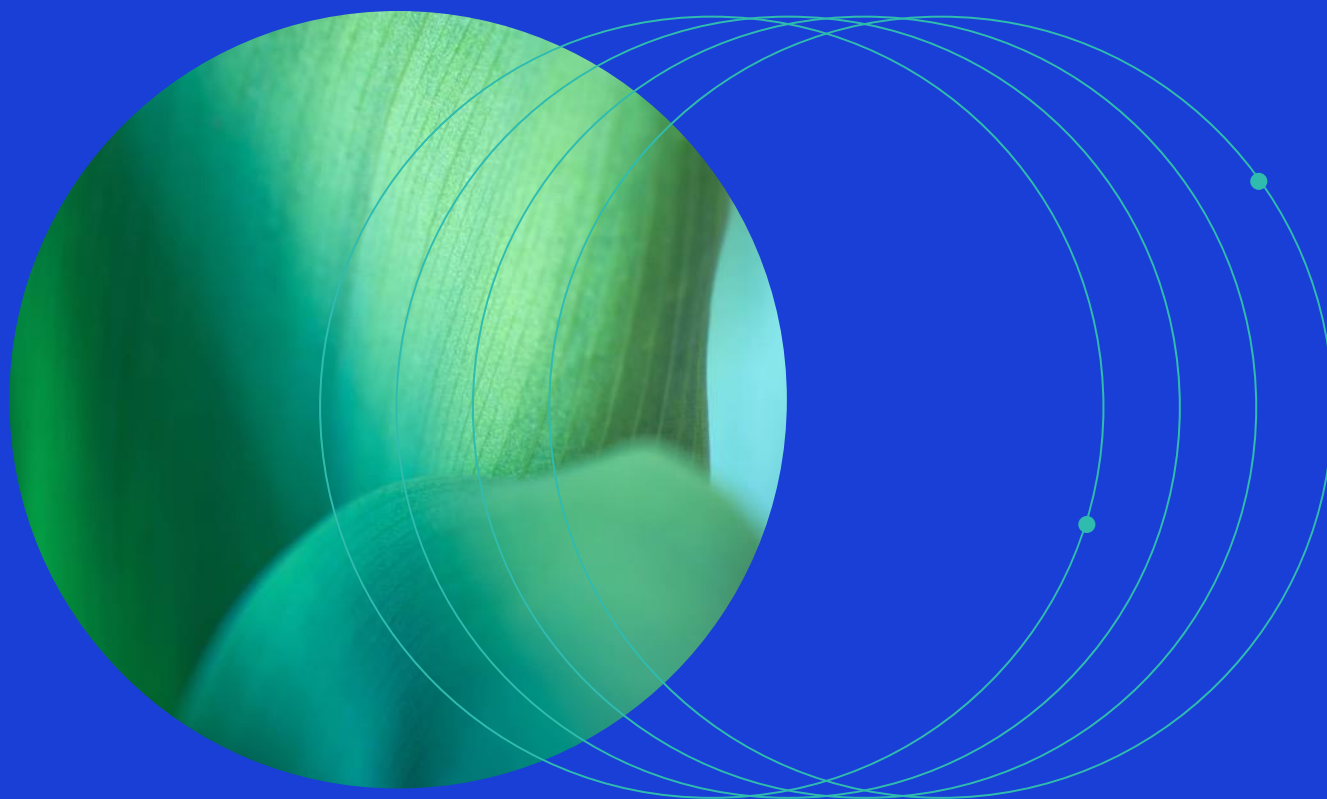


MSCI GLOBAL MARKET ACCESSIBILITY REVIEW



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1 Introduction

The MSCI 2025 Global Market Accessibility Review Report includes updated assessments for all markets included in the MSCI Indexes as well as comparisons to the 2024 review¹. This report provides analysis of the evolution of Developed, Emerging, Frontier and Standalone Markets with respect to each market's level of accessibility.²

The MSCI Global Market Accessibility Review aims to assess and track the evolution of accessibility in individual markets, and to inform market authorities about areas that global institutional investors perceive as not meeting international standards and would welcome improvements.

On an annual basis, the MSCI Global Market Accessibility Review Report provides a detailed assessment of market accessibility for each equity market included in the MSCI Indexes and evaluates the following five market accessibility criteria:

- Openness to foreign ownership
- Ease of capital inflows and outflows
- Efficiency of the operational framework
- Availability of investment instruments
- Stability of the institutional framework

These five criteria reflect the areas that international institutional investors strongly emphasize when evaluating a market's investment accessibility. These include equal treatment of investors, free flow of capital, cost of investment, unrestrictive use of stock market data, and market-specific risk.

MSCI uses 18 distinct accessibility measures (outlined below) to assess these five criteria. The evaluation of the accessibility measures is primarily based on investor experience as documented through feedback from market participants including active and passive asset

¹ Bulgaria is not included in the MSCI 2025 Global Market Accessibility Review report. The market accessibility assessment results for this market will be made available concurrent with the MSCI 2025 Annual Market Classification Review announcement on June 24, 2025.

² The information and analysis in this report are based on data and market conditions as of May 31, 2025. Any changes in accessibility occurring after this date will be addressed and incorporated into subsequent reports.

managers, asset owners, brokers, custodians, stock exchanges and regulators.

The analysis and assessment of each individual accessibility measure were performed in the same way across all markets, regardless of current market classification. The aggregate assessment of where a market stands with respect to the five criteria allows MSCI to determine if a market’s accessibility level meets Developed, Emerging or Frontier Market standards. MSCI welcomes feedback from the investment community to ensure that its market accessibility assessment continues to reflect international institutional investors’ experience of investing in a given equity market. The MSCI Global Market Accessibility Review is updated annually in June with interim updates released as necessary.

2 Assessing Accessibility

This section describes the rationale underlying each of the accessibility criteria and related measures and the principles used in their assessment. In some cases, the existence (or the lack of) certain practices systematically defaults to a negative assessment in the relevant category.

2.1 Openness to Foreign Investors

In general, one of the most desirable features that international investors would like to see in a market is that no distinction is made between local and international investors. To assess this level of openness the following characteristics need to be analyzed and measured.

2.1.1 Investor Qualification Requirement

The international standard for Developed Markets is the absence of any investor qualification requirement. Near the other end of the spectrum, a qualified foreign institutional investor (QFII) license system is highly problematic as it discriminates not only between domestic and foreign investors, but also among different international investors. The requirement of a QFII license would lead to a low assessment.

2.1.2 Foreign Ownership Limit Level

Ideally, international investors would like to see no difference in the opportunity set available to them and to local investors. Foreign ownership restrictions tend to be placed on specific industries which may result in an important sector bias in the opportunity set for foreign investors. MSCI has also considered the proportion of a market that is restricted in order to assess the materiality of the restrictions, using the pro forma data from the most recent index review. In its assessment, MSCI assigns a negative rating when more than ten percent of a market is closed to foreign investors. A restriction between three and ten is viewed as a matter of some concern, while less than three percent is considered not to be a material issue. In general, changes in criteria's rating driven solely by price movement are reflected only if the market consistently breaches the relevant thresholds for three consecutive

years. These levels were established after analyzing the varying market impacts resulting from the foreign ownership limits across all markets.

2.1.3 Foreign Room Level

When the foreign ownership limit is reached, investors face a significant challenge. In some cases, the most recent buyers may be forced to sell. More commonly, however, breaching the limit has historically resulted in unequal treatment between existing and new investors, as managers may be unable to allocate the same number of shares across funds. This can be mitigated by the presence of a foreign board or by the listing of depositary receipts in another market where foreign investors could trade with each other, but these solutions may introduce another layer of problems as transactions tend to take place at a premium over the official listing. To assess the materiality of the problem, MSCI has considered the impact on the respective country Investable Market Index resulting from the exclusion or partial exclusion of securities from such index due to low foreign room using pro forma data from the most recent index review. More than one percent impact on the MSCI country Investable Market Index (IMI) has resulted in a negative rating, between one and 0.3 percent impact has been considered as a matter of some concern, while less than 0.3 percent impact has been considered as not being a material issue. In general, changes in criteria's rating driven solely by price movement will be reflected if the market consistently breaches the relevant thresholds for three consecutive years. These levels were set after analyzing the different impacts of low foreign room across all markets.

2.1.4 Equal Rights to Foreign Investors

Restrictions on foreign investors can take the form of separate share classes with those with reduced voting rights being the only ones available to foreign investors. International investors seek equal treatment in terms of economic and voting rights. As a practical matter, the exercise of equal economic rights requires, among other things, equal treatment in the case of corporate actions which implies proper access to information in English. Equality of voting rights is impacted not only by voting restrictions specific to foreign investors, but also by other limitations imposed on minority shareholders in general. Low foreign ownership limits, generalized use of share classes with different voting

rights to facilitate the control of companies, other forms of discrimination against foreign and minority shareholders, as well as major corporate governance problems, generally would lead to lower ratings in this measure.

2.2 Ease of Capital Inflows and Outflows

International investors want to be in a position to move capital in and out of a market without disruption, delay and cost inefficiency. This is measured by the following:

2.2.1 Capital Flows Restriction Levels

Countries that currently impose or have a record of recent imposition of capital controls to restrict inflows or outflows of capital into or from their equity markets are assessed negatively.

2.2.2 Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level

In Developed Markets, the standard is the existence of a fully convertible currency, which includes an active offshore deliverable currency market. Developed Markets investors are used to the simultaneous execution of all their FX trades with the counterparty of their choice, based on best execution. The absence of an offshore currency market leads to a negative assessment, as it forces parties to transact onshore at a higher cost, very often through a limited choice of intermediaries, and therefore often not on the basis of best execution. Limited foreign exchange liquidity available to foreign investors would also contribute to a negative assessment.

2.3 Efficiency of the Operational Framework

This category reflects the features an international investor views as necessary to ensure their holdings are clearly identified and well protected, operational risks are minimized as much as possible, and that the processes of trading, clearing, settlement and custody function properly and cost effectively. In the context of Developed Markets, high levels of efficiency have enabled the management of equity funds at extremely low cost. As a result, maintaining this efficiency—rather than compromising it by adding less cost-effective markets—has become a key priority for a significant segment of the investment management industry.

2.3.1 Market Entry

2.3.1.1 Investor Registration & Account Set Up

The number and the type of required documents as well as the time to complete the full process are the key considerations for this measure. The time to complete the process includes the preparation of the documents. These requirements can be extremely onerous for asset owners with multiple mandates and for asset managers with multiple funds.

2.3.2 Market Organization

2.3.2.1 Market Regulations

In addition to the level of advancement of the legal and regulatory framework governing the financial market, the stock exchange and the various other entities involved in the financial markets, significant weight is assigned to ease of access (including availability in English), lack of ambiguity in and prompt enforcement of laws and regulations. In contrast, inconsistency and unexpected changes in policy, in particular those targeting foreign investors, are assessed negatively.

2.3.2.2 Information Flow

A strong flow of information is essential for protecting shareholder rights, supporting sound investment decisions, and promoting overall market efficiency. Quality, timeliness, availability in English, and affordability of information all play a role in this assessment. In addition, the quality of local accounting standards, as assessed, for example, by the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS), is also important for international investors.

2.3.3 Market Infrastructure

2.3.3.1 Clearing and Settlement

A well-functioning clearing and settlement system based on the broad framework published by the Bank for International Settlements including Delivery Versus Payment (DVP), the absence of pre-funding requirements/practices, the possibility of using overdrafts and the availability of real omnibus structures are considered in this category.

2.3.3.2 Custody

An important requirement is an efficient mechanism that prevents brokers from having unlimited access to the investor's accounts and that guarantees the safekeeping of the investor's assets. The level of competition among custodian banks within each market is measured by the number of active custodian banks as well as the presence of global custodian banks.

2.3.3.3 Registry / Depository

The existence of a well-functioning central registry or of independent registrars and a central depository are important characteristics of a robust market infrastructure. A central depository acting as a central registry is also considered as a standard feature. Registration at the issuer level or instances where a custodian (or some other financial institution) acts as a central registry are not desirable.

2.3.3.4 Trading

An important desired feature is the ability to execute grouped trades at the same price for the various accounts of a fund manager. The level of competition amongst brokers is also measured by the number of active brokers, the presence of global brokers ensuring high quality services and competitive fees.

2.3.3.5 Transferability

There are significant cost savings and efficiency gains associated with the possibility of off-exchange transactions and "in-kind" transfers. These are important in case of manager transitions, mergers of funds and in the creation and redemptions of ETF shares, an increasingly important segment of the investment management industry.

2.3.3.6 Stock Lending/Short Selling

The existence of well-functioning stock lending and short selling mechanisms has become a standard in certain markets that help support direct hedging practices and quantitative asset management. More broadly, they have become a recognized ingredient in the efficiency of markets, by allowing arbitrage between different instruments (futures, ETFs, etc.)

The presence of rules and regulations governing these activities alone is insufficient. Stock lending and short selling activities must also have adequate infrastructure, established practices, and unrestricted execution to be considered fully efficient.

2.4 Availability of Investment Instruments

Investors are increasingly using a wide range of investment instruments—such as exchange-traded funds, futures, options, swaps, and structured products, both onshore and offshore—to complement direct equity investments. These instruments have become an integral part of their overall investment strategies. Today, the availability of such instruments has become critical to international investors for a number of their investment activities such as gaining exposure to markets, hedging of investments, equitization of cash positions or overlay strategies. Hence, it is expected that stock exchanges, which often have legal or natural monopolies, would not impose clauses in their provision of stock market data, such as securities' prices, that could lead directly or indirectly to restricting the availability of investment instruments globally. These clauses typically restrict investors' access to derived stock exchange information, data and products, including, for example, the provision of independently calculated indexes or the creation of investment instruments based on such indexes. In addition, the imposition of these types of clauses can result in global or regional investment instruments breaching local market rules, regulations or other restrictions. The existence of these types of practices will lead to a negative assessment.

2.5 Stability of Institutional Framework

Long-term investors commit their capital to a country's market for extended periods, making market stability essential to their investment decisions. The track record of government interventions and the current level of foreign investment restrictions are used as indicators of the stability of the "free-market" economic system. This assessment is not a forward-looking statement but rather, it considers a country's history as an indicator of a potential risk that foreign investors may be impacted by discriminatory measures in times of crisis.

3 Review Summary

The MSCI Global Market Accessibility Review provides an assessment of each individual market as well as a summary of changes in market accessibility across 86³ evaluated markets. The methodology applied by MSCI for this review is consistent with the prior year's review.

In this review, there were more improvements than deteriorations in market accessibility ratings.

A significant portion of those improvements are attributed to developments in Market Infrastructure across Emerging and Frontier Markets. Reforms aimed at enhancing Clearing and Settlement, Custody, Stock Lending, Short Selling, among other criteria were implemented by market authorities and confirmed as functional by international investors.

As in previous reviews, Developed Markets continue to offer the highest levels of market accessibility, with the only area of improvement being the Foreign Room Level criterion in Spain.

Overall, the distribution of ratings in Emerging Markets and Frontier Markets reflects a lower level of market accessibility compared to Developed Markets. In the Emerging Markets, the main market accessibility issues are in Openness to Foreign Ownership and Market Infrastructure, the latter also being the area where Frontier Markets show the most significant shortcomings.

³ 87 markets are covered in total, as China is evaluated as 'China International' and 'China A'.

Exhibit 1: Summary Assessment Table (number of markets)

	Developed Markets			Emerging Markets			Frontier Markets			Standalone Markets		
	++	+	-	++	+	-	++	+	-	++	+	-
Openness to foreign ownership												
Investor qualification requirement	23	-	-	21	4	-	27	1	-	10	1	-
Foreign ownership limit (FOL) level	21	2	-	13	4	8	26	-	2	10	-	1
Foreign room level	21	1	1	18	3	4	26	-	2	11	-	-
Equal rights to foreign investors	22	1	-	3	18	4	14	13	1	3	8	-
Ease of capital inflows / outflows												
Capital flow restriction level	23	-	-	22	3	-	24	4	-	6	1	4
Foreign exchange market liberalization level	23	-	-	12	5	8	9	11	8	3	1	7
Efficiency of the operational framework												
Market entry												
Investor registration & account set up	23	-	-	9	10	6	9	15	4	5	2	4
Market organization												
Market regulations	23	-	-	14	10	1	15	13	-	3	7	1
Information flow	21	2	-	10	14	1	12	5	11	2	5	4
Market infrastructure												
Clearing and Settlement	22	1	-	6	13	6	5	8	15	2	1	8
Custody	23	-	-	21	4	-	26	2	-	4	2	5
Registry / Depository	23	-	-	23	2	-	27	1	-	4	6	1
Trading	23	-	-	23	2	-	10	5	13	2	3	6
Transferability	23	-	-	8	8	9	7	4	17	1	3	7
Stock lending	22	1	-	8	9	8	-	-	28	-	-	11
Short selling	21	2	-	4	11	10	-	-	28	-	-	11
Availability of Investment Instruments	23	-	-	20	1	4	28	-	-	10	-	1
Stability of institutional framework	23	-	-	5	17	3	4	15	9	1	4	6

++: no issues; +: no major issues, improvements possible; -: improvements needed

3.1 Developed Markets

Ireland's rating for the Foreign Room criterion improved following the increase of the foreign ownership limit for Ryanair Holdings. Although the MSCI Ireland IMI is no longer constrained by low foreign room, the Irish equity market remains impacted by the foreign ownership limit of Ryanair Holdings.

Following the transition to a T+1 settlement cycle in USA and Canada in 2024, similar advancements in settlement cycles are underway across other Developed Markets.

The European Union's Council has agreed to transition to a T+1 settlement cycle across the EU, with the implementation scheduled for October 11, 2027, pending approval by the European Parliament.

In the UK, the government has officially responded to the Accelerated Settlement Technical Group's report, confirming its plans to transition to a T+1 securities settlement standard by October 11, 2027.

Switzerland is also moving toward a shorter settlement cycle. The Swiss Securities Post-Trade Council has recommended transitioning to a T+1 settlement cycle by October 2027 and a dedicated Task Force has been established to guide the transition.

In Australia, meanwhile, a decision has not been made yet. The feedback indicated broad support for a move to T+1 settlement but emphasized the need for a carefully planned and phased implementation. Any changes would be implemented no earlier than 2029 and only after a minimum of 18 months from the official decision to proceed.

MSCI continues to closely monitor these developments. Feedback received from market participants reemphasized that shorter settlement cycles should not introduce further operational challenges and risks, such as pre-funding requirements. At the same time, many market participants stressed that a lack of alignment of equity settlement cycles within global equity markets is undesirable.

3.2 Emerging Markets

In this review cycle, rating improvements across Emerging Markets were primarily driven by improvements in Market Infrastructure and Openness to Foreign Ownership.

In Korea, the market has implemented a series of foreign exchange market reforms. These included allowing Registered Foreign Institutions (RFIs) to participate in the onshore interbank forex market from January 2024 and extending trading hours to 2:00 am starting July 2024. To further promote market development, especially during the extended trading hours, authorities introduced additional incentives for RFIs in early 2025.

In addition, in December 2023, the Investor Registration Certificate (IRC) was replaced by Legal Entity Identifiers (LEIs), alongside other measures implemented by year-end. In June 2024, documentation requirements for LEIs were streamlined. Despite these reforms, the registration process continues to face operational hurdles. Moreover, the limited usage of omnibus accounts and over-the-counter transactions has constrained the impact of related regulatory initiatives.

Furthermore, the full short selling ban, reintroduced in November 2023, was lifted on March 31, 2025, alongside new regulatory and technical measures aimed at enhancing oversight of unfair trading practices.

In Greece, market authorities have recently introduced measures aimed at improving market accessibility. These include the introduction of omnibus structures, recognition of the nominee concept, and initiatives to stimulate stock lending and short selling. Such reforms have been adopted and validated by market participants, leading to improvements in ratings for the Clearing and Settlement, Stock Lending and Short Selling criteria during this review cycle.

Kuwait's Information Flow rating was improved due to more timely disclosure of stock market data and financial reports.

In Czech Republic, the availability of company related information in English has improved, contributing to rating improvements for both the Information Flow and the Equal Rights for Foreign Investors criteria.

The Brazilian Stock Exchange (B3) published a white paper detailing the findings from a joint research project with the Post-Trade Advisory Committee, focusing on the transition to a T+1 settlement cycle. The official timeline for T+1 transition is expected to be announced in 2025.

Chile, Colombia and Peru originally targeted Q2 2025 for the migration to a T+1 settlement cycle, however, it was later rescheduled to the second half of 2027 to ensure an efficient transition.

The Borsa Istanbul Group in Turkey is also considering a transition from T+2 to T+1 settlement cycle for equities and launched a consultation with market stakeholders during May 2025.

Amid heightened volatility in the first quarter of the year, some markets implemented temporary short selling measures to support price stability. While Taiwan and Thailand introduced some additional restrictions, Turkey reimposed an exchange-wide short selling ban in Borsa Istanbul on March 10, 2025. Frequent changes in rules and continuous imposition of restrictions are not a desirable feature in the short selling framework. MSCI will continue to closely monitor the extent of these measures.

3.3 Frontier Markets

MSCI continues to monitor accessibility across several Frontier Markets and has seen several developments over the past 12 months.

In Vietnam, the Ministry of Finance outlined a roadmap in September 2024 requiring public companies to disclose information in English. This will be done in phases starting January 1, 2025 and ending January 1, 2028. Additionally, in December 2024, Vietnam implemented its short-term non-pre-funding solution, which involves brokers guaranteeing settlement of trades. MSCI will monitor the implementation of these changes closely.

In Bangladesh, while price floors for most listed securities have been removed, two securities still retain these restrictions.

Croatia has had an improvement in its rating for the Clearing and Settlement criterion on the back of its migration to the TARGET2-Securities European settlement platform which enabled securities and cash transfers to now be settled on a simultaneous and integrated Delivery Versus Payment (DVP) basis.

The National Clearing Company of Pakistan Limited has announced that consultations and analysis in relation to the proposed shortening of the settlement cycle from T+2 to T+1 is still ongoing. The finalized road map and pilot run date for the transition to a T+1 settlement cycle, will be published at a future date following the conclusion of the consultation.

In Sri Lanka, the settlement cycle for all equity transactions on the Colombo Stock Exchange was shortened from T+3 to T+2, effective from June 10, 2024.

The West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) is also planning to shorten the settlement cycle from T+3 to T+2. The transition is scheduled for September 2025.

3.3.1 Advanced Frontier Markets

Starting with the 2025 MSCI Market Classification Review, MSCI has introduced a new subcategory within the Frontier Markets universe: Advanced Frontier Markets (Advanced FM).

