

MSCI ACWI IMI SDG Impact Select Index Methodology

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1 MSCI ACWI IMI SDG Impact Select Index

The MSCI ACWI IMI SDG Impact Select Index (the ‘Index’) aims to represent the performance of a set of companies from MSCI ACWI IMI that are associated with positive contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals¹ (SDGs) through their products or services, as defined using the following measures:

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

The MSCI ACWI IMI SDG Impact Select Index also applies a set of exclusions criteria to screen companies with business activities that are not considered aligned with the overall objective of contributing to the 17 SDGs. Additionally, the Index applies a minimum weight filter, as well as sector and issuer capping.

¹ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted by UN Member States in 2015, serves as a shared blueprint and consists of the 17 SDGs. These goals are an urgent call for action by all countries through global partnership. (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>)

2 MSCI ESG Research

The MSCI ACWI IMI SDG Impact Select Index uses company ratings and research provided by MSCI ESG Research LLC. In particular, the Index uses the following MSCI ESG Research products: MSCI Impact Solutions, MSCI ESG Ratings, MSCI ESG Controversies, MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research, and MSCI Climate Change Metrics.

For details on MSCI ESG Research’s full suite of ESG products, please refer to: <https://www.msci.com/esg-investing>.

2.1 MSCI Impact Solutions: Sustainable Impact Metrics

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

MSCI Sustainable Impact Taxonomy

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

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

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

2.2 MSCI Impact Solutions: SDG Alignment

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

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

For more details on MSCI Impact Solutions including MSCI SDG Alignment, please refer to <https://www.msci.com/our-solutions/esg-investing/impact-solutions>.

2.3 MSCI ESG Ratings

MSCI ESG Ratings provides research, data, analysis and ratings of how well companies manage environmental, social and governance risks and opportunities. MSCI ESG Ratings provides an overall company ESG rating - a seven-point scale from 'AAA' to 'CCC'. In addition, the product provides scores and percentiles indicating how well a company manages each key issue relative to industry peers, as well as underlying data and metrics used to compile the scores and ratings.

For more details on MSCI ESG Ratings, please refer to <https://www.msci.com/esg-ratings>.

2.4 MSCI ESG Controversies

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

For more details on MSCI ESG Controversies, please refer to <https://www.msci.com/documents/10199/acbe7c8a-a4e4-49de-9cf8-5e957245b86b>.

2.5 MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research

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

For more details on MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research, please refer to http://www.msci.com/resources/factsheets/MSCI_ESG_BISR.pdf.

2.6 MSCI Climate Change Metrics

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

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

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

3 Constructing the MSCI ACWI IMI SDG Impact Select Index

3.1 Selection Universe

The underlying universe for the MSCI ACWI IMI SDG Impact Select Index is defined by the constituents of the MSCI ACWI Investable Market Indexes (IMI, the 'Parent Index'), from which two separate universes of stocks are constructed (as described in sections 3.2 to 3.3).

3.2 Filtered Universe

3.2.1 ESG Filter

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

- Controversial Weapons
- Nuclear Weapons
- Conventional Weapons
- Civilian Firearms
- Tobacco
- Thermal Coal Mining
- Thermal Coal-based Power Generation
- Oil Sands Extraction
- UN Global Compact Violations
- ESG Controversies Score
- ESG Ratings
- SDG Net Alignment
- Country exclusions

Please refer to Appendix 1 for details on these criteria.

3.2.2 Country filter

Securities listed on local exchanges in any of the below select countries² are excluded from the final index:

- India
- Russia
- Saudi Arabia
- Kuwait
- Pakistan
- Egypt

3.3 SDG Impact Universe

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

- Alternative Energy
- Hydro Power Generation
- Energy Efficiency
- Green Building
- Sustainable Water
- Pollution Prevention
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Nutrition
- Major Disease Treatment
- Sanitation

² If securities listed in Kazakhstan, Kenya, Ukraine or Vietnam are added to MSCI ACWI IMI, they will be excluded from these indexes

- Contraceptives
- Affordable Real Estate
- SME Finance
- Education
- Connectivity – Digital Divide

3.3.1 Selection Criteria

Within each GICS³ Sector, companies selected are ranked based on their SDG Revenue, from which the top 50 securities are selected. If two or more companies have the same SDG Revenue, priority is given based on their free float-adjusted market capitalization, from largest to smallest. For sectors that have less than 50 securities, all securities are included in the Index.

3.4 Weighting Scheme

Selected constituents of the MSCI ACWI IMI SDG Impact Select Index are weighted as follows:

3.4.1 Security Weighting

Securities that meet the selection criteria outlined in Section 3.3 are weighted by the product of the aggregated SDG Revenue and their free float-adjusted market capitalization. The weights are then normalized to sum to 100%.

3.4.2 Minimum Weight Filter

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

3.4.3 Sector and Issuer Capping

The maximum weight of any sector in the MSCI ACWI IMI SDG Impact Select Index is capped at 20%, while the maximum weight of any issuer is capped at 4.5%. After applying both sector and issuer capping, excess weights are distributed among remaining sectors in proportion of their existing sector weights in the Index. Within sectors that are allocated excess weights, the weights are distributed among constituents within the sector while meeting the issuer capping requirements.

³ GICS, the Global Industry Classification Standard, jointly developed by MSCI Inc. and S&P Global.

4 Maintaining the MSCI ACWI IMI SDG Impact Select Index

4.1 Semi-Annual Index Review

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

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

At each Semi-Annual Index Review, the Filtered and SDG Impact universes are updated based on the criteria outlined in sections 3.2 to 3.3.

