



## ROBECO

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## About this report

This semi-annual report provides a succinct summary and analysis of the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) profiles of 150 countries around the globe. It builds on the results of the proprietary Robeco Country Sustainability Ranking which collects and analyses the relevant ESG data via a comprehensive framework to calculate the overall country score. Please see the Appendix for further details regarding data indicators and methodology.

The resulting scores offer insights into the investment risks and opportunities associated with each country and provide investors with a better frame of reference for making comparisons among countries and regions from a risk/return perspective.

#### Sovereign sustainability - the two lenses applied by Robeco

Next to the Country Sustainability Ranking (CSR), which until now has been Robeco's main sustainability analysis tool for sovereigns, we recently launched the Robeco Country SDG Framework as a complementary approach. Where the CSR helps avoid sustainability risks and seize investment opportunities, the SDG framework aims to identify which countries should be prioritized in government bond portfolios in order to further support sustainable economic development. In Appendix A we elaborate on the main similarities and differences of these two investment frameworks and how we use their respective rankings/ratings.

**Author's note**: Unless otherwise indicated, ESG data contained in this report is as of October 2023. Commentaries, summaries, and analyses are as of November 2023.



## Executive Summary - Country ESG scores

#### A tie at the top

In line with recent trends, the autumn 2023 edition of Robeco's Country Sustainability Ranking finds the usual suspects once again at the top of the ranking; but not in their usual order. With an ESG score of 9.07, Sweden has equaled Finland's performance and now shares the lead with its Nordic neighbor. And though it shouldn't detract from their world class performance, apart from Norway, all five of the top-ranking nations experienced slight deteriorations in their scores

Thirteen countries display superior ESG scores (8.0 and above), indicating robust and well-balanced ESG profiles. Among the newcomers to the top ten are Estonia and Ireland, thanks to substantially improved environmental scores (+0.47 and +0.78, respectively). Estonia is even the fourth best performer when it comes to the environmental pillar, having significantly improved its performance on two critical environmental indicators in recent years, namely, GHG emissions per capita and GHG emissions by GDP. They replace Austria and New Zealand (the latter was previously the only non-European nation in the top ten). New Zealand's social score has suffered a 0.13 point loss due to a deterioration in income inequality.

#### Notable declines

Other notable movers are Japan (with a current ESG score of 7.51), which dropped five places, ending in the 22nd position, and the US (with an ESG score of 6.56), which descended four places to end in 40th position. Both cases are driven by changes in environmental scores, which are discussed later in the section on Natural Hazard Risk. This is significant, as falling ESG performance from these, the world's largest sovereign debt issuers, can impact country allocation decisions for many of Robeco's sovereign bond strategies that require a minimum ESG performance level.

Due to the ongoing war, Ukraine (4.85) further dropped 24 places to the 87th position. Meanwhile Russia (4.21), dropped from the 105th to the 123rd position (18 places). After these two nations, the largest score drops were Djibouti and Nicaragua (16 places) and Kazakhstan (15 places).<sup>1</sup>



Figure 1 - The global country sustainability ranking map

Source: Robeco, October 2023



#### Momentous movers

The largest climbers in the ranking include Mongolia (24 places), Niger (21 places), Laos (17 places), Uganda (14 places) and Angola (13 places), though their overall scores still remain below 5.0. Among the mid-section of performers, Botswana (6.11), Jordan (5.55), the United Arab Emirates (6.28), and Taiwan (6.62) have made noticeable improvements with score increases of +0.27, +0.22, +0.22, and +0.19, respectively.

Zooming in on changes in GHG emissions per GDP and GHG emissions per capita, we see several large jumps, with positive developments in countries like Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and Laos. Meanwhile, scores for nations like Malta, Kuwait and Libya moved significantly lower. Malta has witnessed several years of declining GHG emissions per capita, but since 2016 this positive development has stagnated and even reversed, impacting scores.

#### **BRICS** additions

Except for Ethiopia, all six newly announced BRICS candidates have improved their ESG scores. In addition to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) highlighted above, Argentina (5.68) and Saudi Arabia (4.99) climbed to places 54 and 77, respectively. Despite gains in their overall scores, BRICS candidates Egypt and Iran continue to exhibit major deficiencies across all three ESG pillars.

Finally, Yemen (2.73) and Libya (2.66) are the only nations in the ranking exhibiting scores below 3.

TOTAL SCORE DIMENSIONS 6M CHANGE ▼ Q Country Score A Score 1 Rank A Finland 8.54 -0.06 9.07 2. Sweden -0.02 3. Norway 8.37 +0.01 17 4. Denmark 8.86 8.53 8.60 8.62 -0.08 1 N Switzerland 8.52 8.41 -0.10 0 -7.95 Iceland 7.96 8.91 +0.00 8.05 8.25 8.40 +0.07 17 Netherlands 8.28 -0.01 الا 1 7.72 2 7 Ireland 8.07 +0.28 27 8.29 8.22 Austria 7.82 -0.04 2 🛭 Luxembourg 8.09 8.29 +0.17 17 United Kingdom 7.92 7.84 -0.02 1 **y** 8.13 15. Canada 7.88 +0.11 17 7.57 France +0.08 1 🛭 6.61 Australia Australia 8.07 +0.11 4 7 7.05 7.97 Lithuania -0.03 0 -Portugal 7.27 +0.12 37

Figure 2 – Top 20 Country Sustainability Ranking

Source: Robeco, country sustainability scores as of October 2023. Data note: Countries are color coded according to their ESG score

7.43

Slovenia

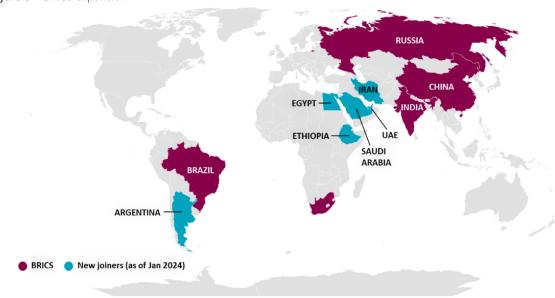


## Special Country Reports

#### New BRICS joiners

In August 2023, current members of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) declared the group would welcome six new members – Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina, and the UAE – beginning in January 2024.

Figure 3 – BRICS expansion



Source: Robeco, October 2023

What this will mean concretely for their co-operation over the longer term remains to be seen. What is already clear is the sizable impact that the new bloc will have on several key indicators including their shares of global GDP, global population, and oil production.

- **GDP**: According to the IMF<sup>2</sup>, the original BRICS members are expected to have a combined GDP of USD 25.8 trillion in 2023, representing 25.7% of the global total. With the new members included, expected GDP climbs slightly to USD 28.9 trillion, or 27.7% of the global total. Saudi Arabia is the only trillion-dollar economy that joins the bloc.
- **Population**: Given the memberships of India and China, the bloc has always represented a high proportion of the global population. With the newest members, it will represent 3.7 billion people, or 46% of the global population. The two largest populations being added are Ethiopia (126.5 million) and Egypt (112.7 million).<sup>3</sup>
- Oil production: although the world is trying to move away from fossil fuels, the global oil market is still incredibly large, and BRICS will play a much bigger role in it. The addition of Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the UAE will more than double BRICS' share of global oil production, from 20.4% to 43.1%.

Table 1 summarizes the ESG scores of the new BRICS candidates. In the next section we take a closer look at the newly initiated countries of Argentina and Ethiopia.

 $<sup>^2\</sup> https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/NGDPD@WEO/OEMDC/ADVEC/WEOWORLD?year=2023$ 

<sup>3</sup> https://worldpopulationreview.com/

<sup>4</sup> https://www.energyinst.org/statistical-review/resources-and-data-downloads

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Table 1- ESG scores of new BRICS candidates compared to current BRICS members

New BRICS candidates	Total ESG Score	Environmental score	Social score	Governance score
UAE	6.28	5.10	6.71	6.67
Argentina	5.68	5.26	6.44	5.38
Saudi Arabia	4.99	3.90	5.47	5.56
Egypt	4.68	6.00	4.14	4.27
Ethiopia	4.08	4.85	4.03	3.83
Iran	3.10	2.49	3.61	3.66
Average	4.80			

BRICS members	Total ESG Score	Environmental score	Social score	Governance score
Brazil	5.46	7.18	4.03	5.26
Russia	4.21	3.84	5.32	3.93
India	4.36	3.18	4.35	5.48
China	4.46	3.41	4.96	5.09
South Africa	4.67	4.13	4.36	5.49
Average	4.63			

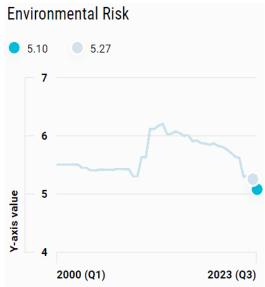
Source: Robeco, October 2023

#### Argentina - the economic impact of climate-related events

With an area of 2.78 million km2 and 46.6 million people, Argentina is the second-largest country in South America by land mass and the third largest by population. As a result, events within its borders can have a significant influence on its neighbors on the South American continent and beyond. In November, it elected right-wing libertarian Javier Milei as its new president amidst an economy that is battered by triple-digit inflation, a looming recession and rising poverty. Within the social pillar, the nation scores relatively low on economic equality (4.26) and socio-economic vulnerability (6.17), which are unlikely to see strong improvements given the new president's desire to slash subsidies and drastically reduce state expenditures on social programs.<sup>5</sup>

One of the country's strong suits is that it has high lithium reserves. Lithium could deliver a much-needed economic boost to GDP growth given its critical role in (EV-)battery production, global electrification and the energy transition. Another characteristic that could hurt or help Argentina's future growth prospects, is its reliance on agricultural exports — particularly soy, wheat and corn. However, as agriculture represents around 7% of

Figure 4 – Argentina's Environmental Risk scores (2000-2023)



Argentina is more exposed to environmental risks which is reflected in a declining score since the start of the year.

Source: Robeco, October 2023

the country's GDP<sup>6</sup>, Argentina's prosperity is disproportionately dependent on favorable commodity prices and weather conditions.

Underscoring that dependence, Argentina has recently been in the grip of its worst drought in the last 60 years. This has led to repeated sharp cuts to soybean and corn harvest forecasts. In March of this year, Argentina's soy production outlook was slashed to 27 million tonnes, the lowest since the turn of the century. This unprecedented climate event came amid high inflation and local/international debt repayments and has led to heightened default risks and talks with the IMF to ease previously agreed reserve accumulation targets.

