensity (Scope 3)) \* (1 + EVIAF)*

Unadjusted Security Level GHG Intensity (Scope 1+2) =

$$\frac{(\text{Scope 1 + 2 Carbon Emissions})}{\text{EVIC (in M\$)}}$$

If Scope 1+2 carbon emissions and/or EVIC are not available, the average Scope 1+2 intensity of all the constituents of the MSCI ACWI in the same GICS Industry Group in which the security belongs is used.

Unadjusted Security Level GHG Intensity (Scope 3) =

$$\frac{(\text{Scope 3 Carbon Emissions})}{\text{EVIC (in M\$)}}$$

If Scope 3 carbon emissions and/or EVIC are not available, the average Scope 3 intensity of all the constituents of the MSCI ACWI in the same GICS Industry Group in which the security belongs is used.

Enterprise Value Inflation Adjustment Factor (EVIAF) =

$$\left( \frac{\text{Average(EVIC)}}{\text{Previous (Average(EVIC))}} \right) - 1$$

Weighted Average GHG Intensity of Parent Index =

$$\sum (Weight\ in\ Parent\ Index * Security\ Level\ GHG\ Intensity)$$

Weighted Average GHG Intensity of Derived Index =

$$\sum (Index\ Weight * Security\ Level\ GHG\ Intensity)$$

### Calculation of Potential Carbon Emissions Intensity

Security Level Potential Carbon Emissions (PCE) Intensity =

$$\frac{Absolute\ Potential\ Emissions}{EVIC\ (in\ M\$)}$$

If Absolute Potential Emissions data is not available, MSCI uses zero fossil fuel reserves.

Weighted Average Potential Emissions Intensity of Parent Index =

$$\sum (Weight\ in\ Parent\ Index * Security\ Level\ PCE\ Intensity)$$

Weighted Average Potential Emissions Intensity of Derived Index =

$$\sum (Index\ Weight * Security\ Level\ PCE\ Intensity)$$

### Calculation of Average Decarbonization

On average, the Indexes follow a 10% decarbonization trajectory since the Base Date. The Weighted Average GHG Intensity at the Base Date ( $W_1$ ) is used to compute the target Weighted Average GHG Intensity at any given Semi-Annual Index Review ( $W_t$ ) as per the below formula.

$$W_t = W_1 * 0.90^{\frac{(t-1)}{2}}$$

Where 't' is the number of Semi-Annual Index Reviews since the Base Date.

Thus, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Semi-Annual Index Review since the Base Date (t=3), the target Weighted Average GHG Intensity will be  $W_1 * 0.90$ .

### Companies Setting Targets

The Indexes require a minimum 20% increase in the aggregate weight of companies setting targets compared to the weight of such companies in the Eligible Universe (as defined in section 2.1). Companies setting targets are defined as companies having one or more active carbon emissions reduction target(s) approved by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), or companies meeting all the following requirements:

- Companies publishing emissions reduction targets or having one or more active carbon emissions reduction target(s) approved by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi)
- Companies publishing their annual emissions and
- Companies reducing their GHG intensity by 7% over each of the last 3 years

### Calculation of Green Revenue to Fossil fuels-based Revenue Multiple

#### Green Revenue

For each constituent in the Parent Index, the Green Revenue% is calculated as the cumulative revenue (%) from the six Clean Tech themes which are as follows:

- Alternative Energy – products and services that support the transmission, distribution and generation of renewable energy and alternative fuels to reduce carbon and pollutant emissions in supporting affordable and clean energy to combat climate change.
- Energy Efficiency – products, and services that support the maximization of productivity in labor, transportation, power and domestic applications with minimal energy consumption to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.
- Sustainable Water – products, services, infrastructure projects and technologies that resolve water scarcity and water quality issues, through minimizing and monitoring current water demand, improving the quality and availability of water supply to improve resource management in both domestic and industrial use.
- Green Building – design, construction, redevelopment, retrofitting, or acquisition of green-certified properties to promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Pollution Prevention – products, services, infrastructure projects and technologies that reduces volume of waste materials through recycling, minimizes introduction of toxic substances, and offers remediation of existing contaminants such as heavy metals and organic pollutants in various environmental media to significantly address pollution in all levels and its negative effects
- Sustainable Agriculture - revenues from forest and agricultural products that meet environmental and organic certification requirements to address significantly biodiversity loss, pollution, land disturbance, and water overuse

The Weighted Average Green Revenue% is calculated as:

$$= \sum (Weight\ in\ Index * Green\ Revenue\%)$$

### Fossil fuels-based Revenue

For each constituent in the Parent Index, the Fossil fuels-based Revenue% is calculated as the cumulative revenue (%) from the following sources:

- Revenue% (either reported or estimated) from the mining of thermal coal (including lignite, bituminous, anthracite and steam coal) and its sale to external parties. It excludes 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 (either reported or estimated)
- Revenue% from the extraction, production and refining of Conventional and Unconventional Oil & Gas. Conventional Oil and Gas includes Arctic onshore/offshore, deep water, shallow water and other onshore/offshore. Unconventional Oil and Gas includes oil sands, oil shale (kerogen-rich deposits), shale gas, shale oil, coal seam gas, and coal bed methane.
- Revenue% from thermal coal based power generation, liquid fuel based power generation and natural gas based power generation.

The Weighted Average Fossil fuels-based Revenue% is calculated as:

$$= \sum (Weight\ in\ Index * Brown\ Revenue\%)$$

The Green Revenues to Fossil fuels-based Revenues multiple for either the Parent Index or the Index is calculated as a ratio of the Weighted Average Green Revenue to the Weighted Average Fossil fuels-based Revenue as per the formula below:

$$= \frac{Weighted\ Average\ Green\ Revenue\%}{Weighted\ Average\ Brown\ Revenue\%}$$

### Aggregated Climate Value-at-Risk (VaR)

The Index-level Aggregated Climate Value-at-Risk for any Index is calculated as the sum of the below 3 components:

1. **Policy Risk Climate VaR<sup>19</sup> (1.5 Degrees):** Weighted average of security level 1.5°C Aggregated Policy Risk Equity Climate VaR (REMIND NGFS Orderly) [%]

<sup>19</sup> Starting from the May 2020 Semi-Annual Index Review, the Policy Risk Climate VaR used in the Indexes incorporate Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions as well. The Policy Risk Climate VaR used in the May 2020 Semi-Annual Index Review of the Indexes is as of September 30, 2020.

2. **Technology Opportunities Climate VaR (1.5 Degrees):** Weighted average of security level 1.5°C Technology Opportunities Equity Climate VaR (REMIND NGFS Orderly) [%]
3. **Physical Risk Climate VaR (4 Degrees, Aggressive Outcome):** Weighted average of security level Aggregated Physical Risk Equity Climate VaR (Aggressive Outcome) [%]

### Climate Impact Sectors

NACE<sup>20</sup> is the European Union’s classification of economic activities. As per the draft DA, stocks in the NACE Section codes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, L are classified as “High Climate Impact” sector and other stocks are classified ‘Low Climate Impact’ sector. The GICS<sup>21</sup> Sub-Industry code for each security is mapped to the corresponding “Climate Impact Sector” using a mapping. This mapping is constructed in the following steps:

1. MSCI has published a mapping<sup>22</sup> between the NACE classes and GICS Sub-Industry.
2. For each GICS Sub-Industry, the number of NACE classes which fall under the High Climate Impact Sector (say the number of classes is  $N_H$ ) and Low Climate Impact Sector (say the number of classes is  $N_L$ ) is identified
3. If all the NACE classes for a given GICS Sub-Industry are identified in the High Climate Impact Sector ( $N_L = 0$ ), then the GICS Sub-Industry is mapped to the High Climate Impact Sector. Conversely, if all the NACE classes for a given GICS Sub-Industry are identified in the Low Climate Impact Sector ( $N_H = 0$ ) then the GICS Sub-Industry is mapped to the Low Climate Impact Sector
4. In case a GICS Sub-Industry is mapped to some NACE classes in the High Climate Impact Sector and the others in the Low Climate Impact Sector, the GICS Industry is mapped to the Climate Impact Sector in the following manner:
  - a.  **$N_H \geq N_L$ :** If the number of NACE classes in the High Climate Impact Sector is at least equivalent to the number of NACE classes in the Low Climate Impact Sector, the GICS Sub-Industry is mapped to the High Climate Impact Sector
  - b.  **$N_H < N_L$ :** If the number of NACE classes in the High Climate Impact Sector is less than the number of NACE classes in the Low Climate Impact Sector, the GICS Sub-Industry is mapped to the Low Climate Impact Sector

<sup>20</sup> For further details regarding NACE, please refer to [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=NACE\\_background](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=NACE_background)

<sup>21</sup> For further information regarding GICS, please refer to <https://www.msci.com/gics>

<sup>22</sup> This mapping is available in the [Handbook of Climate Transition Benchmarks, Paris-Aligned Benchmark and Benchmarks’ ESG Disclosures](#). Please note that the mapping does not reflect changes in the GICS structure that were implemented in the MSCI indexes on June 1, 2023.



