# SUSTAINABILITY-RELATED DISCLOSURES LAZARD MULTI-ASSET FINANCIAL PRODUCTS

# **Summary**

Lazard is providing these Sustainability-Related Disclosures for the following actively managed financial products pursuant to Article 8(1) of the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation 2019/2088:

Lazard Automation and Robotics Strategy

Lazard Generations Strategy

Lazard Diversified Return Strategy

Each of these financial products is offered to investors in the European Union and United Kingdom in the form of segregated mandates by the appropriate Lazard entity. Pursuant to the relevant prospectus, the products also are offered as the following sub-funds of a UCITS sponsored by Lazard Fund Managers (Ireland) Limited: Lazard Automation and Robotics Fund and Lazard Diversified Return Fund.

## No Sustainable Investment Objective

These Lazard financial products promote environmental and/or social characteristics as part of their investment processes, but they do not have as their objective sustainable investment.

# **Environmental or Social Characteristics of the Financial Products**

The portfolios for these financial products are managed by distinct investment teams at Lazard Asset Management LLC or one of its affiliates (the "Investment Manager"), which employ the following processes to incorporate the consideration of sustainability risks and to promote environmental and social characteristics.

For the Automation and Robotics Strategy, the Investment Manager's proprietary research on each issuer under consideration for investment includes assessment against a proprietary sustainability scoring model for discrete environmental, socio-economic and corporate governance issues (published in the form of Sustainability Scorecards). At a minimum, companies or issuers who, in the Investment Manager's opinion, do not meet basic issuer-specific ESG requirements, which form part of the materiality mapping exercise, will be excluded from being considered for investment. The screening process includes criteria which are designed to identify issuers with strong or weak practices relating to (1) sustainability of product/services, CO2 (GHG) emissions, energy/water efficiency and other environmental concerns, (2) labor relations, employee health/safety standards, human rights issues, diversity standards and community impact and (3) management compensation alignment and accountability, independence of the board of directors, anticorruption and anti-bribery controls, shareholder return policies and regulatory compliance, among others. As a result of the screening process, companies involved in developing/offering products/services in offensive-capable Aerospace and Defense names are excluded. Companies that are (RBICS/GICS) classified as Energy, Materials, Utilities are also excluded. Companies are also assigned a proprietary "green revenues" score, which will make certain companies ineligible for investment. The Investment Manager's screening and scoring methods are informed by data such as company reports and third party and/or independent sources, data and information from the sources described elsewhere in this disclosure, as well as by the Investment Manager's engagement with senior management of the issuers.

For the Generations strategy, the Investment Manager's proprietary research on each issuer under consideration for investment includes assessment against a proprietary sustainability scoring model for discrete environmental, socio-economic and corporate governance issues (published in the form of Sustainability Scorecards). At a minimum, companies or issuers who, in the Investment Manager's opinion, do not meet basic issuer-specific ESG requirements, which form part of the materiality mapping exercise, will be excluded from being considered for investment. The screening process includes criteria which are designed to identify issuers with strong or weak practices relating to (1) sustainability of product/services, CO2 (GHG) emissions and other environmental concerns, (2) labor relations, employee health/safety standards, human rights issues, diversity standards and community impact and (3) management compensation alignment and accountability, independence of the board of directors, anti-corruption and anti-bribery controls, shareholder return policies and regulatory compliance, among others. As a result of the screening process, companies involved in Companies that are involved in developing/offering Tobacco or Firearms products are excluded. Additionally companies that are (RBICS/GICS) classified as Energy, Materials, Utilities and most Industrials (exception: Business Services) are also filtered out. Companies are also assigned a proprietary "green revenues" score, which will make certain companies ineligible for investment. The Investment Manager's screening and scoring methods are informed by data such as company reports and third party and/or independent sources, data and information from the sources described elsewhere in this disclosure, as well as by the Investment Manager's engagement with senior management of the issuers.

For the **Diversified Returns** strategy, the Investment Manager allocates capital to financial product portfolios independently managed by other investment teams at the firm. Accordingly, the portfolios in the Diversified Returns financial product reflect the promotion of environmental and socioeconomic characteristics as set forth in Lazard's other website disclosures under Article 8(1).

The Investment Manager applies an ESG exclusion policy to the UCITS financial products offered by Lazard Fund Managers (Ireland) Limited, which prohibits those funds from investing in or seeking exposure to the securities of issuers involved in the manufacture or production of controversial weapons (i.e. weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons, biological weapons, chemical weapons, depleted uranium weapons, cluster munitions or landmines). Such exclusions are available to be applied to segregated mandate versions of the financial products.

## **Investment Strategies**

Descriptions of the investment strategies for each of the financial products follows:

- The Lazard Automation and Robotics strategy is a focused, all-capitalization strategy that seeks long-term capital appreciation by investing in companies that have significant exposure to the most relevant robotics and automation market segments. Companies in the investable universe offer products and services throughout the robotics & automation value chain that aim to increase the productivity of their clients' processes and business. The strategy opportunistically invests in approximately 30 to 60 global securities.
- The Lazard Generations strategy aims to identify behavioral dynamics within the retiree and replacement generational cohorts of the global population. The investment opportunity set consists of those stocks that are beneficially exposed to changing consumer spending patterns of typical representatives within these cohorts. The strategy is a concentrated global equity portfolio of stocks that seeks to capture the best long-term investment opportunities from within that set. The team

believes that longevity is a key utility driver of economic preference for both the younger and the older tail ends of the demographic pyramid since they represent the most significant cohorts of the global population in terms of income growth and asset ownership. The strategy invests selectively in both developed and emerging markets.

• The Lazard Diversified Return Strategy seeks to provide an attractive rate of return over a market cycle while at the same time protecting capital in down markets by limiting volatility. The Lazard Multi-Asset team allocates the strategy's assets globally across equities, fixed income, and other diversifying baskets of securities managed by Lazard's security selectors. As market conditions and volatility expectations change, the team dynamically shifts the strategy's allocation.

The Investment Manager's bottom-up fundamental analysis of companies held in the portfolios includes an assessment of their governance practices, which assessment can be based in qualitative or quantitative criteria. The Investment Manager's analysis may result in various outcomes, including without limitation an adjustment to its valuation of an issuer's securities, a decision to overweight or underweight exposure to those securities in the relevant financial product portfolio, or a decision to avoid investment in the securities. The Investment Manager's assessment relating to the governance practices of an issuer will evolve as it continues to conduct fundamental research concerning that issuer, its industry/sector, and other interested entities and stakeholders.

For further information concerning the investment strategy for each financial product, please refer to the relevant UCITS prospectus or approved marketing material for segregated mandates.

# **Proportion of Investments**

The financial products are expected to have direct exposure to investee entities through holding securities issued by those entities. The financial products also will have direct and derivative exposure to various global currencies.

Promotion of environmental and social characteristics is designed to be achieved by applying the relevant investment process to the portfolios of each financial product, and Lazard has not identified a minimum portion of each portfolio that would be used to attain such environmental and social characteristics. The financial products have not committed to making any sustainable investments.

## **Monitoring of Environmental or Social Characteristics**

The Investment Manager's investment personnel responsible for the discretionary management of the financial product portfolios have the primary responsibility for monitoring the environmental and social characteristics designed to be promoted by the financial products, using the data and potential systems available to those personnel. The investment team may be assisted in its monitoring efforts by the firm's ESG research personnel.

#### Methodologies

Please see the section "Environmental or Social Characteristics of the Financial Products" above for a description of the methodologies used by the Investment Manager to attempt to attain the social and environmental characteristics promoted by the financial products.

# **Data Sources and Processing**

The Investment Manager has access to ESG data from both internal and external resources, which allows it to assess the Sustainability Risks associated with prospective or existing investments for these financial products. This data includes:

- a) The Investment Manager's proprietary Materiality Mapping<sup>1</sup> analysis, which evaluates ESG issues facing specific industry groups.
- b) Trucost<sup>2</sup>, part of S&P Global, provides environmental ratings and research enabling the Investment Manager to assess a company's environmental impact and the overall environmental footprint of investment portfolios.
- c) Sustainalytics ESG Research<sup>3</sup>, provides the Investment Manager with research that enhances the Investment Manager's understanding of a company's ESG practices, and also with risk ratings that allow for systematic comparison of ESG performance across companies.
- d) The Investment Manager's ESG watchlist, produced quarterly by its Global Risk Management team, which contains ESG ratings for a universe of more than 5,500 companies.
- e) Proprietary research reports in respect of issuers prepared by the Investment Manager, each of which includes an evaluation of the ESG impacts and/or attributes of potential investments for the Fund. Analysis in these reports is derived from, among other sources, engagement with the senior management of the issuers.

When selecting investments for each financial product, the Investment Manager may employ some combination of the above-referenced data as well as other data (developed or acquired by the individual investment team). The Investment Manager's analysis may result in various outcomes, including without limitation an adjustment to its valuation of an issuer's securities, a decision to overweight or underweight exposure to those securities in the relevant financial product portfolio, or a decision to avoid investment in the securities. The Investment Manager's assessment relating to an investment for a financial product will evolve as it continues to conduct fundamental research concerning that issuer, its industry/sector, and other interested entities and stakeholders.

# **Limitations to Methodologies and Data**

The effectiveness of Lazard's fundamental research processes depend in large part upon the experience and skill of our investment personnel and the quality of data and information available to those personnel. While the Investment Manager's fundamental research techniques are designed to accurately assess the ESG profile and Sustainability Risks of issuers, there is no guarantee that such techniques will identify all matters relevant to the team's assessment or ongoing investment due diligence. Similarly, while Lazard presumes that the data it acquires from third-parties and develops using proprietary research is reliable and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Investment Manager's proprietary Materiality Mapping analysis uses as its foundation the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB)'s Materiality Map™

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Copyright © 2018 S&P Trucost Limited, an affiliate of S&P Global Market Intelligence.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Sustainalytics© 2020.

comprehensive, it is possible that such data will be impacted by inaccuracies or limitations that may be imperceptible to Lazard.

# **Due Diligence**

The Investment Manager's relevant investment personnel are responsible for conducting ongoing due diligence on the securities held in the portfolios of the financial products. The Investment Manager's due diligence is grounded largely in the investment team's fundamental research analysis applied to the securities and issuers in their investment universe. The investment team's fundamental analysis is based upon data acquired by Lazard, data and research tools developed by the team, and engagement with securities issuers and other stakeholders, among other things. The portfolios of the financial products are actively managed by the Investment Manager's personnel, and their review of those portfolios is ongoing.

# **Engagement Policies**

The Investment Manager's global Sustainable Investment and ESG (environmental, social and governance) Integration Policy outlines its approach and commitment to incorporating environmental, social, and corporate governance considerations in investment processes to safeguard the interests of its clients and other relevant stakeholders, including investors in the financial products described herein.

As set forth in the Policy, engagement with issuers is an integral part of Lazard's investment process. Investment professionals conduct meetings with the issuers of securities as a regular part of the research process and in order to understand how companies are using their capital and conducting their business. During such meetings, investment professionals may engage on a variety of issues, including ESG matters. Our engagements on ESG issues with is predominately informed by our proprietary materiality mapping framework and company level assessments, as well as data developed by our individual investment teams. This helps analysts and portfolio managers focus upon the governance, human and natural capital issues that are most material and relevant to the long-term financial success of an issuer. This includes both how a company invests in its human capital – including employees, suppliers, their customers and the community – as well as its approach to natural capital, including its dependency and use of natural resources and its approach to manage climate change risk.

# No Reference Benchmark

The financial products do not designate an index as a reference benchmark aligned with the environmental or social characteristics they may promote. To the extent the financial products employ indices, they are used for performance measurement.

These Sustainability-Related Disclosures are published by Lazard Asset Management, Lazard Asset Management Limited, Lazard Asset Management Deutschland and Lazard Fund Managers (Ireland) Limited (collectively "Lazard") based upon its good faith interpretation of the EU Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation for financial products related to Article 8(1) of the Regulation and relevant guidance thereunder. Our disclosures are subject to change due to developments relating to, but not limited to, business practices, information availability, technology, standards, community expectations, and the Regulation itself.