The impacts of extreme weather are reflected in the country's environmental risk indicator, which has decreased sharply over recent years to a score of 5.10. Considering this, the agriculture sector and country as a whole must adapt and incorporate new technologies to improve irrigation and water conservation efforts. Argentina's Water Use Efficiency score has improved by 0.35 points to 5.12 but remains too weak to curb water-stress projection levels, which appear to be stuck around 4.7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/nov/08/argentina-election-javier-milei-economists-warni ng

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://www.trade.gov/market-intelligence/argentina-agricultural-industry

<sup>7</sup> https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/argentinas-unprecedented-drought-pummels-farmers-economy-2023-03-09/



Finally, the most recent ESG scores show Argentina's poor performance on governance but were not influenced by the recent presidential elections which were conducted after scores were calculated for the autumn update.

#### Ethiopia - armed conflict hampers progress across ESG dimensions

Ethiopia is a landlocked country located in the Horn of Africa. As of 2023, it is home to around 126.5 million inhabitants, making it the 13th most populous country in the world. Ethiopia is an ESG laggard in terms of overall ESG performance (131st in our ranking), with governance as its lowest scoring dimension (see Figure 5).

Figure 5 – Ethiopia's ESG score breakdown

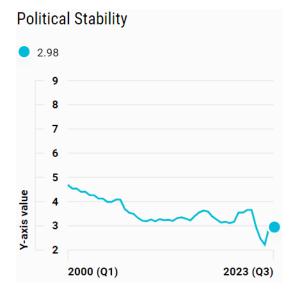


Source: Robeco, October 2023

Within the Governance pillar, the Political Stability score remains remarkably low (2.98), which exhibited a tumble that started already at the end of 2020. This was mainly driven by an armed conflict in the Tigray region in the north of the country. The clash was between forces allied to the Ethiopian federal government and Eritrea on one side, and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) on the other. The recent bounce in its political stability score comes after a two-year period of intense violence which saw an end in 2022 with the signing of a peace agreement.

Apart from being a human tragedy, the armed conflict has also had severe economic implications. Over the past 15 years the country's economy has grown at an average rate of nearly 10% per year, one of the highest in the world. This growth was led in particular by public infrastructure investments. However, during the clash, its economic growth rate dropped to around 5.3%, as a result of infrastructure destruction and uncontrolled government spending. These have, in turn, weakened household incomes and contributed to rising poverty rates.

Figure 6 – Ethiopia's political stability is on the rebound



Ethiopia's political stability scores had been on the decline since civil war broke out in early 2021. Scores have recently rebounded thanks to a peace agreement signed last year.

Source: Robeco, October 2023



Given the ensuing peace, the country's economic activity is expected to accelerate again, though less steadily compared to previous years. The end of the conflict should enable the resumption of public investments and the return of support from international donors such as the World Bank, which already approved a new USD 745 million assistance program in December 2022.8 The case of Ethiopia shows that conflict and unrest can be detrimental to a country's economy and population. Ethiopian government bonds are currently on the Robeco Country Exclusion list.

#### Greece - economic growth climbing along with ESG scores

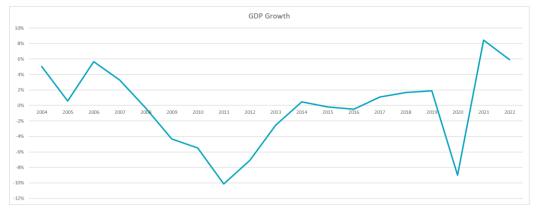
In the context of sovereign investments, Greece, is primarily remembered for its bailout during the Eurozone crisis, after all major rating agencies reduced its debt to below investment grade (January 2011). Fewer may be aware that since then, Greece has made tremendous improvements in the ESG sphere which has helped to strengthen its financial position.

The sharp decline in its ESG score, which started around 2008 and only came to an end in 2014, was mainly driven by an increase in political risks, weakness in government institutions, social unrest, corruption levels, and deteriorating political stability. On the other hand, the nation's environmental score witnessed strong momentum over the same period (see Figure 7). The negative trend in the social and governance domains largely correlate with the country's negative economic growth, as displayed in Figure 8.

Figure 7 - Greece's E, S and G scores are climbing high

Source: Robeco, November 2023





Source: The World Bank, 2022 9

<sup>8</sup> https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/12/14/vulnerable-ethiopians-to-benefit-from-745-million-in-grants-for-improved-access-to-health-services-and-flood-management

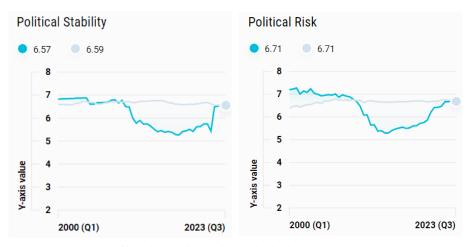
<sup>9</sup> https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?locations=GR



Since 2014, Greece's ESG score has been on an upward trajectory and the economy has regained positive traction (interrupted only by the Covid pandemic in 2020). Exactly five years ago, the country still ranked 49<sup>th</sup> but has climbed an astounding ten places to its current 39<sup>th</sup> position. In 2021 and 2022, Greece's economy grew at twice the Eurozone average, and unemployment, while still high at 11%, is currently the lowest in over a decade.

While Europe's average Political Stability and Political Risk scores slightly deteriorated over the past eight years, Greece's score has recovered from an all-time low and is now on par with Europe. In a significant acknowledgment of the country's turnaround, credit rating agencies have been upgrading their appraisals of Greece's debt, opening the doors for surges in foreign investment. Since January 2023, Robeco's Euro Government Bonds strategy has had an overweight position in Greek government bonds.

