

Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

Product name: AXA WORLD FUNDS - US HIGH YIELD BONDS (the "Financial Product")

Legal entity identifier: 213800MRE1HGV6R96K78

Environmental and / or social characteristics

<p>Sustainable investment means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.</p> <p>The EU Taxonomy is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.</p>	<p>Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?</p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO </p>	
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of sustainable investments with an environmental objective: %</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy <input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy <p><input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of sustainable investments with a social objective: %</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> It promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of % of sustainable investments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy <input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy <input type="checkbox"/> with a social objective <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It promotes E/S characteristics, but will not make any sustainable investments</p>



What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?

The environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product consist of investing in companies considering the ESG score further described below.

The Financial Product also promotes other specific environmental and social characteristics, mainly:

- Preservation of climate with exclusion policies on coal and oil sand activities
- Protection of ecosystem and prevention of deforestation
- Better health with exclusion on tobacco
- Labor rights, society and human rights, business ethics, anti-corruption with exclusion on companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles, International Labor Organization's (ILO) Conventions or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

No reference benchmark has been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Financial Product.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The attainment of the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product and described above is measured with the following sustainability indicator:

The weighted average ESG Score of the Financial Product and of the ICE BofA US High Yield Master II benchmark index (the "Benchmark").

The ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. AXA IM analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

Not applicable as the Financial Product has no objective of sustainable investments.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Not applicable as the Financial Product has no objective of sustainable investments.

The EU Taxonomy sets out a “do not significant harm” principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.

The “do no significant harm” principle applies only to those investments underlying the Financial Product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this Financial Product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

Any other sustainable investment must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.



Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?

Yes

No

Principal adverse impacts are considered with both (i) qualitative and (ii) quantitative approaches:

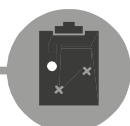
(i) Qualitative approach to consider principal adverse impact is based on exclusion and, where relevant, stewardship policies. Exclusion policies as part of the AXA IM ESG standards cover the most material sustainability factors’ risks and are applied bindingly on a continuous basis. Where relevant, stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on principal adverse impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues. Through its engagement activities, the Financial Product will use its influence as an investor to encourage companies to mitigate environmental and social risks relevant to their sectors. Voting at general meetings is an important element of the dialogue with investee companies in order to foster sustainably long-term value of the companies in which the Financial Product invest and mitigate adverse impacts.

Through those exclusion and stewardship policies the Financial Product takes into consideration potential negative impact on those specific PAI indicators:

	Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
Climate and other environment related indicators	Climate Risk policy	PAI 1: Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (scope 1, 2 & 3 starting 01/2023)
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 2: Carbon Footprint
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 3: GHG intensity of investee companies
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 4: Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
	Climate risk policy (engagement only)	PAI 5: Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 7: activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive area

Social and employee respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti bribery matters	ESG standard policy / violation of international norms and standards	PAI 10: Violation of UN global compact principles & OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
	Voting and engagement policy with systematic voting criteria linked with board gender diversity	PAI 13: Board gender diversity
	Controversial weapons policy	PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons

(ii) Principal adverse impacts are also considered quantitatively through the PAI indicators' measurement and reported annually in the SFDR annex in the periodic reporting. The objective is to provide transparency to investors on significant negative impact on other sustainability factors. AXA IM is measuring all the mandatory PAI indicators, additional optional environmental and social indicators.



What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

The investment strategy guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Investment Manager selects investments by applying an extra-financial approach based on the exclusion filters as described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies. Those sectorial exclusions cover areas such as Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities and Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation. The ESG Standards encompass specific sectorial exclusions such as tobacco and white phosphorus weapons and exclusion of investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to regular review and adaptation). Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: <https://www.axa-im.com/our-policies-and-reports>

The ESG criteria contribute to, but are not a determining factor in, the Investment Manager's decision making.

In addition, the Financial Product always outperforms the ESG score of the investment universe as defined by the Benchmark, both ESG scores of the Financial Product and the Benchmark being calculated on a weighted average basis.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The Financial Product bindingly applies at all times the following elements described below.

1. The Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times a first exclusion filter, encompassing areas such as Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities and Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation. The Financial Product also applies the AXA IM's Environmental, Social and Governance standards policy ("ESG Standards") integrating the ESG Standards in the investment process by applying specific sectorial exclusions such as tobacco and white phosphorus weapons and by excluding investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and

investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to regular review and adaptation). Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: [Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](#)

2. In addition, the Financial Product always outperforms the ESG score of the investment universe as defined by the Benchmark, both ESG scores of the Financial Product and the Benchmark being calculated on a weighted average basis. ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions that include the environmental and social characteristics described above and promoted by the Financial Product. AXA IM ESG analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

AXA IM has implemented scoring methodologies to rate issuers (corporates, sovereigns, green, social and sustainability bonds) on ESG criteria. These methodologies allow to rate corporates and sovereign issuers and are based on quantitative data from several data providers as well as on qualitative analysis from internal and external research. The data used in these methodologies include carbon emissions, water stress, health and safety at work, supply chain labour standards, business ethics, corruption and instability.

The corporate and sovereign scoring methodologies rely on three pillars and several sub-factors that cover the most material risk factors encountered by issuers in the E, S and G fields. The frame of reference draws on fundamental principles, such as United Nations Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines, the International Labour Organisation conventions, and other international principles and conventions that guide companies and governments activities in the field of sustainable development and social responsibility. The analysis is based on the most material ESG risks and opportunities previously identified for each sector and company, with 10 factors: Climate Change, Natural Capital, Pollution and Waste, Environmental Opportunities, Human Capital, Product Liability, Stakeholder Opposition, Social Opportunities, Corporate Governance and Corporate Behavior. The final ESG score also incorporates the concept of industry dependent factors and deliberately differentiates between sectors, to overweight the most material factors for each industry. Materiality is not limited to impacts relating to a company's operations, it also includes the impacts on external stakeholders as well as the underlying reputational risk arising from a poor grasp of major ESG issues. In the corporate methodology, the severity of controversies is assessed and monitored on an ongoing basis to make sure that the most material risks are reflected in the final ESG score. The controversies with high severity will trigger large penalties on the sub-factor scores and ultimately on the ESG scores.

These ESG scores provide a standardized and holistic view on the performance of issuers on ESG factors and enable to both promote Environmental and/or Social characteristics of the Financial Product.

3. The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 75% of the net assets of the Financial Product.

The ESG data (of which ESG score or SDG score wherever relevant) used in the investment process are based on ESG methodologies which rely in part on third party data, and in some cases are internally developed. They are subjective and may change over time. Despite several initiatives, the lack of harmonised definitions can make ESG criteria heterogeneous. As such, the different investment strategies that use ESG criteria and ESG reporting are difficult to compare with each other. Strategies that incorporate ESG criteria and those that incorporate sustainable development criteria may use ESG

data that appear similar but which should be distinguished because their calculation method may be different. AXA IM's ESG different methodologies described herein may evolve in the future to take into account any improvements in data availability and reliability, or any developments of regulations or other external frameworks or initiatives - among others.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

The Financial Product doesn't invest in companies which cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards in a material manner. Those standards focus on Human Rights, Society, Labor and Environment and as such, provide a methodology to help assess the good governance practices of an issuer, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. AXA IM relies on an external provider's screening framework and excludes any companies that have been assessed as "non compliant" to UN's Global Compact Principles, International Labor Organization's (ILO) Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

In addition, ensuring good governance practices is also addressed by the engagement policies. AXA IM implemented a comprehensive active ownership strategy – engagement and voting – where AXA IM acts as stewards of investments made on the clients' behalf. AXA IM views engagement as a means for investors to influence, shape and shift investee company policies and practices to mitigate risks and secure long-term value. Governance practices of companies are engaged at first level by the portfolio managers and dedicated ESG analysts when meeting companies' management team. It is through the long-term investor status and in-depth knowledge of the investment targets that AXA IM feels legitimate to engage in a constructive but demanding dialogue with them.

