

What's in store for emerging markets?

Q1 2021 Outlook

FOR QUALIFIED CLIENTS, WHOLESALE, PROFESSIONAL CLIENTS, QUALIFIED AND INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS USE ONLY – NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PLEASE READ IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES)

BlackRock

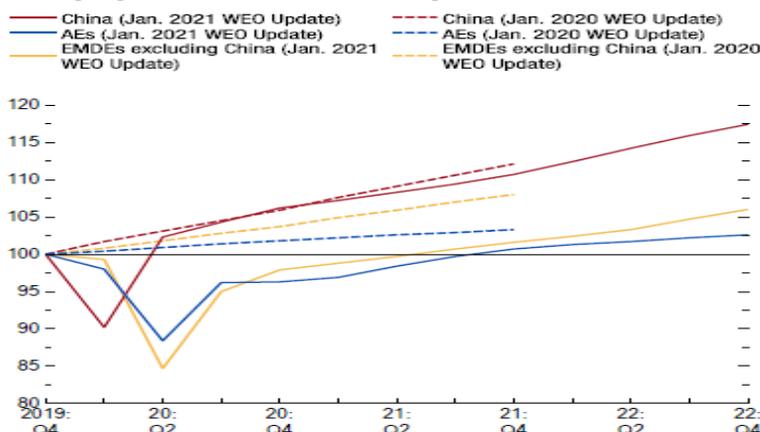
Setting the scene

Emerging markets experienced a strong recovery both in activity and capital inflows in Q4 2020, supported by intense search for yield and a more optimistic global growth outlook thanks to vaccine developments. As 2021 gets underway, there are still significant tailwinds to EM assets, but the landscape has become more treacherous and less uniform.

Risks threatening positive EM momentum include:

- Global spread of new COVID-19 variants;
- Margin squeeze in some countries and sectors;
- Slowing growth and tighter financial conditions in China;
- Continued tension in U.S.-China relations;
- A snap back in U.S. rates under the weight of larger-than-expected fiscal stimulus;
- Stretched valuations.

Divergent recoveries: WEO Forecast for Advanced Economies and Emerging Market and Developing Economies



Source: IMF staff estimates. Note: AEs = advanced economies; EMDEs = emerging market and developing economies; WEO = World Economic Outlook

That said, confidence in the asset class endures: EM equities have been consistently popular with investors the past few months, with another \$16.4bn added to EM equity ETPs globally in February, with EPFR data showing that the week ending 24 February was the second-largest inflow week for EM equities ever, with investors favoring the asset class for its cyclical tilt and oil exposure. This takes total inflows since last November to \$37bn – with international investors driving the inflows, rather than domestic buying. In the BlackRock 2020 Institutional Rebalancing Survey, 50% of client respondents said they were overweight EM and 60% are looking to increase their allocation over the next six months.

In a multi-speed world, BlackRock experts believe U.S. assets will outperform emerging markets, and anticipate increasing differentiation within the EM universe. EM Economies that have better controlled the pandemic and have credible policies to sustain stimulus are likely to outperform peers with weaker responses.

In this piece, we discuss with some of our EM experts:



Cross-cutting themes for EM

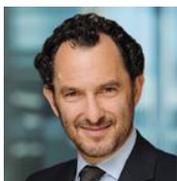
Contributors



Amer Bisat, PhD.
Head of Sovereign and Emerging Markets Alpha, Global Fixed Income



Potential limitations and growth inhibitors



Pablo Goldberg
Head of Research and Portfolio Manager for BlackRock's EM Debt Team



A positive longer-term outlook, with turbulence expected in the short-term



Isabelle Mateos y Lago
Global Head, Official Institutions Group



Portfolio implications and positioning



Jean-Marc Routier
Product Strategy, Global Emerging Markets Equities

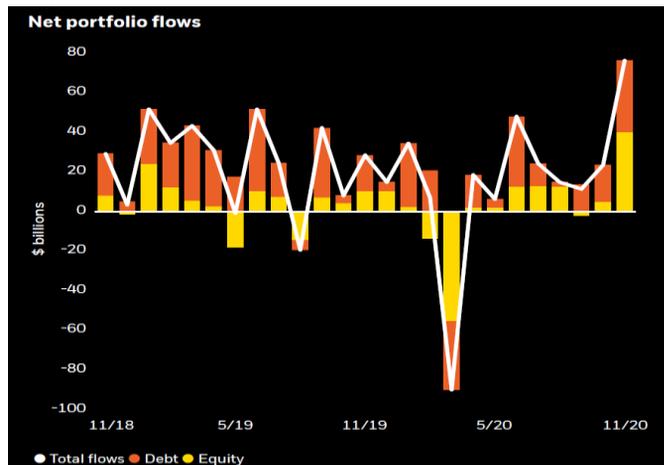
Evolving Outlook for EM

EM's positive outlook at the end of 2020 needs some adjustments

Isabelle Mateos y Lago (IML): Pablo, how do you see emerging market economies and the asset class doing at this juncture?

Pablo Goldberg (PG): By the end of the last year there was a growing bullish consensus building for emerging markets into 2021, which was based on five pillars:

1. The widespread vaccination campaign was pointing to a strong cyclical recovery of emerging markets in 2021;
2. This recovery was going to build on a continuation of overly dovish monetary conditions around the world;
3. Commodity prices were expected to recover, with energy catching up with metals;
4. A weak dollar and an appreciation in emerging market currencies;
5. An overall positive fiscal outlook.



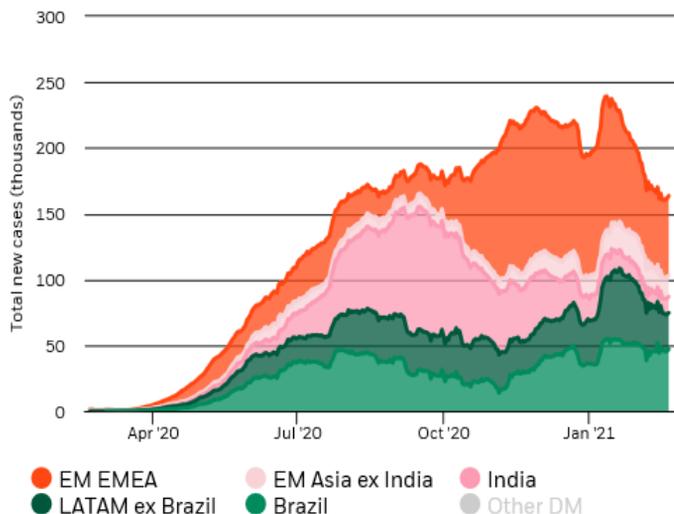
Source: International Institute of Finance, December 2020. For illustrative purposes only.