Figure 9 - Greece's governance is improving



Governance, as measured by political stability and political risk indicators, are improving in Greece. Source: Robeco, October 2023



## Thematic spotlight - Natural Hazard Risk

2023 was another year with significant natural catastrophes. February saw a devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria, September brought heavy rainfall and flooding to China, and in late October Mexico's eastern coast was pummeled by Hurricane Otis. Moreover, the US was ravaged by fierce tornadoes throughout the year. These are just a few examples of the severe weather events that wreaked havoc on lands, people and economies across the world.

#### Natural Hazard Risk scores

Some countries are more vulnerable to natural hazards than others. One of the indicators within the Environmental dimension of our Country Sustainability Ranking is Natural Hazard Risk, where high scores indicate low-risk areas, and low scores indicate areas of higher catastrophic risks. Although Figure 10 shows a slight concentration of low scores in Asia and the Americas, and higher scores in Europe and Africa, there is no clear pattern that emerges that can shed light on countries and their natural hazard risks. This is likely due to the myriad of factors that determine a nation's risk level, including its geological position and climate. The only common denominator seems to be that countries with coastal zones have a higher likelihood of natural hazards due to heightened flood risks.

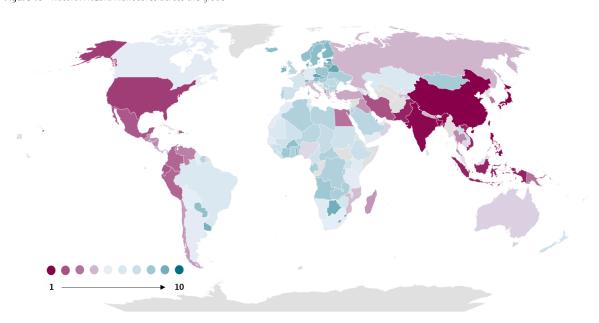


Figure 10 - Natural Hazard Risk scores across the globe

1 = areas with higher risks of natural hazards and disasters, 10 = areas facing lower catastrophic risks Source: Robeco, October 2023

The Natural Hazard Risk scores of the countries affected by the catastrophes listed above align with their real-world experiences. All exhibit a very low score, indicating that they are highly prone to such hazards. Turkey's score has dropped by a point to 3.81. More sobering still, scores for Mexico (2.46) and the US (2.02) are even lower having dropped by a respective, -2.02 and -2.32 points in light of recent events. China has the lowest possible score (1.0) due to its extreme exposure to flooding, tropical cyclones and drought.



#### Economic costs

Natural disasters not only mean loss of human life but can also cause severe physical and economic losses. In 2022, the global economic damage from natural disasters was estimated at USD 220 billion, with extreme weather responsible for roughly half the total. <sup>10</sup> Underscoring the importance of these events for sustainable development, the United Nations devoted SDG indicator 11.5.2 to measure the economic losses from natural disasters relative to GDP. Such damage includes losses in agriculture, housing, infrastructure, and cultural heritage. Looking at this indicator from a global perspective, we see that in the years 2016 – 2021, the average economic loss amounted to around 0.24% of GDP.

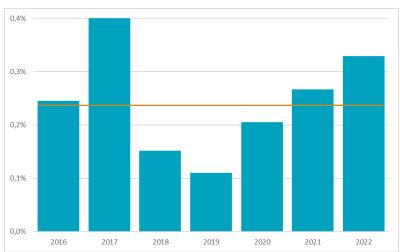


Figure 11 - The cost of catastrophe is rising

The chart displays the economic costs from natural disasters as a share of global GDP<sup>11</sup> Source: EM-DAT: Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), 2022

While we do not see a clear upward trend from a global perspective, the economic damage incurred from natural disasters on any single country can be enormous. Severe flooding in Thailand during the monsoon season in 2011 resulted in USD 43.4 billion in damages, equivalent to 11.7% of its GDP. More recently, several Small Island States such as Sint Maarten and the British Virgin Islands, have witnessed even more destructive natural disasters in terms of % GDP loss.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> https://www.emdat.be/

With a price tag of over USD 306 billion, 2017 was the costliest year on record for natural disasters in the US. Multiple hurricanes caused hundreds of billions in damage to Southeastern and Gulf Coast states. https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-16-ldquo-billion-dollar-disasters-rdquo-that-happened-in-2017/



## Integration of ESG scores into investments

#### Quant Fixed Income portfolios

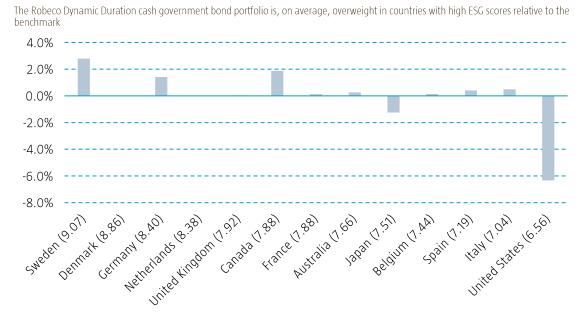
The country ESG scores are integrated in all Robeco quant government bond and quant aggregate fixed income strategies, including the Global Dynamic Duration and Global Multi-Factor Bond products. In these portfolios, we select bonds based on alpha-generating factors such as value, momentum, and low risk. While selecting government bonds that are attractive from an alpha generating perspective, we require the portfolio to have a better sustainability profile than the reference index. This means that both the weighted average country sustainability score and the carbon emissions in terms of emissions per capita of the government bonds in the portfolio must be better than those of the respective benchmark.