5. Using the GICS Sub-Industry to Climate Impact Sector mapping created in Step 4, and the security-level GICS Sub-Industry, each security in the Parent Index is classified in either High Climate Impact Sector or Low Climate Impact Sector

## Appendix 4: Decarbonization Trajectory of Indexes

The Weighted Average GHG Intensity on the Base Date ( $W_1$ ) is used to compute the target Weighted Average GHG Intensity at any given Semi-Annual Index Review ( $W_t$ ) as per the below formula.

$$W_t = W_1 * 0.90^{\frac{(t-1)}{2}}$$

Where 't' is the number of Semi-Annual Index Reviews since the Base Date. The table below shows the Weighted Average GHG Intensity on the Base Date ( $W_1$ ) for each of the regions where the Indexes are constructed:

Index	Parent Index	Base Date	$W_1$ (tCO <sub>2</sub> /M\$ Enterprise Value + Cash)
MSCI ACWI Climate Paris Aligned Index	MSCI ACWI Index	June 01, 2020	231.29
MSCI ACWI ex USA Climate Paris Aligned Index	MSCI ACWI ex USA Index	June 01, 2020	316.55
MSCI World Climate Paris Aligned Index	MSCI World Index	June 01, 2020	227.32
MSCI World ex USA Climate Paris Aligned Index	MSCI World ex USA Index	June 01, 2020	299.55
MSCI World ex EMU Climate Paris Aligned Index	MSCI World ex EMU Index	June 01, 2020	211.72
MSCI EM (Emerging Markets) Climate Paris Aligned Index	MSCI EM (Emerging Markets) Index	June 01, 2020	316.75
MSCI Europe Climate Paris Aligned Index	MSCI Europe Index	June 01, 2020	270.23
MSCI EMU Climate Paris Aligned Index	MSCI EMU Index	June 01, 2020	306.37
MSCI USA Climate Paris Aligned Index	MSCI USA Index	June 01, 2020	208.81
MSCI Canada Climate Paris Aligned Index	MSCI Canada Index	June 01, 2020	226.52
MSCI Japan Climate Paris Aligned Index	MSCI Japan Index	June 01, 2020	400.80
MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Climate Paris Aligned Index	MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Index	June 01, 2020	302.43

## **Appendix 5: Companies Involved in Nuclear Weapons Business**

Companies, whose activities meet the following criteria, as determined by MSCI ESG Research, are excluded from the Index:

- 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.



## **Appendix 6: Barra Equity Model Used in The Optimization**

The Indexes currently use an optimization setup using the MSCI Barra Global Equity Model for Long-Term Investors (GEMTLT).

## **Appendix 7: New release of Barra® Equity Model or Barra® Optimizer**

A major new release of the relevant Barra Equity Model or Barra Optimizer may replace the former version within a suitable timeframe.

## Appendix 8: Changes to this Document

### The following sections have been updated effective June 01, 2022:

- Section 3.3: Added footnotes for the constraints that were relaxed during May 2022 SAIR.

### The following sections have been updated effective December 01, 2022:

- Section 1: Updated the references to the delegated acts.
- Section 3.3: Added footnotes for the constraints that were relaxed during November 2022 SAIR.

### The following sections have been modified as of February 2023:

- 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 3.3: Added footnote to clarify the constituent active weight constraint applied to the MSCI Canada Climate Paris Aligned Index.

### The following sections have been modified as of May 2023:

- Methodology book was updated to reflect the change in the target for Aggregated Climate Value -At-Risk from greater than or equal to 0% to greater than or equal to -5%.
- The definition of Companies Setting Targets was expanded to include any company which has received Science Based Targets from the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi)
- The calculation of aggregate weight of ‘Companies Setting Target’ will only include companies which are not excluded from the index, as per the exclusion criteria described in section 3.2 of the methodology document.
- Section 2: The reference to the Applicable Universe was removed to simplify the Index Construction methodology.
- The ESG Research Product descriptions were moved from section 2 to section 4

**The following sections have been modified as of November 2023:**

- The ESG Screening criteria was updated in Section 2.1 to include Civilian Firearms and Nuclear Weapons.
- The treatment of companies with ratings and research not available from MSCI ESG Research was added to Section 2.4
- The Climate Value-at-Risk models and scenarios used were updated in Appendix 2 and 3.
- The references on NACE and GICS mapping was updated in Appendix 3.
- The calculation of GHG Intensity was updated to reflect the missing data treatment for Scope 1+2, Scope 3 and EVIC in Appendix 3
- The calculation of Potential Emissions was clarified in Appendix 3.
- The detailed description for the Nuclear Weapons screening criteria was added in Appendix 5.

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