4.2 Quarterly Index Reviews

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

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

4.3 Ongoing Event-Related Maintenance

The general treatment of corporate events in the MSCI ACWI IMI SDG Impact Select Index aims to minimize turnover outside of Index Reviews. The methodology aims to appropriately represent an investor's participation in an event based on relevant deal terms and pre-event weighting of the index constituents that are involved. Further, changes in index market capitalization that occur as a result of corporate event

implementation will be offset by a corresponding change in the Variable Weighting Factor (VWF) of the constituent.

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

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

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

EVENT TYPE

EVENT DETAILS

New additions to the Parent Index

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

Spin-Offs

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

Merger/Acquisition

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

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

Changes in Security Characteristics

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

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

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

Appendix 1: ESG Exclusions Criteria

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

- **Controversial Weapons**

- All companies with any tie to Controversial Weapons (cluster munitions, landmines, depleted uranium weapons, biological/chemical weapons, blinding lasers, non-detectable fragments and incendiary weapons), as defined by the methodology of the MSCI Global Ex-Controversial Weapons Indexes available at <https://www.msci.com/index-methodology>.

- **Nuclear Weapons**

- All companies that manufacture nuclear warheads and/or whole nuclear missiles
- All companies that manufacture components that were developed or are significantly modified for exclusive use in nuclear weapons (warheads and missiles)
- All companies that manufacture or assemble delivery platforms that were developed or significantly modified for the exclusive delivery of nuclear weapons
- All companies that provide auxiliary services related to nuclear weapons
- All companies that manufacture components that were not developed or not significantly modified for exclusive use in nuclear weapons (warheads and missiles) but can be used in nuclear weapons
- All companies that manufacture or assemble delivery platforms that were not developed or not significantly modified for the exclusive delivery of nuclear weapons but have the capability to deliver nuclear weapons
- All companies that manufacture components for nuclear-exclusive delivery platforms

- **Conventional Weapons**
 - All companies deriving 5% or more revenue from the production of conventional weapons
 - All companies deriving 10% or more aggregate revenue from weapons systems, components, and support systems and services
- **Civilian Firearms**
 - All companies classified as “Producer” of firearms and small arms ammunitions for civilian markets. It does not include companies that cater to the military, government, and law enforcement markets.
 - All companies deriving 5% or more aggregate revenue from the production and distribution (wholesale or retail) of firearms or small arms ammunition intended for civilian use.
- **Tobacco**
 - All companies that manufacture tobacco products, such as cigars, blunts, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, inhalers, beedis, kreteks, smokeless tobacco, snuff, snus, dissolvable and chewing tobacco. This category also covers companies that grow or process raw tobacco leaves.
 - All companies deriving 5% or more aggregate revenue from the production, distribution, retail, supply, and licensing of tobacco-related products
- **Thermal Coal Mining**
 - All companies deriving 5% or more revenue (either reported or estimated) from the mining of thermal coal (including lignite, bituminous, anthracite and steam coal) and its sale to external parties. It does not cover revenue from metallurgical coal; coal mined for internal power generation (e.g., in the case of vertically integrated power producers); intra-company sales of mined thermal coal; and revenue from coal trading.
- **Thermal Coal-based Power Generation**
 - All companies deriving 5% or more revenue (either reported or estimated) from the thermal coal-based power generation
- **Oil Sands Extraction**
 - All companies deriving 5% or more revenue (either reported or estimated) from oil sands extraction for a set of companies that own

oil sands reserves and disclose evidence of deriving revenue from oil sands extraction. It does not cover revenue from non-extraction activities (e.g. exploration, surveying, processing, refining); ownership of oil sands reserves with no associated extraction revenues; revenue from intra-company sales.

- **United Nations Global Compact Compliance**
 - All companies that fail to comply with the United Nations Global Compact principles.
- **ESG Controversies Score**
 - All companies that are involved in environmental, social, and/or governance controversies assessed as Red Flags (Score of 0 or those with very severe controversies).
- **ESG Ratings**
 - All companies assessed as having an MSCI ESG Rating of 'B' and 'CCC'
- **SDG Net Alignment**
 - All companies that are assessed as Strongly Misaligned and Misaligned on their Net Alignment to any of the 17 SDGs

Note on Unrated Securities or Securities with Missing Coverage:

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

Contact us

clientservice@msci.com

AMERICAS

Americas	1 888 588 4567 *
Atlanta	+ 1 404 551 3212
Boston	+ 1 617 532 0920
Chicago	+ 1 312 675 0545
Monterrey	+ 52 81 1253 4020
New York	+ 1 212 804 3901
San Francisco	+ 1 415 836 8800
São Paulo	+ 55 11 3706 1360
Toronto	+ 1 416 628 1007

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

Cape Town	+ 27 21 673 0100
Frankfurt	+ 49 69 133 859 00
Geneva	+ 41 22 817 9777
London	+ 44 20 7618 2222
Milan	+ 39 02 5849 0415
Paris	0800 91 59 17 *

ASIA PACIFIC

China North	10800 852 1032 *
China South	10800 152 1032 *
Hong Kong	+ 852 2844 9333
Mumbai	+ 91 22 6784 9160
Seoul	00798 8521 3392 *
Singapore	800 852 3749 *
Sydney	+ 61 2 9033 9333
Taipei	008 0112 7513 *
Thailand	0018 0015 6207 7181 *
Tokyo	+ 81 3 5290 1555

* = toll free

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