This subcategory identifies Frontier Markets that demonstrate market accessibility characteristics closely aligned with those of Developed Markets but remain classified as Frontier Markets due to their size and liquidity constraints.

The detailed criteria to be classified as an Advanced FM is included in Appendix I: MSCI Market Classification Framework.

MSCI will review and announce any changes on members of the Advanced FM subcategory annually, as part of the MSCI Global Market Accessibility review.

Simulations using accessibility data as of the 2024 MSCI Global Market Accessibility Review indicated that Advanced FM would include the markets of Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovenia.

However, Iceland experienced deteriorations in both the Foreign Ownership Limit (FOL) and the Foreign Room Levels criteria this year, driven by the application of FOLs and corresponding foreign room adjustment factors on several fisheries companies. The impacted securities represent more than ten percent of the Iceland equity market and more than one percent of the MSCI Iceland IMI. As a result of these developments, Iceland no longer meets the requirements for inclusion in the Advanced FM subcategory.

Following the 2025 MSCI Global Market Accessibility Review, members of Advanced FM include markets of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovenia.

3.4 Standalone Markets

Market developments in some Standalone Markets have been noted in this review.

Following recent funding from the IMF, major reforms were implemented in Argentina during April 2025: the crawling peg system was replaced by a managed float within established bands, restrictions on purchasing USD and transferring funds abroad have largely been lifted for resident individuals, companies are now allowed to repatriate dividends earned from January 1, 2025 and foreign investors are allowed to repatriate investments without prior approval from the Central Bank, provided that some conditions are met. However, several restrictions for foreign institutional investors are still in place.

In Zimbabwe, the settlement cycle was reduced from T+3 to T+2 effective from April 14, 2025.

3.5 Summary of the rating changes

Exhibit 2 shows the market assessment evolution, from last year to date, by summarizing the total number of improvements and deteriorations in various assessment categories for the analyzed markets. Most of the changes were related to Information Flow, followed by changes related to Foreign Room Level.

Exhibit 2: Summary of Improvements/Deteriorations Table (number of markets)

	Developed Markets		Emerging Markets		Frontier Markets		Standalone Markets	
	Improvements	Deteriorations	Improvements	Deteriorations	Improvements	Deteriorations	Improvements	Deteriorations
Openness to foreign ownership								
Investor qualification requirement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign ownership limit (FOL) level	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Foreign room level	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Equal rights to foreign investors	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ease of capital inflows / outflows								
Capital flow restriction level	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign exchange market liberalization level	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Efficiency of the operational framework								
Market entry								
Investor registration & account set up	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Market organization								
Market regulations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Information flow	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-
Market infrastructure								
Clearing and Settlement	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Custody	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Registry / Depository	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trading	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transferability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stock lending	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Short selling	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Availability of Investment Instruments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stability of institutional framework	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	8	1	3	4	-	-

There was one improvement and no deterioration in the Developed Markets, while there were eight improvements and one deterioration in the Emerging Markets. In the Frontier Markets, there were three improvements and four deteriorations. There were no changes in the Standalone Markets.

Exhibit 3 illustrates the overall trends in ratings improvements and deteriorations in recent years. The number of changes has increased compared to last year, in which there were eleven improvements and one deterioration.

Exhibit 3: Trends in Ratings Improvements and Deteriorations⁴

	2025		2024		2023		2022	
	Improvements	Deteriorations	Improvements	Deteriorations	Improvements	Deteriorations	Improvements	Deteriorations
Openness to foreign ownership								
Investor qualification requirement	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Foreign ownership limit (FOL) level	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	-
Foreign room level	1	2	-	-	1	-	1	1
Equal rights to foreign investors	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Ease of capital inflows / outflows								
Capital flow restriction level	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
Foreign exchange market liberalization level	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Efficiency of the operational framework								
Market entry								
Investor registration & account set up	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Market organization								
Market regulations	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	1
Information flow	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Market infrastructure								
Clearing and Settlement	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	5
Custody	1	-	1	-	2	-	1	1
Registry / Depository	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Trading	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Transferability	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Stock lending	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short selling	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Availability of Investment Instruments	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Stability of institutional framework	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Total	12	5	11	1	8	1	11	15

Exhibits 4, 5, and 6 detail the improvements and deteriorations observed across the assessed criteria for Developed, Emerging and Frontier Markets, respectively. A total of twelve markets exhibited changes in at least one measure.

⁴ The numbers for 2022 include the overall deterioration in the accessibility of the Russian equity market.

Exhibit 4: Summary of Improvements/Deteriorations Table for Developed Markets

	Ireland
Openness to foreign ownership	
Foreign room level	I
-: No change; U: Upgrade; D: Downgrade	

Exhibit 5: Summary of Improvements/Deteriorations Table for Emerging Markets

	Czech Republic	Greece	Korea	Kuwait	Taiwan	United Arab Emirates
Openness to foreign ownership						
Foreign ownership limit (FOL) level	-	-	-	-	I	-
Foreign room level	-	-	-	-	-	D
Equal rights to foreign investors	I	-	-	-	-	-
Ease of capital inflows / outflows						
Capital flow restriction level	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign exchange market liberalization level	-	-	-	-	-	-
Efficiency of the operational framework						
Market organization						
Information flow	I	-	-	I	-	-
Market infrastructure						
Clearing and Settlement	-	I	-	-	-	-
Stock lending	-	I	-	-	-	-
Short selling	-	I	I	-	-	-
-: No change; I: Improvement; D: Deterioration						

Exhibit 6: Summary of Improvements/Deteriorations Table for Frontier Markets

	Iceland	Croatia	Tunisia	Oman	Pakistan
Openness to foreign ownership					
Foreign ownership limit (FOL) level	D	-	-	-	-
Foreign room level	D	-	-	-	-
Ease of capital inflows / outflows					
Foreign exchange market liberalization level	-	-	-	-	D
Efficiency of the operational framework					
Market organization					
Information flow	-	D	-	I	-
Market infrastructure					
Clearing and Settlement	-	I	-	-	-
Custody	-	-	I	-	-

-: No change; I: Improvement; D: Deterioration

4 Developed Markets

The following comments should be read in conjunction with the market-by-market assessment results that can be found in Appendix II of this document.

4.1 Americas

4.1.1 Canada

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: Canada exhibits relatively stringent foreign ownership limitations compared to most Developed Markets. Some sectors are subject to foreign ownership limits for up to 49 percent. Currently, these limitations affect more than three percent but less than ten percent of the Canadian market.

Foreign Room Level: More than 0.3 percent of the MSCI Canada IMI is impacted by low foreign room.

4.1.2 USA

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: Airline companies are subject to a 25 percent foreign ownership limit. However, this did not result in a negative assessment due to the very limited impact of these ownership limits on the US market.

4.2 Europe, Middle East, and Africa

European airline companies are in general subject to a 50 percent foreign ownership limit for non-European investors but the impact on the different markets is very limited, with the exception of Ireland. Consequently, the presence of these ownership limits did not result in any negative assessments for most of the individual markets.

4.2.1 Ireland

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: Ryanair Holdings is subject to an 80 percent foreign ownership limit for non-EU investors. Currently, this affects more than three percent of the Irish equity market.

Improvement

Foreign Room Level: "-" to "+ +". Following the increase of the foreign ownership limit of Ryanair Holdings, the MSCI Ireland IMI is no longer impacted by low foreign room.

4.2.2 Israel

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Clearing and Settlement: DVP mechanism is different from international standards as foreign investors may arrange a different settlement cycle with their brokers.

4.2.3 Portugal

Stock Lending: Is restricted to certain securities.

Short Selling: Is allowed but is restricted to certain securities.

4.2.4 Spain

Foreign Room Level: The MSCI Spain IMI is impacted by low foreign room due to the adjustment factor applied to International Airlines Group.

Short Selling: Is allowed but is not an established market practice.

4.3 Asia Pacific

4.3.1 Japan

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: The airlines, media and telecommunications industries are impacted by foreign ownership limits. These limitations represent less than three percent of the Japanese equity market.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English. In addition, Japan is the only Developed Market where companies' corporate governance standards have often been questioned by international institutional investors.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is in general disclosed in a timely manner but not always in English. This type of information is either translated with a significant time lag or not translated at all. In addition, Japanese dividends are usually declared in advance by companies, but the effective dividend amount may be announced after the ex-date of the dividend which is uncharacteristic of Developed Markets. However, the estimated amounts are generally available and broadly used by the market.

5 Emerging Markets

The following comments should be read in conjunction with the market-by-market assessment results that can be found in Appendix II of this document.

5.1 Americas

5.1.1 Brazil

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: Certain banking companies are subject to a 30 percent foreign ownership limit. These limitations affect more than three percent of the Brazilian equity market.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Foreign investors are, in general, limited to the non-voting shares of Brazilian banks and, hence, do not have the same voting rights as domestic investors. The general segregation between voting and non-voting shares also negatively impacts the voting rights of minority shareholders due to their limited access to the voting shares. Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market and there are constraints on the onshore currency market (e.g., foreign exchange transactions must be linked to security transactions).

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory, and all foreign investors need to appoint a legal and tax representative as well as obtain approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Brazil (CVM) prior to entering the market.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is an absence of true omnibus structures in the market. Overdraft facilities are prohibited.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Transferability: In-kind transfers are prohibited.

Availability of Investment Instruments: Restrictions imposed on the use of stock market data have led to limited availability of investment instruments.

5.1.2 Chile

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Capital Flow Restriction Level: Due to some administrative requirements, repatriation of funds can take up to two weeks after a minimum period of investment.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore deliverable currency market.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory and foreign investors need to obtain a tax ID and provide additional documents to set up local accounts (e.g., power of attorney and letter of good standing from investor's local authority) depending on the registration mechanism chosen by the foreign investor. The process to set up accounts may take up to 15 days.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Transferability: In-kind transfers and off-exchange transactions are allowed but are difficult to execute as they are not an established market practice.

Stock Lending: Is allowed with restrictions and is not an established market practice.

Short Selling: Is allowed but is not an established market practice due to the limited capacity of the stock lending market and the complex tax system in Chile.

5.1.3 Colombia

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Capital Flow Restriction Level: Due to some administrative requirements, repatriation of funds can take up some time to be cleared.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: The offshore market is restricted and there are constraints on the onshore currency market (e.g., foreign exchange transactions must be linked to security transactions and registered with the Central Bank).

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory, and all documents must be filed in Spanish. The registration process can take up to one week.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee concept as well as a lack of a clear legal basis for omnibus accounts.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited. In-kind transfers are possible with certain restrictions.

Stock Lending: Is allowed but with some restrictions.

Short Selling: Is allowed and appears to be a common practice, but with price restrictions in place.

5.1.4 Mexico

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: Restrictions on foreign investment affect a significant proportion of the Mexican equity market. Foreign ownership in a number of companies is only possible through Participation Certificates (CPOs), which, in general, do not provide voting rights.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Holders of CPOs have, in general, no voting rights and, hence, are not at par with domestic investors. In addition, the general segregation between voting and non-voting shares also negatively impacts the voting rights of minority shareholders due to their limited access to the voting shares.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory and foreign investors must have a contract with local agents.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Short Selling: Is allowed, however, a stock lending trade must be in place in Valpre (electronic securities lending system managed by the Central Securities Depository) before a short selling transaction can be executed.

5.1.5 Peru

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory, but the process is efficient. All documents, however, must be filed in Spanish.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Clearing and Settlement: Omnibus structures and nominee concept are not available. In addition, there is an absence of a real DVP system on the Lima Stock Exchange.