#### Effect on country allocation

The rule that our portfolios must have a better sustainability profile than the index is clearly visible when we look at the average country weights of the portfolio relative to the benchmark. On average, we overweight countries such as Sweden with higher country sustainability scores and tend to underweight countries such as the US with lower scores.

Moreover, sustainability characteristics are assessed on a portfolio level. This means that while it is harder to overweight less sustainable countries, it is allowed. This is clear when we look at the weights of Spain and Italy in the portfolio. In terms of emissions per capita this improves the portfolio scores because these countries are relatively low carbon emitters. In terms of Country Sustainability Ranking these countries have low ESG scores compared to their European counterparts. However, we compensate for their low (positive) scores by underweighting US government bonds (see Figure 12).<sup>13</sup>

Figure 12 – Weighty issues



Note: The graphic displays by how much the Global Dynamic Duration portfolio is on average under- or overweight compared to a comparable government benchmark. Figures are derived from the difference between the average country weights of government bonds in the portfolio minus the average country weights of government bonds in the benchmark, the JPM GBI Global Investment Grade Index. Numbers in brackets are the scores from the latest Country Sustainability Ranking. Results are based on historical simulations of the government bond portfolio in the Global Dynamic Duration strategy from January 2001 to October 2023. The value of your investments may fluctuate. Results obtained in the past are no guarantee for the future. Source: Robeco, Bloomberg

<sup>13</sup> The autumn edition saw the US's country sustainability score fall once again from 6.70 to 6.56, continuing a near decade-long stretch of declining scores. Poor performance makes it harder to overweight US government bonds in Quant Fixed Income portfolios. For more information on how we integrate sustainability in Quant Fixed Income solutions, please refer to Penninga, Houweling, Van Der Linden, 2022, "Integrating sustainability in Global Multi-Factor Bonds".



## Appendix A: Two sovereign sustainability lenses

#### ESG and SDG - complementary approaches

Robeco has been actively incorporating sustainability analysis in its investment decisions for sovereign bonds since 2010. Over this period, the RobecoSAM Country Sustainability Ranking (CSR) has been our main sustainability analysis tool for avoiding sustainability risks and seizing opportunities related to sovereign bond investments.

Optimizing the risk-return tradeoff is one approach to investing in sovereigns, however, it may prevent low-income countries with poor sustainability performance from accessing desperately needed financing.

While as investors, we want the lower risks and positive returns associated with top ESG performers, we also want to help low-ranking countries forge a path towards sustainable economic growth and development. Together our inhouse SDG strategist and global macro and fixed income teams have developed the Robeco Country SDG Framework. The framework integrates material UN SDG criteria into country analysis in order to identify which countries should be prioritized in government bond portfolios.

Each framework has a distinct purpose which is reflected in differences in measurement criteria, how final scores are calculated as well as how country performance is ranked or rated. Moreover, there are also differences in the sustainability outcomes that can be expected as well as how they are applied to sovereign portfolios. To avoid confusion, we have summarized the main similarities and differences of the two approaches in the table below.

**Table 2** – An overview of the tools used in Robeco's sovereign sustainability analysis

	Country Sustainability Ranking	Country SDG Framework	
Purpose	To identify sustainability risks and opportunities for sovereign bonds, in order to make better informed investment decisions	To identify which countries should be included/excluded in government bond portfolios, in order to support sustainable development	
Lens	Uses sustainability criteria as an input	Uses sustainability criteria as an output	
Model	The model consists of three pillars, Environment (30%), Social (30%) and Governance (40%), that comprise 51 indicators related to 15 criteria.	The framework consists of three steps that gauge if: (1) countries have policies that promote and undergird the UN SDGs; (2) the country shows clear investment potential that could be realized with access to capital; and (3) a country is involved in controversies that diminish SDG progress.	
Output	ESG Score on a 1-10 scale (up to two decimals)	SDG Score on a -3 to + 3 scale (integers)	
Similarities	Countries that have high levels of corruption and are involved in environmental, social, or governance controversies will receive poor scores in both assessments.		

Source: Robeco

Please refer our white paper, "Sovereign Sustainability – the two lenses applied by Robeco", where we elaborate further on the development and application of these two investment approaches. https://www.robeco.com/files/docm/docu-202309-sovereign-sustainability-the-two-lenses-applied-by-robeco.pdf



# Appendix B: The Robeco Country Sustainability Framework

Ongoing monitoring of the underlying data, data providers and methodology used to construct a model is an integral part of ensuring its accuracy, completeness, and ongoing predictive power. Here, we provide our data sources as well as how sustainability scores are weighted and calculated. As shown in Table 3, the current methodological framework comprises 51 indicators, which are combined into 15 criteria covering the three main ESG dimensions (environmental, social and governance).

The framework captures a broad set of relevant ESG factors with the ultimate aim of providing an assessment of whether a country's development in the E, S and G areas helps preserve the long-term solvency of its bonds. The country sustainability assessment framework presently covers a universe of 150 countries, 23 of which are considered industrialized countries or advanced economies, and 127 emerging market and developing countries.

 Table 3 – Underlying indicators and criteria in Robeco's Country Sustainability Framework



Source: Robeco, October 2023



# Appendix C: Data sources

Criterion	Indicator	Source*	URL
Biodiversity	Biodiversity Intactness Index 2030 Projection	Natural History Museum, London	The Biodiversity Intactness Index
,	Ecological Deficit or Reserve	Global Footprint Network	Global Footprint Network
	Forest cover Net Change	Global Forest Watch	Global Forest Watch (GFW)
	Marine Protected Area	WDPA - World Database of Protected Areas	WDPA (World Database of Protected Areas)
	Natural Resource Rent	World Bank	World Bank
	Ocean Health Index	Ocean Health Index Team	Ocean Health Index team
	Red List Index	ICUN/UN Statistics Division	UN Statistics Division
	Terrestrial Protected Area	WDPA - World Database of Protected Areas	WDPA (World Database of Protected Areas)
Climate &	Consumption CO2 Emissions per Capita	Our World in Data/Global Carbon Project	Per capita consumption-based CO <sub>2</sub> emissions, 2019 (ourworldindata.org)
Energy	GHG Emissions per Capita	EDGAR	EDGAR - The Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (europa.eu)
	GHG Emissions per GDP	EDGAR	EDGAR - The Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (europa.eu)
	Share of Renewables to Energy Consumption	U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)	International - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)
	Consumption CO2 Emissions p/C 5-Yr Change	Our World in Data/Global Carbon Project	Per capita consumption-based CO <sub>2</sub> emissions, 2019 (ourworldindata.org)
	GHG Emissions per Capita 5-Yr Change	EDGAR	EDGAR - The Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (europa.eu)
	GHG Emissions per GDP 5-Yr Change	EDGAR	EDGAR - The Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (europa.eu)
	Share of Ren/Energy Cons. 5-Yr Change	U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)	International - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)
	GHG Emissions p/C Reduction 2015-30	Climate Resource	NDCs - Climate Resource (climate-resource.com)
	GHG Emissions p/C Target 2030	Climate Resource	NDCs - Climate Resource (climate-resource.com)
Water &	Integrated Water Management	UN Water - UNEP	Home   SDG 6 Data
Waste	Wastewater Treatment	SEDAC - Socioeconomic Data & Applications Center	Environmental Performance Index (EPI)   SEDAC (columbia.edu)
Waste	Water Stress Level	UN Water - FAO Aquastat	Home   SDG 6 Data
	Water Stress Projection 2030	World Resources Institute - Aqueduct	Data: Aqueduct Projected Water Stress Country Rankings   World Resources Institute (wri.org)
	Water Use Efficiency	UN Water - FAO Aquastat	Home   SDG 6 Data
	Waste Management	SEDAC - Socioeconomic Data & Applications Center	Environmental Performance Index (EPI)   SEDAC (columbia.edu)
Environmental	Climate Risk Index	Germanwatch	Globaler Klima-Risiko-Index 2021   Germanwatch e.V.
Risk	Natural Hazard Index	DRMKC - INFORM - European Commission	INFORM - Global, open-source risk assessment for humanitarian crises and disasters (europa.eu)
NISK	ND GAIN Index	University of Notre Dame	Download Data // Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative // University of Notre Dame (nd.edu)
Aging	Labor Force Participation Rate 55-64	ILOSTAT - International Labour Organization	https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/
Agilig	Old-Age Dependency Ratio 25-Year Projection	UN – Population Division	Population Division   (un.org)
Human	Education	Legatum Institute	Rankings :: Legatum Prosperity Index 2023
Development	Health	Legatum Institute	Rankings :: Legatum Prosperity Index 2023
Development	Human Development Index	UNDP	Human Development Data Center   Human Development Reports (undp.org)
Human &	Global Rights Index	ITUC - International Trade Union Confederation	ITUC GRI - Home (globalrightsindex.org)
Labour Rights	Human Rights	Fund for Peace	Fragile States Index   The Fund for Peace
Inequality	Gender Inequality Index	UNDP	Human Development Data Center   Human Development Reports (undp.org)
Intequality	GINI Coefficient	Our World in Data	Income inequality – Gini Index, 1981 to 2019 (ourworldindata.org)
Social Unrest	Fragile States Index	Fund for Peace	Fragile States Index   The Fund for Peace
Jocial Officest	Socio-Economic Vulnerability	DRMKC - INFORM - European Commission	INFORM - Global, open-source risk assessment for humanitarian crises and disasters (europa.eu)
Corruption	Control of Corruption	World Bank	WGI 2022 Interactive > Home (worldbank.org)
Corruption	Corruption Perception Index	Transparency International	https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2022
Globalization &	Globalization Index	KOF/ETHZ	KOF Globalisation Index – KOF Swiss Economic Institute   ETH Zurich
Innovation	Global Innovation Index	WIPO	Indicator Rankings & Analysis   Global Innovation Index
Institutions	Government Effectiveness	World Bank - Worldwide Governance Indicators	WGI 2022 Interactive > Home (worldbank.org)
Institutions	Regulatory Quality	World Bank - Worldwide Governance Indicators  World Bank - Worldwide Governance Indicators	WGI 2022 Interactive > Home (worldbank.org) WGI 2022 Interactive > Home (worldbank.org)
	Rule of Law	World Bank - Worldwide Governance Indicators  World Bank - Worldwide Governance Indicators	WGI 2022 Interactive > Home (worldbank.org) WGI 2022 Interactive > Home (worldbank.org)
Personal	Freedom in the World	Freedom House	Freedom in the World   Freedom House
1	Voice & Accountability	World Bank - Worldwide Governance Indicators	WGI 2022 Interactive > Home (worldbank.org)
Freedom	,		
Political Risk	Political Risk Rating	Euromoney Country Risk	Euromoney subscription
Dell'ale de le l'ille	Political Risk Rating PRS	PRS Group	PRS Group subscription
Political Stability	Human Hazard	DRMKC - INFORM - European Commission	INFORM - Global, open-source risk assessment for humanitarian crises and disasters (europa.eu)
L	Political Stability/No Violence	World Bank - Worldwide Governance Indicators	WGI 2022 Interactive > Home (worldbank.org)
1 ne bulk of the d	ata is being obtained from CEIC Data		