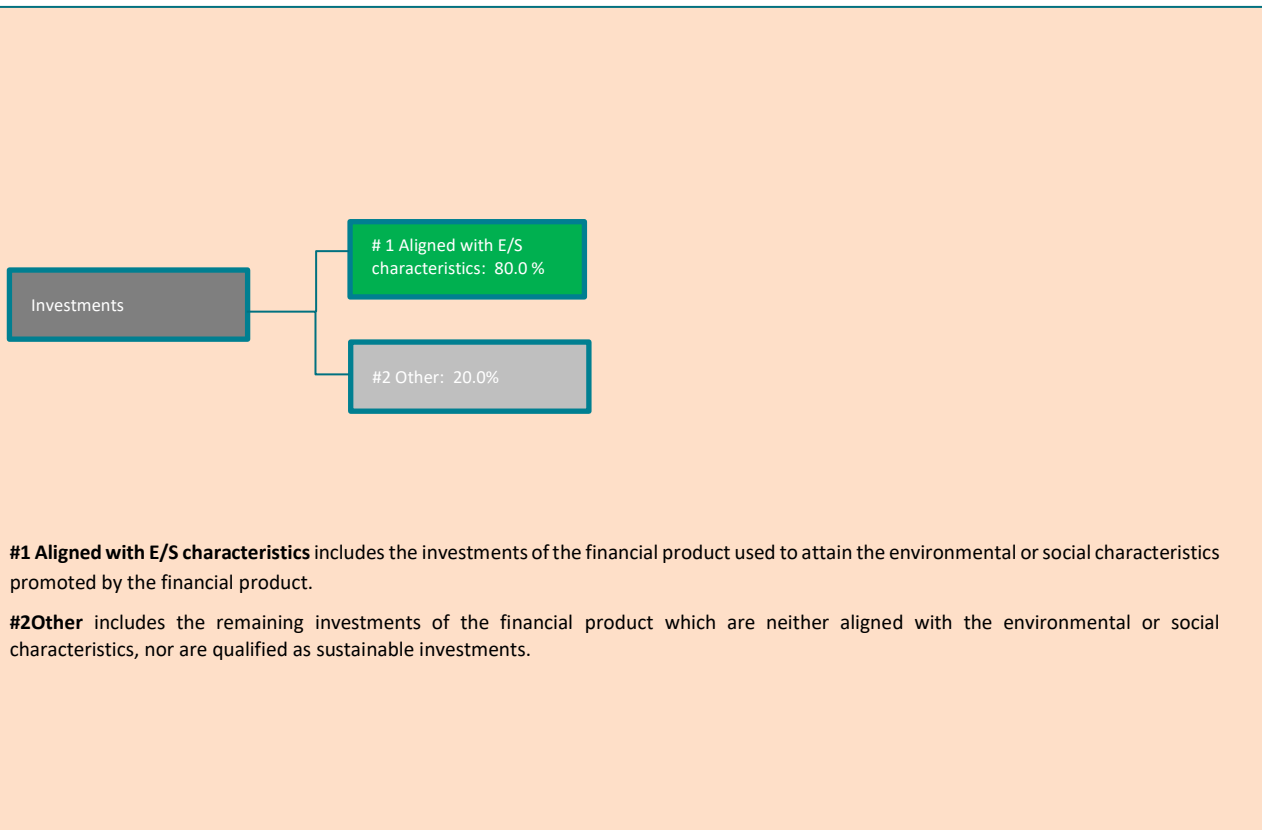
Good governance practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.



What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

Asset allocation describes the share of investments in specific assets.

The Financial Product aims to plan its assets' allocation as presented in the graph below. This planned asset allocation might deviate on a temporary basis.



#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

#2Other includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The planned minimum proportion of the investments of the Financial Product used to meet the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product is 80.0 % of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The remaining "Other" investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. Remaining "Other" investments are used for hedging, liquidity and portfolio management of the Financial Product. Minimum environmental or social safeguards based on AXA IM exclusion policies are assessed and applied on all "Other" assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.'

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

Single names derivatives used for investment purpose apply exclusion policies and thus contribute to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.



To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

The Financial Product is not taking into consideration the criteria of the EU Taxonomy environmental objectives. The Financial Product is not considering the do not significant harm criteria of the EU Taxonomy.

Enabling activities directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

Transitional activities are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

The two graphs below show in green the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bond.



* For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures

- **What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?**

Not applicable



- **What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

Not applicable



- **What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

Not applicable



What investments are included under “#2 Other”, what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?

The remaining “Other” investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. The “other” assets may consist in:

- cash and cash equivalent investments being bank deposit, eligible money market instruments and money market funds used for managing the liquidity of the Financial Product and
- other instruments eligible to the Financial Product and that do not meet the Environmental and/or Social criteria described in this appendix. Such assets may be transferable debt securities, derivatives investments and investment collective schemes that do not promote environmental or social characteristics and that are used to attain the financial objective of the Financial Product and/or for diversification and/or hedging purposes.

Environmental or social safeguards are applied and assessed on all “other” assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.



Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?

Reference benchmarks are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

Not applicable as the designated Benchmark is a broad market index which is not aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product.



Where can I find more product specific information online?

More information can be found on the AXA IM fund center following that link: [Funds - AXA IM Global \(axa-im.com\)](https://www.axa-im.com)

More details on AXA IM sustainable investment frameworks are available on [Sustainable Finance | SFDR | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](https://www.axa-im.com)