Trading: Limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to relatively higher trading costs.

Transferability: In-kind transfers are allowed but with some restrictions.

Stock Lending: Stock lending through the Lima Stock Exchange (BVL) is only available for highly liquid stocks included in the TVR (Tabla de Valores de Referencia) table. This lending service is not widely used.

Short Selling: Is allowed but is not an established market practice due to the limited capacity.

5.2 Europe, Middle East, and Africa

5.2.1 Czech Republic

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is not required, but the account setup process can take a significant amount of time.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Clearing and Settlement: Omnibus structures and nominee status are available but are not widely used.

Stock Lending: Is allowed but is not an established market practice due to the limited capacity.

Short Selling: Is allowed but is not an established market practice due to the limited capacity.

Improvements

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors & Information Flow: "+" to "++". Company related information is readily available in English.

5.2.2 Egypt

Equal rights to foreign investors: Company related information is not always available in English.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is a lack of efficiency on the offshore currency market. Liquidity in the onshore currency market has improved and there is no FX backlog outstanding for foreign investors. MSCI will continue to closely monitor the liquidity of the Egyptian FX market and the capacity of international institutional investors to repatriate their capital without delays. In addition, there are constraints on the onshore currency market (e.g., foreign exchange transactions must be linked to security transactions).

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: The existence of a restricted investors list may delay the registration process. Also, the process of setting up accounts may be lengthy.

Market Regulations: There is an absence of clarity in certain areas of market regulation (e.g., formally there are no foreign ownership limits, but companies can impose limits in their by-laws). In addition, relevant regulations are not available in English, although some progress has been made with certain ones.

Information Flow: Lack of robustness and enforcement of local accounting standards.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no functioning nominee status and omnibus structures are not available for custody purposes.

Trading: Limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to relatively higher trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited. In-kind transfers can only be executed if there is no change in beneficial owner.

Stock Lending: Is allowed but is not an established market practice due to the limited capacity.

Short Selling: Is allowed but is not an established market practice due to the limited capacity.

Stability of Institutional Framework: There have been instances of government interventions that challenged the stability of the “free-market” economy as illustrated by frequently changing market regulations.

5.2.3 Greece

Improvements

Clearing and Settlement: "+" to "++". Following the licensing of ATHEXCSD under the Central Securities Depositories Regulation (CSDR), the Greek market introduced omnibus accounts and the nominee concept. New accounts have been successfully established under the omnibus structure, with no reported issues or disruptions.

Stock Lending: "-" to "++". Reforms have been implemented in the Greek market to stimulate stock lending activity. Notably, the stamp duty tax on OTC lending transactions on securities listed on the Athens Stock Exchange was abolished in April 2024. Since then, OTC stock lending transactions have increased, with no operational constraints reported.

Short Selling: "-" to "++". Short selling conditions have improved with reduced costs and no operational constraints reported.

5.2.4 Hungary

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: Wizz Air Holding is subject to a 49 percent foreign ownership limit. Currently, this affects more than three percent of the Hungarian equity market.

Foreign Room Level: The MSCI Hungary IMI is impacted by low foreign room due to the adjustment factor applied to Wizz Air Holdings.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations, particularly recent ones, can be found in English.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Registry / Depository: There is an absence of a central registry, with some registration done by financial institutions.

Stock Lending: Is allowed but is not an established market practice.

Short Selling: Is allowed but is not an established market practice.

5.2.5 Kuwait

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: The presence of large strategic shareholders in many Kuwaiti companies may limit the level of transparency and governance in the market.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory, but the process is efficient.

Clearing and Settlement: Overdraft facilities are prohibited.

Custody: The introduction of the false trade mechanism has eliminated the need for segregated custody and trading accounts, which were previously required in order to mitigate the risk deriving from local brokers having unlimited access to trading accounts. More time is needed to assess the efficiency of the process.

Transferability: In-kind transfers and off-exchange transactions are allowed with some restrictions and are not yet common practice.

Stock Lending: Is allowed but with some restrictions and is not yet a common practice. In August 2024, the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) issued a resolution to introduce bilateral securities lending and borrowing.

Short Selling: Is allowed with restrictions and is not an established market practice.

Improvement

Information Flow: "-" to "+". Stock market information and financial reports are disclosed in a timely manner. However, company related information is not always readily available in English.

5.2.6 Poland

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status. The use of omnibus accounts may be restricted to certain foreign entities.

Registry / Depository: There is an absence of a central registry, with some registration done by financial institutions.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are allowed but may be subject to a tax.

Stock Lending: Is allowed but is not an established market practice.

Short Selling: Is allowed but is not an established market practice.

5.2.7 Qatar

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: A few companies are subject to a foreign ownership limit of 49 percent. These limitations affect more than three percent but less than ten percent of the Qatari equity market.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: The presence of large strategic shareholders in many Qatari companies may limit the level of transparency and governance in the market.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory, but the process is efficient.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no functioning nominee status and omnibus structures are not available. Overdraft facilities are prohibited.

Custody: There are inefficiencies in the local custody workflow that impact pre- and post-trade processes and can result in failed trades. There are also inefficiencies in the existing false trade mechanism.

Transferability: In-kind transfers and off-exchange transactions are allowed with restrictions.

Stock Lending: Securities lending and borrowing facilities are currently only available for use by liquidity providers and as a mechanism to prevent settlement failures.

Short Selling: Is allowed with restrictions and is not an established market practice.

5.2.8 Saudi Arabia

Investor Qualification Requirement: In general, only banks, brokerage and securities firms, fund managers, insurance companies and governments and government-related entities, each of appropriate size with sufficient track records, are eligible to apply for a Qualified Foreign Financial Institutions (QFFI) license. Investors from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) markets are not subject to any qualification requirements.

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: Listed companies are generally subject to a foreign ownership limit of 49 percent, while a few companies are fully closed to foreign investors. This affects more than ten percent of the Saudi market.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: The rights of foreign investors are limited as a result of the stringent foreign ownership limits.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory and foreign investors must hold a legally valid certificate of incorporation and a local bank account.

Information Flow: Some information is still available only in Arabic.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status and omnibus structures are not available. In November 2024, the Capital Market Authority (CMA) approved the regulatory framework for omnibus accounts. More time is needed to assess the impact of this change.

Custody: There are inefficiencies in the local custody workflow that impact pre- and post-trade processes and can result in failed trades. There are also inefficiencies in the existing false trade mechanism.

Transferability: In-kind transfers and off-exchange transactions are prohibited.

Stock Lending: Is allowed but is not an established market practice.

Short Selling: Is allowed but is not an established market practice.

5.2.9 South Africa

Clearing and Settlement: Restrictions on the use of overdrafts may be applicable to non-residents.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions and in-kind transfers are allowed but with some restrictions.

5.2.10 Turkey

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There have been several interventions by the authorities restricting the functioning of the foreign exchange market, including the delay in settlement of some foreign exchange transactions.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory, but the process is efficient.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Stock market information is not always complete and is not always disclosed in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status and omnibus structures are not available.

Stock Lending: Is restricted to certain securities.

Short Selling: In March 2025, Borsa Istanbul reimposed a ban on short selling across all listed securities.

Availability of Investment Instruments: Restrictions imposed on the use of stock market data have led to limited availability of investment instruments.

Stability of Institutional Framework: Government interventions may call into question the stability of the country's institutional framework.

5.2.11 United Arab Emirates

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: Listed companies are in general subject to a foreign ownership limit of 49 percent, but companies may choose to set a lower limit. These limitations affect more than ten percent of the UAE market.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: The rights of foreign investors are limited as a result of the stringent foreign ownership limits and some companies that do not allow foreign investors to vote.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory, but the process is efficient.

Clearing and Settlement: Nominee status and omnibus structures are not available. Omnibus structures were introduced in the Dubai Financial Market in March 2023. However, the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange and Nasdaq Dubai have not yet introduced these structures.

Custody: There are inefficiencies in the local custody workflow that impact pre- and post-trade processes and can result in failed trades. There are also inefficiencies in the existing false trade mechanism.

Transferability: In-kind transfers are prohibited.

Stock Lending: Is allowed with restrictions and is not an established market practice. In May 2025, the Dubai Financial Market introduced a centralized securities lending and borrowing program.

Short Selling: Is allowed with restrictions and is not an established market practice.

Deterioration

Foreign Room Level: “++” to “+”. More than 0.3 percent, but less than one percent of the MSCI UAE IMI is impacted by low foreign room due to adjustment factors in several companies.

5.3 Asia Pacific

5.3.1 China (international)

The assessment of the accessibility of the China (international) market considers only the Hong Kong listed portion of the China market (e.g., H-shares, Red-Chips and P-Chips).

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: The proportion of Chinese companies’ share capital freely accessible to foreign investors is in general limited. Foreign investors can acquire shares of Chinese companies listed in the Hong Kong Stock exchange, which represents a portion of the total market capitalization of Chinese companies.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Foreign investors have in general limited voting power due to the limited shares available to them.

Market Regulations: There is an absence of clarity in the regulations applying the dividend withholding tax.

5.3.2 China A Market

Investor Qualification Requirement: There is no qualification requirement for foreign institutional investors who choose to access the China A market via the Stock Connect program. Foreign institutional investors are required to apply for a Qualified Foreign Investor (QFI) qualification, which involves meeting specific eligibility requirements. The application process typically takes approximately 10 days.

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: A-shares held by all QFIs as well as through the Stock Connect program in a listed company cannot exceed 30% of the total outstanding shares of the company.

Foreign Room Level: More than one percent of the MSCI China A International IMI is impacted by low foreign room. Also, the current threshold of disclosure of foreign holdings does not provide sufficient transparency for the upward revision of the adjustment factors. The threshold of foreign holding disclosure was lowered to 24% from 26% previously since October 2020.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English. In addition, the corporate governance standards of some Chinese companies have been questioned by some international institutional investors.

Capital Flow Restriction Level: While regulations on capital flows for QFIs have been simplified and QFIs can independently import funds to invest in securities after registration with China's SAFE (State Administration of Foreign Exchange), there are still reporting requirements for capital repatriation. Notably, under the Stock Connect Northbound channel, there are no such repatriation requirements.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: The RMB is not fully convertible onshore, but investors are able to tap into the offshore RMB market in Hong Kong (CNH) for securities settlement through Stock Connect.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory and subject to the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) approval, but the process is efficient.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Clearing and Settlement: The DVP practice in mainland China is currently different from other global markets and the current T+0/T+1 settlement cycle continues to pose operational challenges such as pre-funding and pre-delivering of shares to some institutional investors. The Master Special Segregated Account (Master SPSA) service, introduced in July 2020, allows pre-trade checking of sell orders at an aggregate level. However, there are still some areas for improvement on the management of multiple accounts.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited.

Stock Lending: Is allowed with restrictions and is not an established market practice.

Short Selling: Is allowed with restrictions and is not an established market practice.

Availability of Investment Instruments: The launch of Futures and Options products in recent years has provided international institutional investors with a wider range of available investment instruments.

However, there are still restrictions imposed on the use of stock market data.

5.3.3 India

Investor Qualification Requirement: Foreign investors must register as a Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) and obtain a Permanent Account Number (PAN). The FPI regime was introduced in June 2014. Existing Foreign Institutional Investor (FII), FII sub-account and Qualified Foreign Investor (QFI) were merged into the FPI class to unify various portfolio investment routes and simplify the monitoring of foreign investment.

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: The Ministry of Finance published a circular raising the statutory FPI limit of Indian companies to the sectoral foreign investment limit, effective April 1, 2020. In addition, the Foreign Exchange Management Act was amended to raise foreign ownership limits in insurance companies, which became effective in August 2021. However, several companies are still subject to foreign ownership limits ranging from zero to 74 percent. Currently, these limitations affect more than 10 percent of the Indian equity market.

Foreign Room Level: The equity market is significantly impacted by foreign room issues and there is no active formal foreign board allowing foreign investors to trade among themselves. More than one percent of the MSCI India IMI is impacted by low foreign room. The Central Depository Service Limited (CDSL) and National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) monitor foreign ownership levels and issue a warning once the levels are close to being breached.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Rights of foreign investors are limited as a result of the foreign ownership limits.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market and there are constraints on the onshore currency market (e.g., foreign exchange transactions must be linked to security transactions).

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory and subject to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approval. While the online Common Application Form has eased the registration process, the full account setup process still takes a significant amount of time. In November 2024, SEBI introduced the abridged version of the Common Application Form (CAF). More time is needed to assess the impact of this change.

Market Regulations: The regulatory framework governing foreign investments in India is complex and subject to frequent changes and clarifications.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status and omnibus structures are not available. In addition, overdraft facilities are prohibited.

Transferability: In-kind and off-exchange transfers are allowed with restrictions.

Short Selling: Is allowed but all transactions must be reported to the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Availability of Investment Instruments: Restrictions imposed on the use of stock market data have led to limited availability of investment instruments.

5.3.4 Indonesia

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: The published Indonesia Rupiah (IDR) is not a rate practically achievable by foreign investors due to frequent government interventions. In addition, there is no efficient offshore currency market and there are constraints on the onshore currency market (e.g., foreign exchange transactions must be linked to security transactions).

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Clearing and Settlement: Overdraft facilities for foreign investors are prohibited.

Transferability: In-kind transfers are only allowed in certain cases.

Stock Lending: Is allowed but is restricted to certain securities and to 90-day lending contracts.

Short Selling: Is allowed but with some restrictions.

5.3.5 Korea

Foreign Room Level: More than 0.3%, but less than 1% of the MSCI Korea IMI is impacted by low foreign room.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English. Following the introduction of the two-

phase mandatory English disclosure for Korean companies in 2023, there have been enhancements to their disclosure systems. The first phase is expected to conclude this year, with phase two scheduled to begin in 2026 after authorities review the implementation results of phase one.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market and constraints persist on the onshore currency market. Following the MOEF's FX market reform of 2023, several key developments have been implemented. These include regulatory amendments, along with measures such as permitting Registered Foreign Financial Institutions (RFIs) to participate in the onshore interbank market via approved local brokers, extending trading hours to 2:00 a.m. the following day, and introducing overdraft facilities for foreign investors. To further support market development, authorities introduced additional incentives in early 2025. MSCI will continue monitoring these developments.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory, and new foreign corporate investors must use a Legal Entity Identifier (LEI), which replaced the Investment Registration Certificate (IRC) system in December 2023. In June 2024, market authorities allowed the use of alternative documentation under certain circumstances. Despite the implemented regulatory framework, the market has not fully transitioned to LEIs, as existing accounts still use IRC, which complicates the use of omnibus accounts.

Information Flow: Information disclosure in English is not always readily available for all companies. In addition, most Korean companies still disclose dividend amounts after the ex-date of the dividends, and estimated dividends are generally not provided. The first phase of the mandatory English disclosure for Korean companies is expected to conclude this year, with phase two scheduled to begin in 2026. The revised dividend distribution procedure, which allows companies to determine both dividend eligibility and payout amounts before the record date, has been permitted since 2024. However, adoption remains limited to a minority of firms.

Clearing and Settlement: Following the regulatory measures announced in 2023, since early 2024 overdrafts are allowed, and omnibus accounts are permitted but, in general, settlements are still on a per investor ID basis. While the regulations are in place, the utilization of these mechanisms remains minimal.

Transferability: As part of the regulatory measures announced in 2023, the scope of over-the-counter (OTC) transactions eligible for ex-post reporting was expanded, removing the requirement for prior regulatory review. While the regulations are in place, adoption is still at its early stages as the utilization of these mechanisms remains minimal and market participant feedback indicates that execution remains challenging.

Availability of Investment Instruments: Restrictions imposed on the use of stock market data have led to limited availability of investment instruments.

Improvement

Short Selling: "-" to "+". In March 2025, the ban on short selling was lifted for all Korean listed securities. MSCI will continue to monitor developments to assess the stability of the regulations over time.

5.3.6 Malaysia

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: Industries that are of strategic importance, including the brokerage, insurance, and telecommunication industries, are subject to foreign ownership restrictions ranging from 30 to 70 percent. These limitations still affect more than three percent but less than ten percent of the Malaysian equity market.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Foreign investors holding shares that exceed the foreign ownership limits are not treated equally in terms of voting rights compared with domestic investors holding the same shares in the same company.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is an absence of an efficient offshore currency market and there are constraints on the onshore currency market (e.g., foreign exchange transactions must be linked to security transactions). In addition, there have been instances of interventions by the authorities restricting the functioning of the foreign exchange market.

Transferability: Off-exchange and in-kind transfers are allowed but require prior approval from the stock exchange.

Short Selling: Is allowed but is restricted to certain securities.

5.3.7 Philippines

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: All industries are in general subject to a 40 percent foreign ownership limit. These limitations affect more than ten percent of the Philippine equity market.

Foreign Room Level: More than one percent of the MSCI Philippines IMI is impacted by low foreign room.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Rights of foreign investors are limited as a result of the stringent foreign ownership limits.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market and there are constraints on the onshore currency market (e.g., foreign exchange transactions must be linked to security transactions).

Clearing and Settlement: Overdraft facilities for foreign investors are prohibited.

Stock Lending: The Philippines Stock Exchange Short Selling Program was implemented in November 2023. However, it is not yet an established market practice.

Short Selling: The Philippines Stock Exchange Short Selling Program was implemented in November 2023. However, it is not yet an established market practice.

5.3.8 Taiwan

Investor Qualification Requirement: Foreign investors must formally apply for a Foreign Institutional Investor (FINI) or a Foreign Individual Investor (FIDI) qualification, but the process is efficient.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Although recent market reforms mandate that all listed companies must disclose simultaneously material information in both English and Chinese, company related information is not always readily available in English.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: The New Taiwan Dollar (TWD) is not freely convertible, there is no offshore currency market and there are constraints on the onshore currency market (e.g., foreign exchange transactions must be linked to security transactions).

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory and approval from the Taiwan Stock Exchange is required (ID system). In 2023, an online application process was introduced for Foreign

Institutional Investors (FINIs) to improve the registration process. However, the full account setup process still can take a significant amount of time.

Information Flow: Although recent market reforms mandate that all listed companies must disclose simultaneously material information in both English and Chinese, detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status, and the ID system makes it difficult to use omnibus structures. In addition, to alleviate pre-funding issues and improve liquidity support, market authorities have implemented reforms such as the unsecured overnight overdraft services to foreign investors and the alternative pre-funding measure. More time is needed to assess the efficiency of these mechanisms.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions and in-kind transfers are allowed but, in some cases, they are difficult to execute.

Stock Lending: Is allowed with restrictions.

Short Selling: Is allowed with restrictions.

Improvement

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: "+" to "++". While several companies are still subject to foreign ownership limits ranging from zero to 50 percent, these limitations have been less than three percent of the Taiwanese equity market for three consecutive years.

5.3.9 Thailand

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: Restrictions on foreign investment affect a significant proportion of the Thailand equity market. However, foreign investors can obtain access to Thai companies through Non-Voting Depository Receipts (NVDRs).

Foreign Room Level: There are companies from specific sectors that are unable to issue NVDRs or have limits on NVDR issuance. Prolonged low level of foreign room is found in Bangkok Bank, a major company within the banking industry that is subject to limits on NVDR issuance. More than one percent of the MSCI Thailand IML is impacted by low foreign room.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: By definition, foreign investors holding NVDRs are not treated equally in terms of voting rights compared with domestic investors holding common stock in the same company. In

addition, company related information is not always readily available in English.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is an offshore currency market but there have been instances of interventions by the authorities restricting the functioning of the foreign exchange market.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status in the market.

Stock Lending: Is allowed with restrictions.

Short Selling: Is allowed with restrictions.

6 Frontier Markets

The following comments should be read in conjunction with the market-by-market assessment results that can be found in Appendix II of this document.⁵

6.1 Advanced Frontier Markets

6.1.1 Romania

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status and omnibus structures are available, but with special conditions.

Transferability: Free-of-Payment (FOP) transfers can only be executed if there is no change in beneficial owner.

6.1.2 Slovenia

Trading: There is a limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to relatively higher trading costs.

6.2 Frontier Markets – Europe, Middle East, and Africa

6.2.1 Bahrain

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory, but the process is efficient.

Information Flow: Stock market information is often not complete and often is not disclosed in a timely manner.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no functioning nominee status and omnibus structures are not available.

Custody: There are inefficiencies in the local custody workflow connected with the existing dual account structure. These can at times impact pre-trade processes in the market.

Transferability: In-kind transfers and off-exchange transactions are allowed with restrictions.

6.2.2 Benin

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

⁵ Stock lending and short selling are activities that are either not developed or are completely prohibited in all Frontier Markets and the summary does not highlight these issues on a market-by-market basis.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: The process of setting up accounts may be lengthy.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Lack of robustness and enforcement of local accounting standards. In addition, detailed stock market information is not always available in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status in the market and overdraft facilities are prohibited.

Trading: There is a very limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited. In-kind transfers are possible but must be approved by the stock exchange.

6.2.3 Burkina Faso

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: The process of setting up accounts may be lengthy.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Lack of robustness and enforcement of local accounting standards. In addition, detailed stock market information is not always available in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status in the market and overdraft facilities are prohibited.

Trading: There is a very limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited. In-kind transfers are possible but must be approved by the stock exchange.

6.2.4 Croatia

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory, and the process can take up to five days. Additionally, investors are required to open segregated accounts for trading (at nominee level) and for taxation (at beneficiary owner level).

Trading: Limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to relatively higher trading costs.

Improvement

Clearing and Settlement: "-" to "+". The Croatian CSD (SKDD) migrated to TARGET2-Securities in September 2023, introducing transactions on a DVP basis. Shares of local credit institutions still cannot be held under an omnibus account.

Deterioration

Information Flow: "++" to "-". Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

6.2.5 Guinea-Bissau

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: The process of setting up accounts may be lengthy.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Lack of robustness and enforcement of local accounting standards. In addition, detailed stock market information is not always available in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status in the market and overdraft facilities are prohibited.

Trading: There is a limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited. In-kind transfers are possible but must be approved by the stock exchange.

6.2.6 Iceland

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market and liquidity can at times be limited in the onshore currency market.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is required, but the process is efficient.

Deteriorations

Foreign ownership limit (FOL) level: "++" to "-". Fisheries companies are impacted by a 25 percent foreign ownership limit. In addition, aviation companies are subject to a foreign ownership limit of 49 percent. These restrictions now impact more than ten percent of the Iceland equity market.

Foreign room level: "++" to "-". The adjustment factors applied to the fisheries companies for low foreign room impact over one percent of the MSCI Iceland IML.