Early into 2021, we needed to make **some adjustments** to these pillars.

- First, the continued persistency of the COVID-19 shock, fuelled by contagious new variants, has extended mobility restrictions around the world for both developed markets and emerging markets.
- Second, the Democratic victory in the Georgia Senate led to expectations of an even stronger fiscal package in the U.S. than previously thought. It has important consequence on how we need to adjust the baseline case for emerging markets.

Risks and challenges in emerging markets

Regional new COVID cases



Source: BlackRock Investment Institute, *Our World in Data*, 22 Feb, 2021. Notes: New confirmed daily COVID-19 cases (7-day average, thousands)

IML: Where do you see risks in EM?

PG: We are considering both pre-existing risks, and risks that have been accentuated in recent months:

Vaccine roll-out: Obstacles to the speed and effectiveness of the vaccine roll-out can be more damaging than before, given the high expectations for a successful campaign that have already been priced in.

Monetary policy: Pitfalls around the implementation or tweaking of monetary policy, particularly in the U.S. and China, could have a greater impact on the market than before.

Policy credibility: Policy credibility in stimulus-starved places is key. In Brazil, for example, there's talk of the need for greater stimulus when the market was already too concerned about the extent of the fiscal deficit.

Evolving Outlook for EM

IML: Are these risks enough to hamper a positive outlook?

Positive EM outlook isn't history

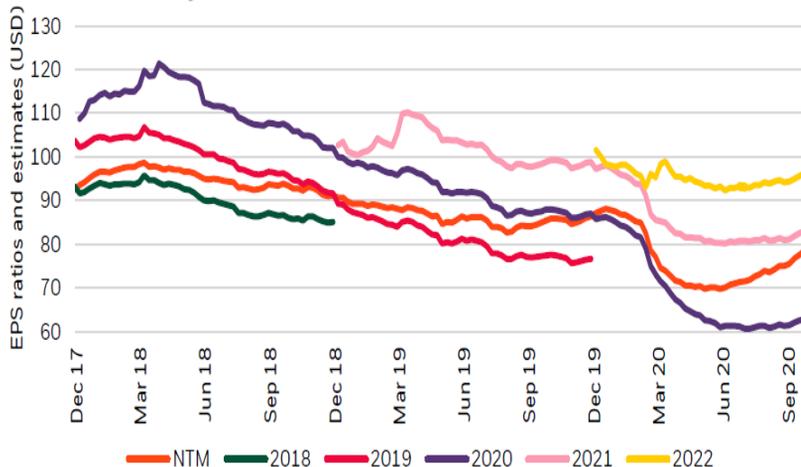
PG: We do not believe so. There is still an income drought around the world, so the need and search for yield and income continues. This falls against a backdrop of a strong global commitment to maintain easy monetary policy. Has that bullish case become more treacherous? Yes, particularly during this first part of the year. The longer the virus remains with us, the more stretched balance sheets become. We are likely to see a more challenged first half of the year, with improvement in the second.

IML: That sounds like a difficult landscape indeed, with many nuances. Jean-Marc, what does the EM world look like from an equities standpoint – particularly given the market's tilt toward Asia?

Jean-Marc Routier (JMR): Interestingly, we are quite aligned across a fixed income and equity perspective. Our team is positive on EM equities because of liquidity levels: capital is like water, and it flows towards yield and growth. In this sense, EM is still extremely attractive.

Turning tide

Consensus earnings expectations, 2018-2022



Source: BlackRock Investment Institute, with data from Haver Analytics, December 2020.

Additionally, the fiscal support given by EM economies during COVID-19 has been much less than what we've seen in the West, so the fiscal position and fundamental attractiveness of EM economies is strong and a reason to see and to expect more capital to flow in. Lastly, in equities the flows have only just started turning since fall last year. We finished last year effectively flat after having been quite negative, and we expect those flows to continue and provide positive support. Like Pablo, we've been forced to temper our optimism as we entered 2021. There are four key points that for us are the most influential in shifting our portfolio positioning.

1

Vaccines: the second wave of COVID-19 has highlighted which countries have been successful in securing vaccine supply and which haven't. Vaccine roll-out is more of a driver during this second wave, and factoring in granular detail around different countries is key. India produces 60% of world vaccines and has secured enough supply for its population, and as has Brazil, whereas South Africa and the Philippines have not had such luck.

2

Tightening in China: China has already tightened the screw around property and bank lending, and we think this will have repercussions in the APAC region. With 75% of our EQ index in Asia, we anticipate a negative impact of China's restricting conditions to come through. This has also resulted in pivoting some of our Chinese ownership.

3

U.S.-China relationship: while 2021 is likely to be a better year for global diplomacy, the U.S.-China relationship is not going to improve overnight. As the Biden administration increases focus on human rights issues, we anticipate continued deterioration between the two global superpowers in the near term.

4

Tightening margins: earnings are strong right now in EM companies as they benefit from some sense of normalisation. But commodity prices moving is resulting in squeezed margins in certain parts of the market. This has resulted in changing our exposures based on who is impacted by the margin squeeze.

Portfolio implications

Fixed Income

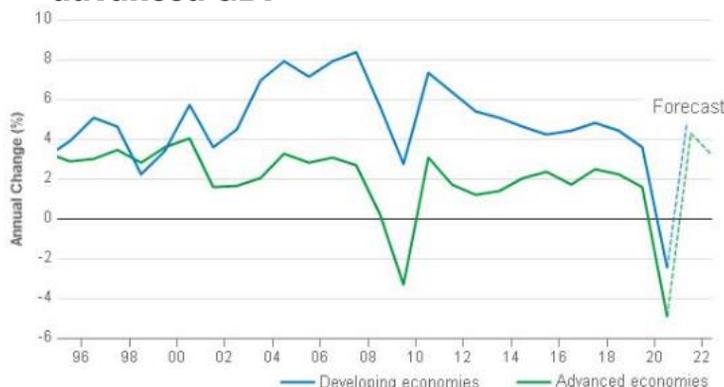
IML: Amer, how does this nuanced backdrop look from a cross-over investor portfolio standpoint?

Amer Bisat (AB): I'll discuss across a three-part framework:

Fundamentals

On a six-month view, we have conviction to be long in emerging markets. We are anticipating post-vaccine growth to surpass levels seen over the last 40 years. We expect monetary authorities to face an uphill battle in trying to normalise monetary conditions, with fiscal policy pushing aggressively in both the U.S. and Europe. We consider this positive news for EM as they benefit from the DM growth feedback loop via growth in commodities, capital inflows, and liquidity flows. However, the growth hinges on uncertainty on U.S. rate stabilisation.

Developing market growth in parallel with advanced GDP



Source: Refinitiv Datastream IMF World Economic Outlook, BlackRock Investment Institute. 22 February, 2021. Note: Real GDP Growth, data and forecasts from IMF World Economic Forum.

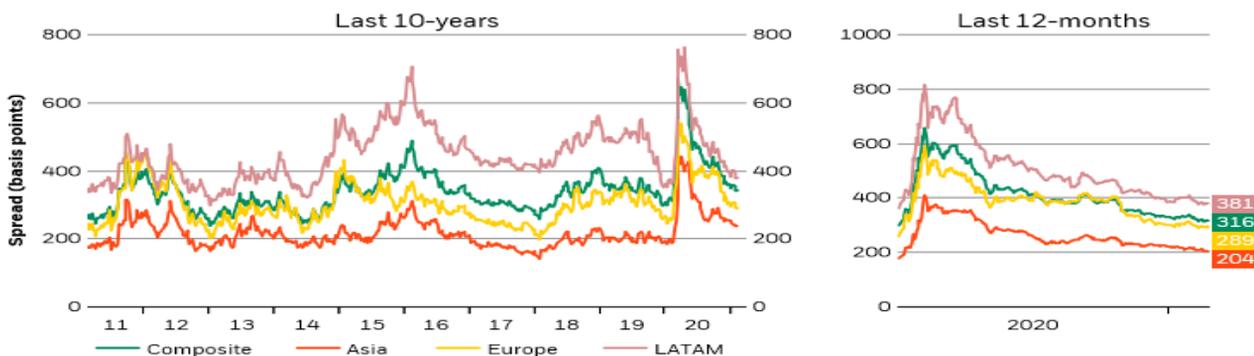
Valuations

Valuations are also becoming a constraint, particularly in investment grade where spreads are as low as they were before the COVID crisis and very close to three-year spikes. Rates, local duration in EM, and the level of yields in EM today are at historical lows. Given the favourable medium-term fundamental backdrop we've been discussing, we believe in owning the riskier part of EM, including dollar denominated high yield and foreign exchange.

Technicals

We have our own proprietary way of measuring positioning, and positioning is stretched, which is cause for overcrowding concern.

Hard currency emerging market debt spreads approaching 3-year spikes, return to pre-COVID levels



Source: Refinitiv Datastream, JP Morgan and BlackRock Investment Institute. Feb 19, 2021. Note: Lines show blended spread based on JP Morgan EMBI Diversified Index.

Considering these points, we believe in being long EM over the medium term, with more cautious tactical expressions over the next few months. However macro factors and dispersion of growth within the asset class give us more conviction in higher yield and FX.

Portfolio implications

Multi-speed emerging markets

IML: Pablo and Jean-Marc, can you tell us what your teams currently like and dislike in different parts of the market currently?

PG: The world is changing at different places across countries and regions. This diminishes the expectation of a synchronised recovery; within the EM universe, we are expecting differentiated recoveries based on varying degrees of control over the virus.

In some fiscally stressed emerging markets, some doubts about policy credibility are starting to arise, and that's generating some interesting dynamics on a price basis.

In terms of specific positioning, there are places we are seeing early warning signs on valuations. We are reacting to these by

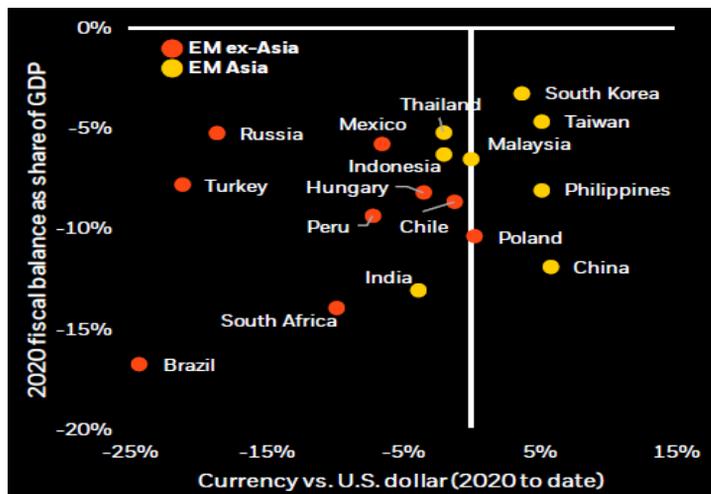
maintaining exposure to the high coupon EM assets, and other securities that help hedge the headwinds that could impact the coupon. In general, we continue to like anything around energy or currencies, because we think that we're going to see strong recovery of mobility and of oil prices. We've been reducing duration generally, and we continue to like high yield in EM currencies. which this has become more than a tactical trade. In credit, we like the fact that there aren't many places in the liquid fixed income markets where investors can get a decent coupon, so we expect to see inflows. We have a more tactical, less aggressive exposure right now, but maintain the core conviction that 2021 will be an overall good year for EM.

JMR: our largest active overweights are in India and Russia. While we are considering risks of increased U.S. sanctions on Russia under the Biden administration, we see valuations as outweighing the risk as the economy excels with oil at \$55. We see Russia as a proxy to gaining exposure to oil, without owning oil-specific stocks.

A weak US dollar has tended to be positive for EM equity performance



Sources: Refinitiv Datastream, Federal Reserve and Blackrock Investment Institute. 22 Feb, 2021. Note: Right axis shows MSCI Emerging Market Equity Total Return Index relative to MSCI World Equity Index, then rebased to 100. The trade-weighted exchange is a weighted average of exchange rates of home versus foreign currencies, with the weight for each foreign country equal to its share in trade.



Sources: BlackRock Investment Institute and the International Monetary Fund, with data from Refinitiv, November 2020.

Risks

Taper Tantrum

IML: What could trigger a taper tantrum? Which parts of the EM complex are most vulnerable?

JMR: Taper tantrum is clearly negative for EM, regardless of the asset class, and I agree it's not so much the quantum but the magnitude and velocity of the move. I think there's enough there from the central bankers to control that and for capital to continue to prevail in the asset class.

AB: We are fairly comfortable that any significant backup in real rates in the U.S. is going to be either limited in nature or eventually fought by the Fed. There are two reasons this could happen. One is 'crowding out,' or if there is an increased supply of treasuries because of fiscal stimulus post-Georgia, then real rates could start rising again. The second is if the economic recovery is so strong that the market starts pricing in an earlier interest rate rise than what is now priced in the market. In both of these scenarios, we could see significant liquidity drying up if markets are worried about the Fed being behind the curve. a result of significantly higher inflation, real rates also rise as investors seek protection against future inflation.

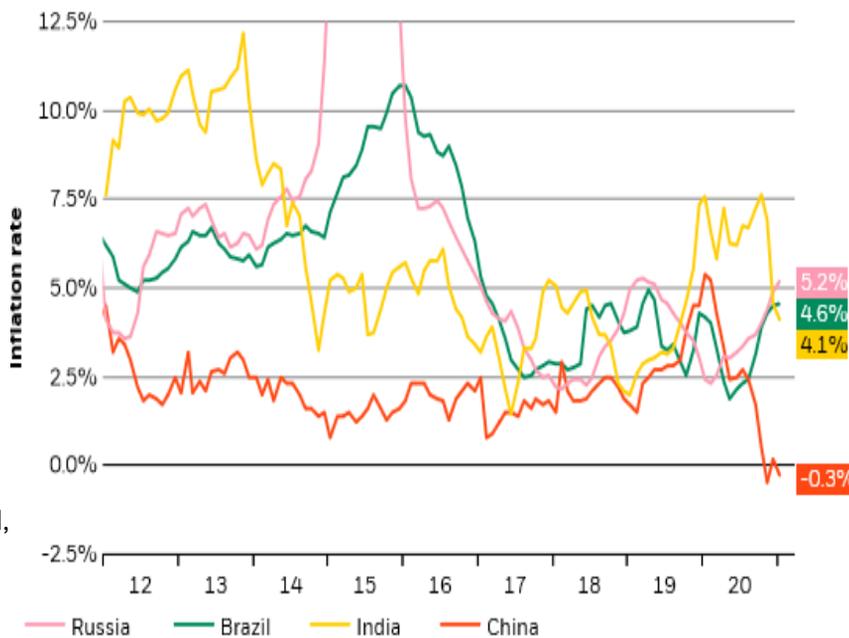
PG: A taper tantrum is clearly negative for EM, regardless of the asset class, and I agree it's not so much the quantum but the magnitude and velocity of the move. I think there's enough there from the central bankers to control that and for capital to continue to prevail in the asset class.

Inflation

IML: Where do you see the strongest inflationary pressures in the EM world, and which central banks do you see as getting back on the tightening path soonest?

PG: I think tightening is now going to be a generalised issue. I think there are still places where we might see further cuts, like Mexico, but we've seen a much more hawkish tone coming from Brazil. In general we will see EM central banks really keen to see how much of the pickup in inflation is just pure base effects, and a lot of the bottlenecks coming from the food price shocks that we saw in 2020, they should start displaying with favourable base effects for emerging markets. Energy, on the other hand, will point in the other direction, but prices in emerging markets have been quite well behaved, so with the continuation of the virus and mobility restrictions, our pickups will continue to be quite wide in emerging markets. I don't anticipate a majority really rushing to hike.

Emerging Market Inflation



Source: Refinitiv Datastream, chart by BlackRock Investment Institute, 19 February, 2021. Note: lines show annual change in consumer price indices.

Risks

Capital at risk. The value of investments and the income from them can fall as well as rise and are not guaranteed. Investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future results and should not be the sole factor of consideration when selecting a product or strategy.

Changes in the rates of exchange between currencies may cause the value of investments to diminish or increase. Fluctuation may be particularly marked in the case of a higher volatility fund and the value of an investment may fall suddenly and substantially. Levels and basis of taxation may change from time to time.

Important Information

This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended to be relied upon as a forecast, research or investment advice, and is not a recommendation, offer or solicitation to buy or sell any securities or to adopt any investment strategy. The opinions expressed are subject to change. References to specific securities, asset classes and financial markets are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to be and should not be interpreted as recommendations. Reliance upon information in this material is at the sole risk and discretion of the reader. The material was prepared without regard to specific objectives, financial situation or needs of any investor.

This material may contain “forward-looking” information that is not purely historical in nature. Such information may include, among other things, projections, forecasts, and estimates of yields or returns. No representation is made that any performance presented will be achieved by any BlackRock Funds, or that every assumption made in achieving, calculating or presenting either the forward-looking information or any historical performance information herein has been considered or stated in preparing this material. Any changes to assumptions that may have been made in preparing this material could have a material impact on the investment returns that are presented herein. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future results and should not be the sole factor of consideration when selecting a product or strategy.

The information and opinions contained in this material are derived from proprietary and nonproprietary sources deemed by BlackRock to be reliable, are not necessarily all-inclusive and are not guaranteed as to accuracy.