Source: Robeco, as of October 2023

#### Important information

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#### Additional information for US investors

Robeco is considered "participating affiliate" and some of their employees are "associated persons" of Robeco Institutional Asset Management US Inc. ("RIAM US") as per relevant SEC no-action guidance. Employees identified as associated persons of RIAM US perform activities directly or indirectly related to the investment advisory services provided by RIAM US. In those situations these individuals are deemed to be acting on behalf of RIAM US, a US SEC registered investment adviser. SEC regulations are applicable only to clients, prospects and investors of RIAM US. RIAM US is a wholly owned subsidiary of ORIX Corporation Europe N.V. and offers investment advisory services to institutional clients in the US.

#### Additional information for US Offshore investors - Reg S

The Robeco Capital Growth Funds have not been registered under the United States Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, nor the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended. None of the shares may be offered or sold, directly or indirectly in the United States or to any US Person. A US Person is defined as (a) any individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States for federal income tax purposes; (b) a corporation, partnership or other entity created or organized under the laws of or existing in the United States; (c) an estate or trust the income of which is subject to United States federal income tax regardless of whether such income is effectively connected with a United States trade or business. In the United States, this material may be distributed only to a person who is a "distributor", or who is not a "US person", as defined by Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933 (as

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This information is solely intended for professional investors or eligible counterparties in the meaning of the Austrian Securities Oversight Act.

#### Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Brazil

The Fund may not be offered or sold to the public in Brazil. Accordingly, the Fund has not been nor will be registered with the Brazilian Securities Commission (CVM), nor has it been submitted to the foregoing agency for approval. Documents relating to the Fund, as well as the information contained therein, may not be supplied to the public in Brazil, as the offering of the Fund is not a public offering of securities in Brazil, nor may they be used in connection with any offer for subscription or sale of securities to the public in Brazil.

#### Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Brunei

The Prospectus relates to a private collective investment scheme which is not subject to any form of domestic regulations by the Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam ("Authority"). The Prospectus is intended for distribution only to specific classes of investors as specified in section 20 of the Securities Market Order, 2013, and must not, therefore, be delivered to, or relied on by, a retail client. The Authority is not responsible for reviewing or verifying any prospectus or other documents in connection with this collective investment scheme. The Authority has not approved the Prospectus or any other associated documents nor taken any steps to verify the information set out in the Prospectus and has no responsibility for it. The units to which the Prospectus relates may be illiquid or subject to restrictions on their resale. Prospective purchasers of the units offered should conduct their own due diligence on the

#### Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Canada

No securities commission or similar authority in Canada has reviewed or in any way passed upon this document or the merits of the securities described herein, and any representation to the contrary is an offence. Robeco Institutional Asset Management B.V. relies on the international dealer and international adviser exemption in Quebec and has appointed McCarthy Tétrault LLP as its agent for service in Quebec.

#### Additional information for investors with residence or seat in the Republic of Chile

Neither Robeco nor the Funds have been registered with the Comisión para el Mercado Financiero pursuant to Law no. 18.045, the Ley de Mercado de Valores and regulations thereunder. This document does not constitute an offer of or an invitation to subscribe for or purchase shares of the Funds in the Republic of Chile, other than to the specific person who individually requested this information on their own initiative. This may therefore be treated as a "private offering" within the meaning of Article 4 of the Ley de Mercado de Valores (an offer that is not addressed to the public at large or to a certain sector or specific group of the public).

#### Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Colombia

This document does not constitute a public offer in the Republic of Colombia. The offer of the fund is addressed to less than one hundred specifically identified investors. The fund may not be promoted or marketed in Colombia or to Colombian residents, unless such promotion and marketing is made in compliance with Decree 2555 of 2010 and other applicable rules and regulations related to the promotion of foreign funds in Colombia. The distribution of this Prospectus and the offering of Shares may be restricted in certain jurisdictions. The information contained in this Prospectus is for general guidance only, and it is the responsibility of any person or persons in possession of this Prospectus and wishing to make application for Shares to inform themselves of, and to observe, all applicable laws and regulations of any relevant jurisdiction. Prospective applicants for Shares should inform themselves of any applicable legal requirements, exchange control regulations and applicable taxes in the countries of their respective citizenship, residence or domicile

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Robeco Institutional Asset Management B.V. is at liberty to provide services in France. Robeco France is a subsidiary of Robeco whose business is based on the promotion and distribution of the group's funds to professional investors in France.

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#### Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Hong Kong

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The Management Company is not making any representation with respect to the eligibility of any recipients of the Prospectus to acquire the Shares therein under the laws of South Korea, including but not limited to the Foreign Exchange Transaction Act and Regulations thereunder. The Shares have not been registered under the Financial Investment Services and Capital Markets Act of Korea, and none of the Shares may be offered, sold or delivered, or offered or sold to any person for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in South Korea or to any resident of South Korea except pursuant to applicable laws and regulations of South Korea.

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#### Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Malaysia

Generally, no offer or sale of the Shares is permitted in Malaysia unless where a Recognition Exemption or the Prospectus Exemption applies: NO ACTION HAS BEEN, OR WILL BE, TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH MALAYSIAN LAWS FOR MAKING AVAILABLE, OFFERING FOR SUBSCRIPTION OR PURCHASE, OR ISSUING ANY INVITATION TO SUBSCRIBE FOR OR PURCHASE OR SALE OF THE SHARES IN MALAYSIA OR TO PERSONS IN MALAYSIA AS THE SHARES ARE NOT INTENDED BY THE ISSUER TO BE MADE AVAILABLE, OR MADE THE SUBJECT OF ANY OFFER OR INVITATION TO SUBSCRIBE OR PURCHASE, IN MALAYSIA. NEITHER THIS DOCUMENT NOR ANY DOCUMENT OR OTHER MATERIAL IN CONNECTION WITH THE SHARES SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED, CAUSED TO BE DISTRIBUTED OR CIRCULATED IN MALAYSIA. NO PERSON SHOULD MAKE AVAILABLE OR MAKE ANY INVITATION OR OFFER OR INVITATION TO SELL OR PURCHASE THE SHARES IN MALAYSIA UNLESS SUCH PERSON TAKES THE NECESSARY ACTION TO COMPLY WITH MALAYSIAN LAWS.

#### Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Mexico

The funds have not been and will not be registered with the National Registry of Securities or maintained by the Mexican National Banking and Securities Commission and, as a result, may not be offered or sold publicly in Mexico. Robeco and any underwriter or purchaser may offer and sell the funds in Mexico on a private placement basis to Institutional and Accredited Investors, pursuant to Article 8 of the Mexican Securities Market Law.

#### Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Peru

The Superintendencia del Mercado de Valores (SMV) does not exercise any supervision over this Fund and therefore the management of it. The information the Fund provides to its investors and the other services it provides to them are the sole responsibility of the Administrator. This Prospectus is not for public distribution.

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This document has not been registered with the Monetary Authority of Singapore ("MAS"). Accordingly, this document may not be circulated or distributed directly or indirectly to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 304 of the SFA, (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 305(1), or any person pursuant to Section 305(2), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 305, of the SFA, or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA. The contents of this document have not been reviewed by the MAS. Any decision to participate in the Fund should be made only after reviewing the sections regarding investment considerations, conflicts of interest, risk factors and the relevant Singapore selling restrictions (as described in the section entitled "Important information for Singapore Investors") contained in the prospectus. Investors should consult their professional adviser if you are in doubt about the stringent restrictions applicable to the use of this document, regulatory status of the Fund, applicable regulatory protection, associated risks and suitability of the Fund to your objectives. Investors should note that only the Sub-Funds listed in the appendix to the section entitled "Important information for Singapore Investors" of the prospectus ("Sub-Funds") are available to Singapore investors. The Sub-Funds are notified as restricted foreign schemes under the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore ("SFA") and invoke the exemptions from compliance with prospectus registration requirements pursuant to the exemptions under Section 304 and Section 305 of the SFA. The Sub-Funds are not allowed to be offered to the retail public in Singapore. The prospectus of the Fund is not a prospectus as defined in the SFA. Accordingly, statutory liability under the SFA in relation to the content of prospectuses does not apply. The Sub-Funds may only be promoted exclusively to persons who are s

#### Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Spain

Robeco Institutional Asset Management B.V., Sucursal en España with identification number W0032687F and having its registered office in Madrid at Calle Serrano 47-14°, is registered with the Spanish Commercial Registry in Madrid, in volume 19.957, page 190, section 8, sheet M-351927 and with the National Securities Market Commission (CNMV) in the Official Register of branches of European investment services companies, under number 24. The investment funds or SICAV mentioned in this document are regulated by the corresponding authorities of their country of origin and are registered in the Special Registry of the CNMV of Foreign Collective Investment Institutions marketed in Spain.

#### Additional information for investors with residence or seat in South Africa

Robeco Institutional Asset Management B.V. is registered and regulated by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority in South Africa.

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#### Additional information for investors with residence or seat in the United Arab Emirates

Some Funds referred to in this marketing material have been registered with the UAE Securities and Commodities Authority ("the Authority"). Details of all Registered Funds can be found on the Authority's website. The Authority assumes no liability for the accuracy of the information set out in this material/document, nor for the failure of any persons engaged in the investment Fund in performing their duties and responsibilities.

#### Additional information for investors with residence or seat in the United Kingdom

Robeco is deemed authorized and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

#### Additional information for investors with residence or seat in Uruguay

The sale of the Fund qualifies as a private placement pursuant to section 2 of Uruguayan law 18,627. The Fund must not be offered or sold to the public in Uruguay, except under circumstances which do not constitute a public offering or distribution under Uruguayan laws and regulations. The Fund is not and will not be registered with the Financial Services Superintendency of the Central Bank of Uruguaya. The Fund corresponds to investment funds that are not investment funds regulated by Uruguayan law 16,774 dated 27 September 1996, as amended.