6.2.7 Ivory Coast

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: The process of setting up accounts may be lengthy.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Lack of robustness and enforcement of local accounting standards. In addition, detailed stock market information is not always available in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status in the market and overdraft facilities are prohibited.

Trading: There is a limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited. In-kind transfers are possible but must be approved by the stock exchange.

6.2.8 Jordan

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: The presence of large strategic shareholders in many Jordanian companies may limit the level of transparency and governance in the market.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always available in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no functioning nominee status and omnibus structures are not available. Overdraft facilities are not available for foreign investors.

Trading: There is a limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to relatively higher trading costs.

Transferability: In-kind transfers and off-exchange transactions are prohibited.

6.2.9 Kazakhstan

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory, and documents must be legalized and translated into Kazakh or Russian.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always available in English.

Clearing and Settlement: T+2 settlement is available for liquid equity securities. However, partial pre-funding is still required for these transactions.

Transferability: In-kind transfers with change of beneficial ownership are possible either through the central depository or the central registry. Off-exchange transactions are possible but with some restrictions.

Stability of Institutional Framework: There have been instances of government interventions that challenged the stability of the “free-market” economy.

6.2.10 Kenya

Capital Flow Restriction Level: Currently, there are no additional documentation requirements that would impact the ability of foreign investors to repatriate capital. More time is needed to assess the efficiency of the capital repatriation process in Kenya.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market. Market participants have indicated that liquidity in the FX market and the ability to repatriate capital from Kenya has improved.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: The process to set up accounts can take up to one week.

Clearing and Settlement: Overdrafts are not allowed for a tenor of less than one year and pre-funding is required. In addition, there are operational concerns related to the use of omnibus accounts.

Registry / Depository: There is an absence of a central registry, with some registration done by financial institutions.

Trading: There is a very limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: In-kind transfers and off-exchange transactions are prohibited.

6.2.11 Mali

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: The process of setting up accounts may be lengthy.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Lack of robustness and enforcement of local accounting standards. In addition, detailed stock market information is not always available in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status in the market and overdraft facilities are prohibited.

Trading: There is a limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited. In-kind transfers are possible but must be approved by the stock exchange.

6.2.12 Mauritius

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market and there are constraints on the onshore currency market (e.g., foreign exchange transactions must be linked to security transactions).

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status and omnibus structures are not available.

Trading: There is a very limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited. There are restrictions on in-kind transfers.

6.2.13 Morocco

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Capital Flow Restriction Level: In general, there are no capital flow restrictions but the absence of evidence of foreign currency inflows may result in restrictions on the capital outflows. Repatriation has to be performed only using convertible Moroccan Dirham accounts. Investments funded by inward remittance are required to be reported to the Exchange Control Office.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There are restrictions on the offshore currency market.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no legal recognition of nominee status. In addition, there are restrictions on overdraft facilities for foreign investors.

Trading: The limited level of competition among brokers may lead to relatively higher trading cost.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited.

6.2.14 Niger

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: The process of setting up accounts may be lengthy.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Lack of robustness and enforcement of local accounting standards. In addition, detailed stock market information is not always available in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status in the market and overdraft facilities are prohibited.

Trading: There is a limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited. In-kind transfers are possible but must be approved by the stock exchange.

6.2.15 Oman

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: The presence of large strategic shareholders in many Omani companies may limit the level of transparency and governance in the market.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory, but the process is efficient.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no functioning nominee status and omnibus structures are not available. Overdraft facilities are not available for foreign investors.

Transferability: In-kind transfers and off-exchange transactions are prohibited.

Improvement

Information Flow: "+" to "++". Following reforms from market authorities, the level of stock market information has improved and is disclosed in a timely manner.

6.2.16 Senegal

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: The process of setting up accounts may be lengthy.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Lack of robustness and enforcement of local accounting standards. In addition, detailed stock market information is not always available in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status in the market and overdraft facilities are prohibited.

Trading: There is a very limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited. In-kind transfers are possible but must be approved by the stock exchange.

6.2.17 Serbia

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Capital Flow Restriction Level: Due to some administrative requirements, repatriation of funds can take up to two weeks.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market.

Investor Registration & Account Setup: Registration is mandatory, and all foreign investors need to appoint a legal and tax representative. All documents, however, must be filed in Serbian.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Clearing and Settlement: Overdraft facilities are restricted to foreign banks.

Trading: There is a limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited. In-kind transfers and overdraft facilities are available with restrictions.

6.2.18 Togo

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: The process of setting up accounts may be lengthy.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Lack of robustness and enforcement of local accounting standards. In addition, detailed stock market information is not always available in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status in the market and overdraft facilities are prohibited.

Trading: There is a limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited. In-kind transfers are possible but must be approved by the stock exchange.

6.2.19 Tunisia

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: There is a lack of robustness in, and enforcement of, local accounting standards. In addition, detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status and overdraft facilities for foreign investors are prohibited.

Trading: There is a very limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited. Free-of-Payment (FOP) transfers can only be executed if there is no change in beneficial owner.

Stability of Institutional Framework: Inability to enforce some provisions of the country's Constitution has put into question the stability of the institutional framework.

Improvement

Custody: "-" to "+". There is formal segregation between custody and trading accounts, but there are limited active custodians available to foreign investors.

6.3 Frontier Markets - Asia Pacific

6.3.1 Bangladesh

Capital Flow Restriction level: The shares of an issuer held by foreign investors, at the time of according consent to the IPO, shall be subject to a one-year lock-in from the first trading day at the exchange.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no efficient offshore currency market and there are constraints on the onshore currency market (e.g., foreign exchange transactions must be linked to security transactions). Market participants have indicated that the previous FX liquidity issues have subsided.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: There is a need to apply for a registration certificate with a relatively heavy documentation requirement.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status and omnibus structures are not available. Overdraft facilities are prohibited.

Trading: There is a limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to higher trading costs. While price floors for most stocks in the Bangladesh exchange have been removed, they remain for a few.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited.

Stability of Institutional Framework: The political situation and inability of the country to enforce regulations has put into question the stability of the institutional framework.

6.3.2 Pakistan

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Despite the implementation of digital onboarding regime for non-resident investors, registration can take up to four days.

Market Regulations: Regulations have frequently changed over the past few years.

Clearing and Settlement: Omnibus structures are not available. Direct overdraft facilities remain prohibited.

Stock Lending: Is allowed but is not an established market practice.

Short Selling: Is allowed but is not an established market practice.

Stability of Institutional Framework: There have been instances of interventions that challenged the stability of the “free-market” economy as illustrated by frequently changing market regulations.

Deterioration

Foreign exchange market liberalization level: "+" to "-". There is no offshore currency market and there are constraints on the onshore currency market. FX transactions by foreign investors remain linked to securities trading activities. Currency conversions must be executed through a Special Convertible Rupee Account.

6.3.3 Sri Lanka

Investor Qualification Requirement: International institutional investors are required to obtain approval from the Sri Lanka Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) prior to entering the market.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There are constraints on the onshore currency market (e.g., foreign exchange transactions must be linked to security transactions). In addition, market participants have indicated that liquidity in the FX market and the ability to repatriate capital from Sri Lanka has improved.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory, and the account setup requires approval from the Central Depository for Securities. The full process can last up to three weeks.

Clearing and Settlement: Overdraft facilities for foreign investors are prohibited.

Trading: There is a very limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited, and in-kind transfers require prior approval from the SEC.

6.3.4 Vietnam

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: Companies in certain conditional and sensitive sectors are subject to foreign ownership limits ranging from zero to 75 percent. These limitations still affect more than ten percent of the Vietnamese equity market.

Foreign Room Level: The equity market is significantly impacted by foreign room issues. More than one percent of the MSCI Vietnam IMI is impacted by low foreign room.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Some company related information is not always readily available in English. In addition, the rights of foreign investors are limited as a result of the stringent foreign ownership limits imposed on both total as well as individual foreign investors.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market and there are constraints on the onshore currency market (e.g., foreign exchange transactions must be linked to security transactions).

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory and account setup requires the approval of the Vietnam Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation (VSDC).

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Stock market information is not always disclosed in English and occasionally is not detailed enough. In September 2024, the Ministry of Finance outlined a roadmap requiring public companies to disclose information in English. This will be done in phases starting January 1, 2025 and ending January 1, 2028. MSCI will monitor the implementation of this change.

Clearing and Settlement: There are no overdraft facilities. In December 2024, Vietnam implemented its short-term non-pre-funding solution, which involves brokers guaranteeing settlement of trades. More time is needed to assess the efficiency of this solution.

Transferability: Following changes in regulation, more types of off-exchange transactions and in-kind transfers can be executed without the need for regulatory pre-approval, leading to volumes for these transactions increasing significantly in recent years. However, VSDC typically takes several days to review required documentation before these transactions can be executed.

7 Standalone Markets

The following comments should be read in conjunction with the market-by-market assessment results that can be found in Appendix II of this document.⁶

Standalone Markets include all markets covered by MSCI but not included in the MSCI Composite Indexes. This category includes potential candidates for the MSCI Frontier Markets Indexes that currently do not meet the minimum liquidity requirements as well as markets that are currently partially or fully closed to foreign investors.

7.1 Americas

7.1.1 Argentina

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Capital Flow Restriction Level: International investors were not able to access the domestic equity market since the government imposed capital controls in September 2019. These restrictions on capital mobility led to repatriation concerns among international investors. In April 2025, the Central Bank announced the lifting of several restrictions, allowing international investors to repatriate dividends earned from January 1, 2025. However, several restrictions for foreign institutional investors are still in place.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is an absence of an efficient offshore currency market. Additionally, constraints were placed on the onshore currency market following imposition of the capital controls in September 2019. Effective April 14, 2025, the crawling peg system was replaced by a managed float and some restrictions on the FX market were eased. MSCI will continue monitoring these developments.

Investor Registration & Account Setup: All documents must be filed in Spanish.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

⁶ Stock lending and short selling are activities that are either not developed or are completely prohibited in Standalone Markets and the summary does not highlight these issues on a market-by-market basis.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status in the market. Overdraft facilities remain prohibited.

Trading: Limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to relatively higher trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are allowed with restrictions.

Availability of Investment Instruments: Restrictions imposed on the use of stock market data have led to limited availability of investment instruments.

Stability of Institutional Framework: There have been instances of government interventions that challenged the stability of the “free-market” economy, including with respect to investment activities of foreign investors.

7.1.2 Jamaica

Clearing and Settlement: There is no formal clearing house and the Jamaica Central Securities Depository Limited acts as the clearing agent.

Custody: Absence of active local custodians.

Registry / Depository: There is an absence of a central registry, with some registration done by financial institutions.

Trading: There is a very limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are limited and not an established market practice.

7.1.3 Panama

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: The process of setting up accounts may be lengthy.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Clearing and Settlement: Pre-funding of trades is required.

Custody: There is only one active custodian available to foreign investors.

Registry / Depository: There is an absence of a central registry, with some registry at issuer level.

Trading: There is a very limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are allowed but are not a common practice. In-kind transfers are possible with certain restrictions.

7.1.4 Trinidad and Tobago

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is an absence of an offshore currency market and there are constraints on the onshore currency market (e.g., foreign exchange transactions must be executed by the local custodian).

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory and approval from the Ministry of Finance is required. The process can take up to five days.

Market Regulations: Information on regulations is not centralized.

Information Flow: Occasionally stock market information is not disclosed in a timely manner.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no nominee status and omnibus structures are not available. Overdraft facilities remain prohibited.

Custody: The Trinidad and Tobago Central Depository is the only registered custodian.

Registry / Depository: There is an absence of a central registry, with some registry at issuer level. It can take up to eight weeks for investors to have their shares registered.

Trading: There is a very limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are prohibited, and in-kind transfers are restricted.

7.2 Europe, Middle East, and Africa

7.2.1 Bosnia and Herzegovina

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not readily available in English at the Banja Luka Stock Exchange (BLSE).

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English. Financial system is quite fragmented as the country continues to have two semi-autonomous political entities, judicial system and stock exchange.

Information Flow: Stock market information, including dividend information, is often not complete and is not always disclosed in English. There is no central source for this type of information.

Clearing and Settlement: Pre-funding of trades is required by the Registry of Securities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Trading: There is a very limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: In-kind transfers and off-exchange transactions are prohibited.

7.2.2 Lebanon

Investor Qualification Requirement: Israeli nationals are formally prohibited from investing in Lebanese companies.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Capital Flow Restriction Level: Since October 2019, restrictions were implemented on the repatriation of funds outside Lebanon. This has impacted the ability of foreign investors to repatriate funds from investments in the local equity market.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market and there are constraints on the onshore currency market (e.g., foreign investors are not allowed to hold Lebanese pound balances and foreign exchange transactions must be linked to security transactions).

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory and may take up to five days.

Market Regulations: Not all regulations can be found in English.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There is no functioning nominee status and omnibus structures are not available. Overdraft facilities remain prohibited.

Custody: Segregated custody and trading accounts are required in order to mitigate the risk deriving from local brokers having unlimited access to trading accounts. In addition, there is an absence of global custodians in the market.

Registry / Depository: There is an absence of a central registry, with some registry at issuer level. Not all listed shares are dematerialized.

Transferability: In-kind transfers and off-exchange transactions are prohibited.

Stability of Institutional Framework: The political situation in the country may call into question the stability of its institutional framework.

7.2.3 Nigeria

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: In general, the rights of minority shareholders are negatively impacted by the scarcity of relevant information.

Capital Flow Restriction Level: A certificate of foreign currency inflow is required for any capital repatriation.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market and there are constraints on the onshore currency market (e.g., foreign exchange transactions must be linked to security transactions and interbank foreign exchange rates are set by the authorities). Following operational changes in the Nigerian FX Market that started in June 2023, FX liquidity has improved. More time is needed to assess the impact of these changes.

Market Regulations: Not all relevant information is readily available to foreign investors.

Information Flow: There is limited information available to foreign investors regarding market regulations and the shareholding structure for Nigerian banks.

Registry / Depository: There is an absence of a central registry, with some registry at issuer level.

Trading: There is a very limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: In-kind transfers and off-exchange transactions are restricted.

Stability of Institutional Framework: There have been instances of government interventions that challenged the stability of the “free-market” economy as illustrated by frequently changing market regulations.

7.2.4 Palestine

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: All transactions are carried out in foreign currency as the country does not issue its own currency.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory, but the process is efficient.

Information Flow: Detailed stock market information is not always disclosed in English.

Clearing and Settlement: Overdraft facilities for foreign investors are prohibited. In addition, there is no nominee status and omnibus structures are not available.

Custody: A number of global and local custodian banks currently operate in the market. More time is needed to assess the efficiency of the local custody process.

Trading: There is a limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to higher trading costs.

Transferability: In-kind transfers and off-exchange transactions are prohibited.

Stability of Institutional Framework: Instability in the political landscape may call into question the stability of the country's institutional framework.

7.2.5 Ukraine

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Company related information is not always readily available in English.

Capital Flow Restriction Level: In February 2019, new foreign exchange regulations aiming at liberalizing the foreign exchange market were introduced. Following this, the limits on the repatriation of funds received from the payment of dividends and from the sale of securities were lifted in July 2019 and September 2019, respectively. MSCI will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the new regulatory framework.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market. In addition, liquidity on the onshore currency market has been relatively low in the recent past.

Investor Registration & Account Set Up: Registration is mandatory and requires a significant amount of manual paperwork. The process is difficult and requires a lot of time to complete.

Market Regulations: Regulations are not fully enforced by the supervisory authority resulting in many investors trading over the counter. In addition, not all relevant information can be found in English.

Information Flow: Stock market information is often not complete and is often not disclosed in a timely manner. In addition, the information is often not in English.

Clearing and Settlement: There are no overdraft facilities on the PFTS Stock Exchange. In addition, there is no nominee status and omnibus structures are not available.

Custody: There is no formal segregation between custody and trading accounts.

Registry / Depository: The central securities depository and the central registry remain inefficient.

Trading: There is a very limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: Off-exchange transactions are allowed but require approval from the authorities.

Stability of Institutional Framework: There have been instances of government interventions that challenged the stability of the “free-market” economy.

7.2.6 Zimbabwe

Foreign Ownership Limit Level: Listed companies are, in general, subject to a 49 percent foreign ownership limit. Currently, this affects more than ten percent of the Zimbabwe equity market.

Equal Rights to Foreign Investors: Rights of foreign investors are limited as a result of the stringent foreign ownership limits.

Capital Flow Restriction Level: Repatriation costs via the repatriation mechanism are relatively high and the process takes a long time.

Foreign Exchange Market Liberalization Level: There is no offshore currency market and there are constraints on the onshore currency market (e.g., foreign exchange transactions must be linked to transactions approved by authorities). Applicable from April 8th, 2024, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe introduced the Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) as the new national currency. However, the ZiG is still illiquid.

Information Flow: Stock market information is often not complete.

Market Regulations: Most regulations are publicly available. However, the regulatory framework has frequently changed over the past few years (e.g., FX market), and there are concerns about the full enforcement of laws and regulations.

Clearing and Settlement: Omnibus structures are not available and pre-funding of trades is required. Overdraft facilities are not available for foreign investors.

Registry / Depository: There are central securities depositories and registrars in the market. More time is needed to assess the efficiency of the registry and depository system.

Custody: There are few active custodians.

Trading: There is a very limited level of competition among brokers which can lead to high trading costs.

Transferability: In-kind transfers and off-exchange transactions are prohibited.

Stability of Institutional Framework: There is a lack of enforcement of the rule of law.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix I: MSCI Market Classification Framework

The classification of markets is a key input in the process of index construction as it drives the composition of the investment opportunity sets to be represented. The approach used by MSCI aims to reflect the views and practices of the international investment community by striking a balance between a country's economic development and the accessibility of its market while preserving index stability.

The MSCI Market Classification Framework consists of three criteria: Economic Development, Size and Liquidity Requirements as well as Market Accessibility.

In order to be classified in a given investment universe, a country must meet the requirements of all three criteria as described in the table below.

Criteria	Frontier	Emerging	Developed
A Economic Development			
A.1 Sustainability of economic development	No requirement	No requirement	Country GNI per capita 25% above the World Bank high income threshold * for 3 consecutive years
B Size and Liquidity Requirements			
B.1 Entry requirement			
Number of companies meeting the following Standard Index criteria over each of the last 8 Index Reviews	1	3	5
Company size (full market cap) **	USD 155 mm	USD 2,964 mm	USD 5,928 mm
Security size (float market cap) **	USD 78 mm	USD 1,482 mm	USD 2,964 mm
Security liquidity	2.5% ATVR	15% ATVR	20% ATVR
B.2 Maintenance requirements			
Number of companies meeting the following Standard Index criteria	-	1	1
Company size (full market cap) **	USD 155 mm	USD 2,964 mm	USD 5,928 mm
Security size (float market cap) **	USD 78 mm	USD 1,482 mm	USD 2,964 mm
Security liquidity	2.5% ATVR	15% ATVR	20% ATVR
Minimum number of securities in the Market Investable Equity Universe	1	3	5
C Market Accessibility Criteria			
C.1 Openness to foreign ownership	At least some	Significant	Very high
C.2 Ease of capital inflows / outflows	At least partial	Significant	Very high
C.3 Efficiency of operational framework	Modest	Good and tested	Very high
C.4 Availability of investment instrument	High	High	Unrestricted
C.5 Stability of the institutional framework	Modest	Modest	Very high

* High income threshold: 2023 GNI per capita of USD 14,005 (World Bank, Atlas method)

** Minimum in use for the May 2025 Index Review, updated on a quarterly basis

The economic development criterion is only used in determining the classification of Developed Markets while that distinction is not relevant between Emerging and Frontier Markets given the very wide variety of development levels within each of these two universes.

The Size and Liquidity Requirements are based on the minimum investability requirements for the MSCI Global Standard Indexes. The Size and Liquidity Entry Requirements are used for evaluating markets for reclassification, requiring a minimum number of companies meeting Standard Index criteria over each of the last 8 Index Reviews. On the other hand, Size and Liquidity Maintenance Requirements assess the current classification of markets using a minimum number of companies meeting Standard Index criteria and minimum number of securities in the Market Investable Equity Universe based on latest data. For additional details, please refer to the MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes methodology book at www.msci.com/index-methodology.

For Developed Markets consolidated at the regional level (e.g., DM Europe), MSCI applies Size and Liquidity Requirements on each individual market within the region. For Emerging or Frontier Markets consolidated at the regional level (e.g., WAEMU and Baltic States), the Size and Liquidity Requirements are assessed on a consolidated basis (i.e., treated as a single market).

While the Size and Liquidity Entry and Maintenance Requirements will serve as general triggers for a potential consultation, MSCI will assess each unique case independently to decide on whether to consult based on this criterion.

Market accessibility aims to reflect international institutional investors' experience of investing in a given market and as a result, this criterion includes several sub-criteria. These criteria are generally based on qualitative measures that are reviewed for all markets at least once a year during the MSCI Global Market Accessibility Review.

MSCI regularly reviews the market classification of all markets included in the MSCI Indexes to ensure that they remain reflective of the evolution of the different markets. In particular, changes in the assessments under the classification framework serve as the basis for determining the markets that will be reviewed for potential market reclassification as part of the Annual Market Classification Review.

MSCI will only consider markets for upgrade if a change in classification status can be viewed as irreversible. Every June, MSCI will communicate its conclusions from the discussions with the investment community on the list of markets under review and announce the new list of markets, if any, under review for potential market reclassification in the upcoming cycle. While adhering to the regular timeline for such communication

helps provide greater predictability and is less disruptive to a market's normal functioning, MSCI may from time to time exercise prudent discretion and consider off-cycle communications should significant market events take place outside the regular review cycle.

Advanced Frontier Markets

Beginning with the 2025 MSCI Market Classification Review, MSCI has introduced a new subcategory within the Frontier Markets universe: Advanced Frontier Markets (Advanced FM).

This subcategory identifies Frontier Markets that demonstrate market accessibility characteristics closely aligned with those of Developed Markets but remain classified as Frontier Markets due to their size and liquidity constraints.

To be classified as an Advanced FM, a market must meet the following criteria:

- Market Accessibility assessments must show no more than two deviations from the highest rating (++), across the key focus areas of efficiency of the operational framework (excluding stock lending and short selling), openness to foreign ownership, and ease of capital inflows/outflows.
- The market must be rated ++ on capital flow restriction levels, indicating no constraints.

MSCI will announce and review any changes to the composition of the Advanced FM subcategory annually, in conjunction with the publication of the MSCI Global Market Accessibility Review.

The MSCI Frontier Markets classification and the MSCI Frontier Market Indexes are not impacted by this subcategory.

8.2 Appendix II: Assessment Results

8.2.1 Developed Markets

	Americas		EMEA									
	Canada	USA	Austria	Belgium	Denmark	Finland	France	Germany	Ireland	Israel	Italy	Netherlands
Openness to foreign ownership												
Investor qualification requirement	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Foreign ownership limit (FOL) level	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++
Foreign room level	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Equal rights to foreign investors	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Ease of capital inflows / outflows												
Capital flow restriction level	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Foreign exchange market liberalization level	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Efficiency of the operational framework												
Market entry												
Investor registration & account set up	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Market organization												
Market regulations	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Information flow	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++
Market infrastructure												
Clearing and Settlement	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++
Custody	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Registry / Depository	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Trading	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Transferability	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Stock lending	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Short selling	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Availability of Investment Instruments	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Stability of institutional framework	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++

++: no issues; +: no major issues, improvements possible; -: improvements needed

	EMEA						Asia Pacific				
	Norway	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	United Kingdom	Australia	Hong Kong	Japan	New Zealand	Singapore
Openness to foreign ownership											
Investor qualification requirement	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Foreign ownership limit (FOL) level	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Foreign room level	++	++	-	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Equal rights to foreign investors	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++
Ease of capital inflows / outflows											
Capital flow restriction level	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Foreign exchange market liberalization level	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Efficiency of the operational framework											
Market entry											
Investor registration & account set up	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Market organization											
Market regulations	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Information flow	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++
Market infrastructure											
Clearing and Settlement	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Custody	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Registry / Depository	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Trading	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Transferability	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Stock lending	++	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Short selling	++	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Availability of Investment Instruments	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Stability of institutional framework	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++

++: no issues; +: no major issues, improvements possible; -: improvements needed

8.2.2 Emerging Markets

	Americas					EMEA							
	Brazil	Chile	Colombia	Mexico	Peru	Czech Republic	Egypt	Greece	Hungary	Kuwait	Poland	Qatar	
Openness to foreign ownership													
Investor qualification requirement	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	
Foreign ownership limit (FOL) level	+	++	++	-	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	+	
Foreign room level	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	
Equal rights to foreign investors	-	+	+	-	+	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	
Ease of capital inflows / outflows													
Capital flow restriction level	++	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	
Foreign exchange market liberalization level	-	+	-	++	++	++	-	++	++	++	++	++	
Efficiency of the operational framework													
Market entry													
Investor registration & account set up	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	++	+	
Market organization													
Market regulations	+	+	+	++	+	+	-	++	+	++	++	++	
Information flow	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	++	+	+	+	++	
Market infrastructure													
Clearing and Settlement	-	++	+	++	-	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	
Custody	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	+	
Registry / Depository	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	+	++	
Trading	++	++	++	++	+	++	+	++	++	++	++	++	
Transferability	+	-	-	++	+	++	-	++	++	-	+	-	
Stock lending	++	-	+	++	-	+	-	++	+	-	+	+	
Short selling	++	-	+	+	-	+	-	++	+	-	+	-	
Availability of Investment Instruments	-	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	
Stability of institutional framework	+	++	-	+	+	++	-	++	++	+	++	+	
++: no issues; +: no major issues, improvements possible; -: improvements needed													

++: no issues; +: no major issues, improvements possible; -: improvements needed

	EMEA				Asia Pacific								
	Saudi Arabia	South Africa	Turkey	United Arab Emirates	China	China A	India	Indonesia	Korea	Malaysia	Philippines	Taiwan	Thailand
Openness to foreign ownership													
Investor qualification requirement	+	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	++	++	+	++
Foreign ownership limit (FOL) level	-	++	++	-	-	-	-	++	++	+	-	++	-
Foreign room level	++	++	++	+	++	-	-	++	+	++	-	++	-
Equal rights to foreign investors	-	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Ease of capital inflows / outflows													
Capital flow restriction level	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Foreign exchange market liberalization level	++	++	+	++	++	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
Efficiency of the operational framework													
Market entry													
Investor registration & account set up	+	++	+	+	++	+	-	++	-	++	++	-	++
Market organization													
Market regulations	++	++	+	++	+	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	++
Information flow	+	++	+	++	++	+	++	+	-	++	++	+	++
Market infrastructure													
Clearing and Settlement	+	+	+	+	++	-	-	+	-	++	+	-	+
Custody	+	++	++	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Registry / Depository	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Trading	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Transferability	-	+	++	+	++	-	-	+	-	+	++	+	++
Stock lending	-	++	+	-	++	-	++	+	++	++	-	+	+
Short selling	-	++	-	-	++	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
Availability of Investment Instruments	++	++	-	++	++	+	-	++	-	++	++	++	++
Stability of institutional framework	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

++: no issues; +: no major issues, improvements possible; -: improvements needed

8.2.3 Frontier Markets

	Advanced Frontier Markets					Frontier Markets - EMEA									
	Estonia	Latvia	Lithuania	Romania	Slovenia	Bahrain	Benin	Burkina Faso	Croatia	Guinea-Bissau	Iceland	Ivory Coast	Jordan	Kazakhstan	
Openness to foreign ownership															
Investor qualification requirement	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	
Foreign ownership limit (FOL) level	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	-	++	++	++	
Foreign room level	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	-	++	++	++	
Equal rights to foreign investors	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	+	++	+	+	++	
Ease of capital inflows / outflows															
Capital flow restriction level	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	
Foreign exchange market liberalization level	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	+	-	+	++	-	
Efficiency of the operational framework															
Market entry															
Investor registration & account set up	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	++	+	
Market organization															
Market regulations	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	+	++	+	++	++	
Information flow	++	++	++	++	++	-	-	-	+	-	++	-	+	+	
Market infrastructure															
Clearing and Settlement	++	++	++	+	++	+	-	-	+	-	++	-	-	+	
Custody	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	
Registry / Depository	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	
Trading	++	++	++	++	+	++	-	-	+	-	++	-	+	++	
Transferability	++	++	++	+	++	-	-	-	++	-	++	-	-	+	
Stock lending	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Short selling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Availability of Investment Instruments	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	
Stability of institutional framework	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	++	-	+	-	

++: no issues; +: no major issues, improvements possible; -: improvements needed

	Frontier Markets - EMEA										Frontier Markets - Asia Pacific			
	Kenya	Mali	Mauritius	Morocco	Niger	Oman	Senegal	Serbia	Togo	Tunisia	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Vietnam
Openness to foreign ownership														
Investor qualification requirement	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++
Foreign ownership limit (FOL) level	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	-
Foreign room level	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	-
Equal rights to foreign investors	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	++	-
Ease of capital inflows / outflows														
Capital flow restriction level	+	++	++	+	++	++	++	+	++	++	+	++	++	++
Foreign exchange market liberalization level	-	+	-	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-
Efficiency of the operational framework														
Market entry														
Investor registration & account set up	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	-	+	++	-	+	-	+
Market organization														
Market regulations	++	+	++	+	+	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	++	+
Information flow	++	-	++	+	-	++	-	+	-	-	++	++	++	-
Market infrastructure														
Clearing and Settlement	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Custody	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	++
Registry / Depository	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Trading	-	-	-	+	-	++	-	+	-	-	-	++	-	++
Transferability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	++	-	+
Stock lending	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short selling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Availability of Investment Instruments	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Stability of institutional framework	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+

++: no issues; +: no major issues, improvements possible; -: improvements needed

8.2.4 Standalone Markets

	Americas				EMEA						
	Argentina	Jamaica	Panama	Trinidad & Tobago	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Lebanon	Malta	Nigeria	Palestine	Ukraine	Zimbabwe
Openness to foreign ownership											
Investor qualification requirement	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	++	++
Foreign ownership limit (FOL) level	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	-
Foreign room level	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Equal rights to foreign investors	+	++	+	++	+	+	++	+	+	+	+
Ease of capital inflows / outflows											
Capital flow restriction level	-	++	++	++	++	-	++	-	++	+	-
Foreign exchange market liberalization level	-	++	++	-	+	-	++	-	-	-	-
Efficiency of the operational framework											
Market entry											
Investor registration & account set up	+	++	-	-	++	-	++	++	+	-	++
Market organization											
Market regulations	+	++	+	+	+	+	++	+	++	-	+
Information flow	+	++	-	+	-	+	++	-	+	-	+
Market infrastructure											
Clearing and Settlement	-	-	+	-	-	-	++	++	-	-	-
Custody	++	-	-	-	++	-	++	++	+	-	+
Registry / Depository	++	+	+	+	++	-	++	+	++	+	+
Trading	+	-	+	-	-	++	++	-	+	-	-
Transferability	+	+	-	-	-	-	++	-	-	+	-
Stock lending	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short selling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Availability of Investment Instruments	-	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Stability of institutional framework	-	+	+	+	+	-	++	-	-	-	-

++: no issues; +: no major issues, improvements possible; -: improvements needed

8.3 Appendix III: Market Accessibility Measures

	Definition
Openness to foreign ownership	
Investor qualification requirement	Existence of qualifying conditions for international investors. Existence of a level playing field for all international investors.
Foreign ownership limit (FOL) level	Proportion of the market being accessible to non-domestic investors.
Foreign room level	Proportion of shares still available for non-domestic investors. Existence of a foreign board where non-domestic investors could trade with each other.
Equal rights to foreign investors	Equal economic and voting rights as well as availability of information in English. Equal rights for minority shareholders.
Ease of capital inflows / outflows	
Capital flow restriction level	Existence of restriction on inflows and outflows of foreign capital to/from the local stock market (excluding foreign currency exchange restrictions).
Foreign exchange market liberalization level	Existence of a developed onshore and offshore foreign exchange market.
Efficiency of the operational framework	
Market entry	
Investor registration & account set up	Existence/level of complexity of registration requirements for international investors such as Tax IDs as well as ease/complexity for setting up local accounts (e.g., documents to be provided, approvals required). The time to complete the process includes the preparation of the documents.
Market organization	
Market regulations	Level of advancement of the legal and regulatory framework governing the financial market, the stock exchange and the various other entities involved in the financial markets, an important weight is assigned to: ease of access (including in English), lack of ambiguity and prompt enforcement of laws and regulations, as well as consistency over time.
Information flow	Timely disclosure of complete stock market information items (e.g., stock exchange alerts, corporate news, float information, dividend information) in English and under reasonable commercial terms.
Market infrastructure	
Clearing and Settlement	Well functioning clearing and settlement system based on the broad framework published by the Bank for International Settlements including Delivery Versus Payment (DVP), the absence of pre-funding requirements/practices and the possibility to use overdrafts. Availability of real omnibus structures.
Custody	Level of competition amongst local custodian banks as well as the presence of global custodian banks. Existence of an efficient mechanism that prevents brokers to have unlimited access to the investor's accounts and guarantees the safekeeping of its assets.
Registry / Depository	Well functioning central registry or independent registrars and a central depository.
Trading	Level of competition amongst brokers ensuring high quality services (e.g., cost efficient trading, ability to execute grouped trades at the same price for the various accounts of a fund manager).
Transferability	Possibility of off-exchange transactions and "in-kind" transfers.
Stock lending	Existence of a regulatory framework as well as an efficient mechanism allowing extensive use of stock lending.
Short selling	Existence of a regulatory and practical framework allowing short selling.
Availability of Investment Instruments	Existence of restrictions on access to derived stock exchange information, data and products that prevents the creation of investment instruments.
Stability of institutional framework	Basic institutional principles such as the rule of law and its enforcement as well as the stability of the "free-market" economic system. Track record of government intervention with regards to foreign investors.

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