In Singapore, this is issued by BlackRock (Singapore) Limited (Co. registration no. 200010143N) for use with institutional investors as defined in Section 4A of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore. This advertisement or publication has not been reviewed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

In South Korea, this information is issued by BlackRock Investment (Korea) Limited. This material is for distribution to the Qualified Professional Investors (as defined in the Financial Investment Services and Capital Market Act and its sub-regulations) and for information or educational purposes only, and does not constitute investment advice or an offer or solicitation to purchase or sells in any securities or any investment strategies.

In China, This material may not be distributed to individuals resident in the People's Republic of China ("PRC", for such purposes, excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) or entities registered in the PRC unless such parties have received all the required PRC government approvals to participate in any investment or receive any investment advisory or investment management services.

In Hong Kong, this material is issued by BlackRock Asset Management North Asia Limited and has not been reviewed by the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong. This material is for distribution to "Professional Investors" (as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap.571 of the laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made under that ordinance.) and should not be relied upon by any other persons or redistributed to retail clients in Hong Kong.

In Taiwan, Independently operated by BlackRock Investment Management (Taiwan) Limited. Address: 28F., No. 100, Songren Rd., Xinyi Dist., Taipei City 110, Taiwan. Tel: (02)23261600.

Important Information

Issued by BlackRock Investment Management (**Australia**) Limited ABN 13 006 165 975, AFSL 230 523 (BIMAL) for the exclusive use of the recipient, who warrants by receipt of this material that they are a wholesale client as defined under the Australian Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) and the New Zealand Financial Advisers Act 2008 respectively.

This material provides general information only and does not take into account your individual objectives, financial situation, needs or circumstances. Before making any investment decision, you should therefore assess whether the material is appropriate for you and obtain financial advice tailored to you having regard to your individual objectives, financial situation, needs and circumstances. This material is not a financial product recommendation or an offer or solicitation with respect to the purchase or sale of any financial product in any jurisdiction.

This material is not intended for distribution to, or use by, any person or entity in any jurisdiction or country where such distribution or use would be contrary to local law or regulation. BIMAL is a part of the global BlackRock Group which comprises of financial product issuers and investment managers around the world. BIMAL is the issuer of financial products and acts as an investment manager in Australia. BIMAL does not offer financial products to persons in New Zealand who are retail investors (as that term is defined in the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013 (FMCA)). This material does not constitute or relate to such an offer. To the extent that this material does constitute or relate to such an offer of financial products, the offer is only made to, and capable of acceptance by, persons in New Zealand who are wholesale investors (as that term is defined in the FMCA).

BIMAL, its officers, employees and agents believe that the information in this material and the sources on which it is based (which may be sourced from third parties) are correct as at the date of publication. While every care has been taken in the preparation of this material, no warranty of accuracy or reliability is given and no responsibility for the information is accepted by BIMAL, its officers, employees or agents. Except where contrary to law, BIMAL excludes all liability for this information.

In the U.S., this material is intended for Institutional Investors only – not for public distribution.

In Canada, this material is intended for permitted clients only, is for educational purposes only, does not constitute investment advice and should not be construed as a solicitation or offering of units of any fund or other security in any jurisdiction.

In Latin America, for Institutional Investors and Financial Intermediaries Only (Not for public distribution). This material is for educational purposes only and does not constitute an offer or solicitation to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any shares of any fund (nor shall any such shares be offered or sold to any person) in any jurisdiction in which an offer, solicitation, purchase or sale would be unlawful under the securities law of that jurisdiction. It is possible that some or all of the funds mentioned in this document have not been registered with the securities regulator of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay or any other securities regulator in any Latin American country and thus might not be publicly offered within any such country. The securities regulators of such countries have not confirmed the accuracy of any information contained herein. No information discussed herein can be provided to the general public in Latin America.

In Argentina, only for use with Qualified Investors under the definition as set by the Comisión Nacional de Valores (CNV).

In Colombia, the offer of each Fund is addressed to less than one hundred specifically identified investors, and such 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 financial and/or securities related products or services in Colombia.

In Peru, this material is for the sole use of Institutional Investors, as such term is defined by the Superintendencia de Banca, Seguros y AFP

Important Information

In Chile, the offer of each security not registered with the Comisión para el Mercado Financiero (“CMF”) is subject to General Rule No. 336 issued by the SVS (now the CMF). The subject matter of this offer may include securities not registered with the CMF; therefore, such securities are not subject to the supervision of the CMF. Since the securities are not registered in Chile, there is no obligation of the issuer to make publicly available information about the securities in Chile. The securities shall not be subject to public offering in Chile unless registered with the relevant registry of the CMF.

IN MEXICO, FOR INSTITUTIONAL AND QUALIFIED INVESTORS USE ONLY. INVESTING INVOLVES RISK, INCLUDING POSSIBLE LOSS OF PRINCIPAL. THIS MATERIAL IS PROVIDED FOR EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER OR SOLICITATION TO SELL OR A SOLICITATION OF AN OFFER TO BUY ANY SHARES OF ANY FUND OR SECURITY. This information does not consider the investment objectives, risk tolerance or the financial circumstances of any specific investor. This information does not replace the obligation of financial advisor to apply his/her best judgment in making investment decisions or investment recommendations. It is your responsibility to inform yourself of, and to observe, all applicable laws and regulations of Mexico. If any funds, securities or investment strategies are mentioned or inferred in this material, such funds, securities or strategies have not been registered with the Mexican National Banking and Securities Commission (Comisión Nacional Bancaria y de Valores, the “CNBV”) and thus, may not be publicly offered in Mexico. The CNBV has not confirmed the accuracy of any information contained herein. The provision of investment management and investment advisory services (“Investment Services”) is a regulated activity in Mexico, subject to strict rules, and performed under the supervision of the CNBV. These materials are shared for information purposes only, do not constitute investment advice, and are being shared in the understanding that the addressee is an Institutional or Qualified investor as defined under Mexican Securities (Ley del Mercado de Valores). Each potential investor shall make its own investment decision based on their own analysis of the available information. Please note that by receiving these materials, it shall be construed as a representation by the receiver that it is an Institutional or Qualified investor as defined under Mexican law. BlackRock México Operadora, S.A. de C.V., Sociedad Operadora de Fondos de Inversión (“BlackRock México Operadora”) is a Mexican subsidiary of BlackRock, Inc., authorized by the CNBV as a Mutual Fund Manager (Operadora de Fondos), and as such, authorized to manage Mexican mutual funds, ETFs and provide Investment Advisory Services. For more information on the Investment Services offered by BlackRock Mexico, please review our Investment Services Guide available in www.blackrock.com/mx. This material represents an assessment at a specific time and its information should not be relied upon by the you as research or investment advice regarding the funds, any security or investment strategy in particular. Reliance upon information in this material is at your sole discretion. BlackRock México is not authorized to receive deposits, carry out intermediation activities, or act as a broker dealer, or bank in Mexico. For more information on BlackRock México, please visit: www.blackrock.com/mx. BlackRock receives revenue in the form of advisory fees for our advisory services and management fees for our mutual funds, exchange traded funds and collective investment trusts. Any modification, change, distribution or inadequate use of information of this document is not responsibility of BlackRock or any of its affiliates. Pursuant to the Mexican Data Privacy Law (Ley Federal de Protección de Datos Personales en Posesión de Particulares), to register your personal data you must confirm that you have read and understood the Privacy Notice of BlackRock México Operadora. For the full disclosure, please visit www.blackrock.com/mx and accept that your personal information will be managed according with the terms and conditions set forth therein.

For investors in Central America, these securities have not been registered before the Securities Superintendence of the Republic of Panama, nor did the offer, sale or their trading procedures. The registration exemption has made according to numeral 3 of Article 129 of the Consolidated Text containing of the Decree-Law No. 1 of July 8, 1999 (institutional investors). Consequently, the tax treatment set forth in Articles 334 to 336 of the Unified Text containing Decree-Law No. 1 of July 8, 1999, does not apply to them. These securities are not under the supervision of the Securities Superintendence of the Republic of Panama. The information contained herein does not describe any product that is supervised or regulated by the National Banking and Insurance Commission (CNBS) in Honduras. Therefore any investment described herein is done at the investor’s own risk. This is an individual and private offer which is made in Costa Rica upon reliance on an exemption from registration before the General Superintendence of Securities (“SUGEVAL”), pursuant to articles 7 and 8 of the Regulations on the Public Offering of Securities (“Reglamento sobre Oferta Pública de Valores”). This information is confidential, and is not to be reproduced or distributed to third parties as this is NOT a public offering of securities in Costa Rica. The product being offered is not intended for the Costa Rican public or market and neither is registered or will be registered before the SUGEVAL, nor can be traded in the secondary market.

Important Information

If any recipient of this documentation receives this document in El Salvador, such recipient acknowledges that the same has been delivered upon his request and instructions, and on a private placement basis.

For investors in the Caribbean, any funds mentioned or inferred in this material have not been registered under the provisions of the Investment Funds Act of 2003 of the Bahamas, nor have they been registered with the securities regulators of Bermuda, Dominica, the Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands, Trinidad & Tobago or any jurisdiction in the Eastern Caribbean, and thus, may not be publicly offered in any such jurisdiction. The shares of any fund mentioned herein may only be marketed in Bermuda by or on behalf of the fund or fund manager only in compliance with the provision of the Investment Business Act 2003 of Bermuda and the Companies Act of 1981. Engaging in marketing, offering or selling any fund from within the Cayman Islands to persons or entities in the Cayman Islands may be deemed carrying on business in the Cayman Islands. As a non-Cayman Islands person, BlackRock may not carry on or engage in any trade or business unless it properly registers and obtains a license for such activities in accordance with the applicable Cayman Islands law.

This material is for distribution to Professional Clients (as defined by the Financial Conduct Authority or MiFID Rules) only and should not be relied upon by any other persons.

Until 31 December 2020, issued by BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered office: 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London, EC2N 2DL. Tel: + 44 (0)20 7743 3000. Registered in England and Wales No. 02020394. For your protection telephone calls are usually recorded. Please refer to the Financial Conduct Authority website for a list of authorised activities conducted by BlackRock.

From 1 January 2021, in the event the United Kingdom and the European Union do not enter into an arrangement which permits United Kingdom firms to offer and provide financial services into the European Economic Area, the issuer of this material is:

- (i) BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited for all outside of the European Economic Area; and
- (ii) BlackRock (Netherlands) B.V. for in the European Economic Area,

BlackRock (Netherlands) B.V. is authorised and regulated by the Netherlands Authority for the Financial Markets. Registered office Amstelplein 1, 1096 HA, Amsterdam, Tel: 020 – 549 5200, Tel: 31-20-549-5200. Trade Register No. 17068311 For your protection telephone calls are usually recorded.

For qualified investors in Switzerland: This document is marketing material. This document shall be exclusively made available to, and directed at, qualified investors as defined in the Swiss Collective Investment Schemes Act of 23 June 2006, as amended.

In Saudi Arabia the information contained in this document is intended strictly for sophisticated institutions.

The information contained in this document, does not constitute and should not be construed as an offer of, invitation or proposal to make an offer for, recommendation to apply for or an opinion or guidance on a financial product, service and/or strategy. Whilst great care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate, no responsibility can be accepted for any errors, mistakes or omissions or for any action taken in reliance thereon. You may only reproduce, circulate and use this document (or any part of it) with the consent of BlackRock.

The information contained in this document is for information purposes only. It is not intended for and should not be distributed to, or relied upon by, members of the public.

The information contained in this document, may contain statements that are not purely historical in nature but are “forward-looking statements”. These include, amongst other things, projections, forecasts or estimates of income. These forward-looking statements are based upon certain assumptions, some of which are described in other relevant documents or materials. If you do not understand the contents of this document, you should consult an authorised financial adviser.

Important Information

In the UAE The information contained in this document is intended strictly for non-natural Qualified Investors as defined in the UAE Securities and Commodities Authority's Board Decision No. 3/R.M of 2017 concerning Promoting and Introducing Regulations

The information contained in this document, does not constitute and should not be construed as an offer of, invitation or proposal to make an offer for, recommendation to apply for or an opinion or guidance on a financial product, service and/or strategy. Whilst great care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate, no responsibility can be accepted for any errors, mistakes or omissions or for any action taken in reliance thereon. You may only reproduce, circulate and use this document (or any part of it) with the consent of BlackRock.

The information contained in this document is for information purposes only. It is not intended for and should not be distributed to, or relied upon by, members of the public.

In Kuwait The information contained in this document is intended strictly for sophisticated institutions that are 'Professional Clients' as defined under the Kuwait Capital Markets Law and its Executive Bylaws.

The information contained in this document, does not constitute and should not be construed as an offer of, invitation or proposal to make an offer for, recommendation to apply for or an opinion or guidance on a financial product, service and/or strategy. Whilst great care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate, no responsibility can be accepted for any errors, mistakes or omissions or for any action taken in reliance thereon. You may only reproduce, circulate and use this document (or any part of it) with the consent of BlackRock.

The information contained in this document is for information purposes only. It is not intended for and should not be distributed to, or relied upon by, members of the public.

The information contained in this document, may contain statements that are not purely historical in nature but are "forward-looking statements". These include, amongst other things, projections, forecasts or estimates of income. These forward-looking statements are based upon certain assumptions, some of which are described in other relevant documents or materials. If you do not understand the contents of this document, you should consult an authorised financial adviser.

In Bahrain the information contained in this document is intended strictly for sophisticated institutions.

The information contained in this document, does not constitute and should not be construed as an offer of, invitation or proposal to make an offer for, recommendation to apply for or an opinion or guidance on a financial product, service and/or strategy. Whilst great care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate, no responsibility can be accepted for any errors, mistakes or omissions or for any action taken in reliance thereon. You may only reproduce, circulate and use this document (or any part of it) with the consent of BlackRock.

The information contained in this document is for information purposes only. It is not intended for and should not be distributed to, or relied upon by, members of the public.

The information contained in this document, may contain statements that are not purely historical in nature but are "forward-looking statements". These include, amongst other things, projections, forecasts or estimates of income. These forward-looking statements are based upon certain assumptions, some of which are described in other relevant documents or materials. If you do not understand the contents of this document, you should consult an authorised financial adviser."

Important Information

Qatar the information contained in this document is intended strictly for sophisticated institutions.

The information contained in this document, does not constitute and should not be construed as an offer of, invitation or proposal to make an offer for, recommendation to apply for or an opinion or guidance on a financial product, service and/or strategy. Whilst great care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate, no responsibility can be accepted for any errors, mistakes or omissions or for any action taken in reliance thereon. You may only reproduce, circulate and use this document (or any part of it) with the consent of BlackRock.

This information can be distributed in and from the **Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)** by BlackRock Advisors (UK) Limited - Dubai Branch which is regulated by the Dubai Financial Services Authority ("DFSA") and is only directed at 'Professional Clients' and no other person should rely upon the information contained within it. Neither the DFSA or any other authority or regulator located in the GCC or MENA region has approved this information. This information and associated materials have been provided to you at your express request, and for your exclusive use. This document is not intended for distribution to, or use by, any person or entity in any jurisdiction or country where such distribution would be unlawful under the securities laws of such. Any distribution, by whatever means, of this document and related material to persons other than those referred to above is strictly prohibited.

Dubai (DIFC) The information contained in this document is intended strictly for Professional Clients as defined under the Dubai Financial Services Authority ("DFSA") Conduct of Business (COB) Rules.

The information contained in this document, does not constitute and should not be construed as an offer of, invitation or proposal to make an offer for, recommendation to apply for or an opinion or guidance on a financial product, service and/or strategy. Whilst great care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate, no responsibility can be accepted for any errors, mistakes or omissions or for any action taken in reliance thereon. You may only reproduce, circulate and use this document (or any part of it) with the consent of BlackRock.

The information contained in this document is for information purposes only. It is not intended for and should not be distributed to, or relied upon by, members of the public.

The information contained in this document, may contain statements that are not purely historical in nature but are "forward-looking statements". These include, amongst other things, projections, forecasts or estimates of income. These forward-looking statements are based upon certain assumptions, some of which are described in other relevant documents or materials. If you do not understand the contents of this document, you should consult an authorised financial adviser.

ADGM Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) The information contained in this document is intended strictly for Authorised Persons.

The information contained in this document, does not constitute and should not be construed as an offer of, invitation or proposal to make an offer for, recommendation to apply for or an opinion or guidance on a financial product, service and/or strategy. Whilst great care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate, no responsibility can be accepted for any errors, mistakes or omissions or for any action taken in reliance thereon. You may only reproduce, circulate and use this document (or any part of it) with the consent of BlackRock. The information contained in this document is for information purposes only. It is not intended for and should not be distributed to, or relied upon by, members of the public.

The information contained in this document, may contain statements that are not purely historical in nature but are "forward-looking statements". These include, amongst other things, projections, forecasts or estimates of income. These forward-looking statements are based upon certain assumptions, some of which are described in other relevant documents or materials. If you do not understand the contents of this document, you should consult an authorised financial adviser.

The information contained in this document is intended for the exclusive use of Central Banks and Sovereign Investors and is not for redistribution or further dissemination.

Important Information

The information contained in this document, does not constitute and should not be construed as an offer of, invitation or proposal to make an offer for, recommendation to apply for or an opinion or guidance on a financial product, service and/or strategy. Whilst great care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate, no responsibility can be accepted for any errors, mistakes or omissions or for any action taken in reliance thereon. You may only reproduce, circulate and use this document (or any part of it) with the consent of BlackRock.

The information contained in this document is for information purposes only. It is not intended for and should not be distributed to, or relied upon by, members of the public. The information contained in this document, may contain statements that are not purely historical in nature but are “forward looking statements”. These include, amongst other things, projections, forecasts or estimates of income. These forward looking statements are based upon certain assumptions, some of which are described in other relevant documents or materials. If you do not understand the contents of this document, you should consult an authorised financial adviser.

BlackRock does not hold any regulatory licenses or registrations in Azerbaijan, Botswana, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Uganda, Kazakhstan and Jordan, and is therefore not licensed to conduct any regulated business activity under the relevant laws and regulations as they apply to any entity intending to carry on business in MEA, nor does BlackRock purport to carry on, any regulated activity in any country in MEA. BlackRock funds, and/or services shall not be offered or sold to any person in any jurisdiction in which such an offer, solicitation, purchase, or sale would be deemed unlawful under the securities laws or any other relevant laws of such jurisdiction(s).

This material is provided to the recipient on a strictly confidential basis and is intended for informational or educational purposes only. Nothing in this document, directly or indirectly, represents to you that BlackRock will provide, or is providing BlackRock products or services to the recipient, or is making available, inviting, or offering for subscription or purchase, or invitation to subscribe for or purchase, or sale, of any BlackRock fund, or interests therein. This material neither constitutes an offer to enter into an investment agreement with the recipient of this document, nor is it an invitation to respond to it by making an offer to enter into an investment agreement.

The distribution of the information contained herein may be restricted by law and any person who accesses it is required to comply with any such restrictions. By reading this information you confirm that you are aware of the laws in your own jurisdiction regarding the provision and sale of funds and related financial services or products, and you warrant and represent that you will not pass on or utilise the information contained herein in a manner that could constitute a breach of such laws by BlackRock, its affiliates or any other person.

In South Africa, please be advised that BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited is an authorised Financial Services provider with the South African Financial Services Board, FSP No. 43288.

In Israel: BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited is not licenced under Israel's Regulation of Investment Advice, Investment Marketing and Portfolio Management Law, 5755-1995 (the “Advice Law”), nor does it carry insurance thereunder.

In Azerbaijan, Botswana, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, and Uganda: the information contained in this document is intended strictly for Central Banks and Sovereign Investors.

The information contained in this document, does not constitute and should not be construed as an offer of, invitation or proposal to make an offer for, recommendation to apply for or an opinion or guidance on a financial product, service and/or strategy. Whilst great care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate, no responsibility can be accepted for any errors, mistakes or omissions or for any action taken in reliance thereon. You may only reproduce, circulate and use this document (or any part of it) with the consent of BlackRock.

Important Information

The information contained in this document is for information purposes only. It is not intended for and should not be distributed to, or relied upon by, members of the public. The information contained in this document, may contain statements that are not purely historical in nature but are “forward looking statements”. These include, amongst other things, projections, forecasts or estimates of income. These forward looking statements are based upon certain assumptions, some of which are described in other relevant documents or materials. If you do not understand the contents of this document, you should consult an authorised financial adviser.

The information contained in this document is intended strictly for Sophisticated Investors.

The information contained in this document, does not constitute and should not be construed as an offer of, invitation or proposal to make an offer for, recommendation to apply for or an opinion or guidance on a financial product, service and/or strategy. Whilst great care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate, no responsibility can be accepted for any errors, mistakes or omissions or for any action taken in reliance thereon. You may only reproduce, circulate and use this document (or any part of it) with the consent of BlackRock.

The information contained in this document is for information purposes only. It is not intended for and should not be distributed to, or relied upon by, members of the public. The information contained in this document, may contain statements that are not purely historical in nature but are “forward looking statements”. These include, amongst other things, projections, forecasts or estimates of income. These forward looking statements are based upon certain assumptions, some of which are described in other relevant documents or materials. If you do not understand the contents of this document, you should consult an authorised financial adviser.

This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended to be relied upon as a forecast, research or investment advice, and is not a recommendation, offer or solicitation to buy or sell any securities or to adopt any investment strategy. The opinions expressed are subject to change. References to specific securities, asset classes and financial markets are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to be and should not be interpreted as recommendations. Reliance upon information in this material is at the sole risk and discretion of the reader. The material was prepared without regard to specific objectives, financial situation or needs of any investor.

This material may contain “forward-looking” information that is not purely historical in nature. Such information may include, among other things, projections, forecasts, and estimates of yields or returns. No representation is made that any performance presented will be achieved by any BlackRock Funds, or that every assumption made in achieving, calculating or presenting either the forward-looking information or any historical performance information herein has been considered or stated in preparing this material. Any changes to assumptions that may have been made in preparing this material could have a material impact on the investment returns that are presented herein. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future results and should not be the sole factor of consideration when selecting a product or strategy.

The information and opinions contained in this material are derived from proprietary and nonproprietary sources deemed by BlackRock to be reliable, are not necessarily all-inclusive and are not guaranteed as to accuracy.

The information contained in this document is for information purposes only. It is not intended for and should not be distributed to, or relied upon by, members of the public.

The information contained in this document, may contain statements that are not purely historical in nature but are “forward-looking statements”. These include, amongst other things, projections, forecasts or estimates of income. These forward-looking statements are based upon certain assumptions, some of which are described in other relevant documents or materials. If you do not understand the contents of this document, you should consult an authorised financial adviser.

Important Information

The information provided here is neither tax nor legal advice. Investors should speak to their tax professional for specific information regarding their tax situation. Investment involves risk including possible loss of principal. International investing involves risks, including risks related to foreign currency, limited liquidity, less government regulation, and the possibility of substantial volatility due to adverse political, economic or other developments. These risks are often heightened for investments in emerging/developing markets or smaller capital markets.

This document is for your use only and must not be circulated to anyone else without BlackRock's consent or provided to the general public under any circumstances.

Any research in this document has been procured and may have been acted on by BlackRock for its own purpose. The results of such research are being made available only incidentally. The views expressed do not constitute investment or any other advice and are subject to change. They do not necessarily reflect the views of any company in the BlackRock Group or any part thereof and no assurances are made as to their accuracy.

This document is for information purposes only and does not constitute an offer or invitation to anyone to invest in any BlackRock funds and has not been prepared in connection with any such offer.

© 2021 BlackRock, Inc. All Rights reserved. BLACKROCK, BLACKROCK SOLUTIONS, iSHARES, BUILD ON BLACKROCK and SO WHAT DO I DO WITH MY MONEY are trademarks of BlackRock, Inc. or its subsidiaries in the United States and elsewhere. All other trademarks are those of their respective owners.