

**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: Multi-Theme Equity Fund  
Legal entity identifier: 549300Q710S0IUIPBZ60**

**Environmental and/or social characteristics**

**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.

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.

Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?	
<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It <b>promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics</b> and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with a social objective</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It promotes E/S characteristics, but <b>will not make any sustainable investments</b></p>



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

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

The Fund invests in Collective Investment Schemes (“CIS”) qualifying as Article 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome or comprised of bonds issued by governments that have an ESG sovereign rating of at least BB (as defined by third party ESG data vendors).

The Fund will maintain a minimum exposure to investments that specifically support climate objectives.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

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

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
2. The Fund's holdings of underlying Collective Investment Schemes meeting the above criteria
3. The Fund's holdings in investments that specifically support climate objectives.
4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***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?***

This Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments on a look through basis. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

- a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or
- b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

- ***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?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: <https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf>

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights . Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

*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 investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*



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

Yes

No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through exposure to investments that specifically support climate objectives.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:

- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock’s DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.



### **What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to achieve capital growth over the long term (at least five consecutive years) in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance (ESG) investing.

The Fund will invest at least 80% of total assets in CIS qualifying as Article 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome or comprised of bonds issued by governments that have an ESG sovereign rating of at least BB (as defined by third party ESG data vendors).

The Investment Adviser will analyse all the securities in the underlying investment universe to assess their contribution to environmental and social objectives. The assessment of the level of alignment in each activity is based on percentage of revenue and a defined total revenue threshold.

The Investment Adviser will refer to qualitative (i.e. judgement-based) and quantitative (i.e. mathematical or statistical) research analysing a wide range of economic data and market behaviour, with a focus on the five Megatrends and a range of other “thematic trends”. The research may be produced by the Investment Adviser or another member of the BlackRock Group, or by a third party.

The Investment Adviser uses its analysis to construct a portfolio that invests in Sustainable Investments and investments that specifically support climate objectives

- ***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 binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund’s total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund’s total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
2. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 80% of its holdings in Collective Investment Schemes meeting the above criteria.

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

3. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 10% of its holdings in investments that specifically support climate objectives.

● **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 commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

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

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**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?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

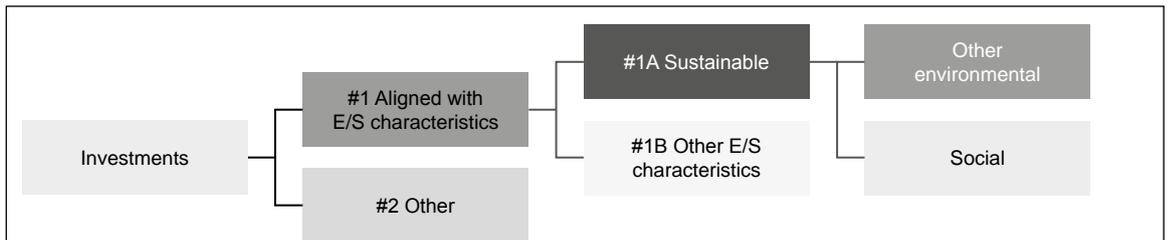
In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

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.



**#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.

**#2 Other** 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 category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

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

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.



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

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

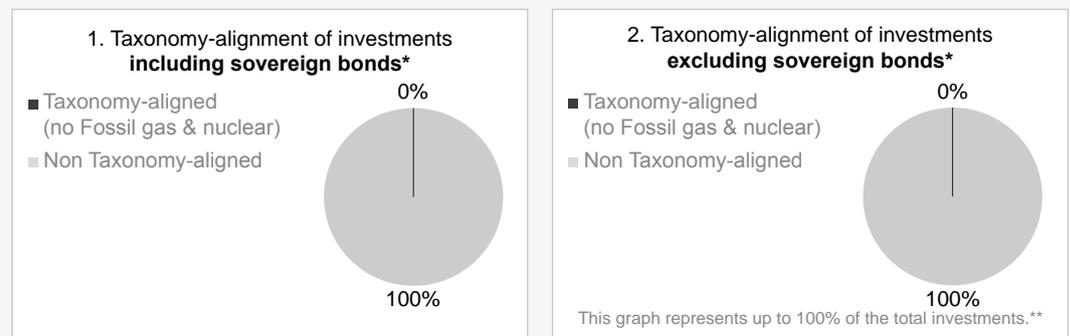
● **Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>1</sup>?**

- Yes  In fossil gas  In nuclear energy

No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**The two graphs below show 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 bonds.**



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

\*\* As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.

<sup>1</sup> Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**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.



are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.



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

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

The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.



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

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.



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

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.



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

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

- **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?**

No.

- **How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?**

Not applicable.

- **How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?**

Not applicable.

- **How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?**

Not applicable.

- **Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?**

Not applicable.



### **Where can I find more product specific information online?**

#### **More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: [www.blackrock.com](http://www.blackrock.com). Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: <https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf>