

# Erklæring om viktigste negative effekter av investeringsbeslutninger på bærekraftsfaktorer

31 December 2022

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**Finansmarkedsaktør:** Nordea Investment Funds S.A. (549300LCQUXMRSWPKT48), Nordea Investment Management AB (49300PHQH3Q74O5YT52), og Nordea Funds Ltd (529900EJK6EZ8VHYAT7)

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## Sammendrag

Nordea Investment Funds S.A. (549300LCQUXMRSWPKT48), Nordea Investment Management AB (549300PHQH3Q74O5YT52) og Nordea Funds Ltd (529900EJK6EZ8VHYAT71) tar hensyn til de viktigste negative effektene av sine investeringsbeslutninger på bærekraftsfaktorer. Denne erklæringen er den konsoliderte erklæringen om de viktigste negative effektene på bærekraftsfaktorer fra Nordea Investment Funds S.A., Nordea Investment Management AB og Nordea Funds Ltd.<sup>1</sup>

Nordea Investment Funds S.A. og Nordea Funds Ltd har delegert forvaltningsfunksjonen for fondene som forvaltes av dem, til Nordea Investment Management AB. Som sådan blir de viktigste negative effektene av investeringsbeslutninger som tas på vegne av disse fondene, inkludert i vurderingen av de viktigste negative effektene på nivået til Nordea Investment Management AB. Henvisning til "fond" i denne erklæringen betyr fond som Nordea Investment Funds S.A. og Nordea Funds Ltd fungerer som forvaltningsselskap for, og for hvilke forvaltningsfunksjonen er blitt delegert til Nordea Investment Management AB.

Denne erklæringen om de viktigste negative effektene på bærekraftsfaktorer dekker referanseperioden fra 1. januar til 31. desember 2022.

Vi vurderer de viktigste negative effektene på enhetsnivå ved å måle og overvåke de sammenlagte negative effektene på bærekraftsfaktorene til våre fonds investeringer. I våre fond vurderer vi de obligatoriske indikatorene for viktigste negative effekter og to frivillige indikatorer definert i forordningen om bærekraftsrelaterte opplysninger i finanssektoren (SFDR)<sup>2</sup>, med forbehold om datatilgjengelighet og -kvalitet. Vurdering av viktigste negative effekter er beskrevet i våre retningslinjer og prosesser for aktivt eierskap og engasjement. Våre tiltak innen aktivt eierskap omfatter kontakt og engasjement, stemmegivning ved fullmakt, deltakelse på generalforsamlinger og bidrag til utviklingen av bransjestandarder for miljø, samfunn og eierstyring (ESG).

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<sup>1</sup> Denne erklæringen gjelder fra og med 1. januar 2023. Den vil bli gjennomgått minst årlig. Hvis det er uoverensstemmelse i oversettelser av denne erklæringen, er det den engelske versjonen som skal gjelde.

<sup>2</sup> Europaparlaments- og rådsforordning (EU) 2019/2088 av 27. november 2019 om bærekraftsrelaterte opplysninger i finanssektoren.

Informasjon om de viktigste negative effektene av våre fonds investeringer for referanseperioden fra 1. januar til 31. desember 2022 vil bli rapportert, med forbehold om datatilgjengelighet og -kvalitet, innen 30. juni 2023.

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### **Description of the principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors**

The mandatory indicators defined by the SFDR are set out in Table 1 below. These indicators must be considered to ensure that adverse impact on key sustainability factors is taken into consideration. For each of these indicators, we have included information to describe the actions that we have taken and actions that we plan to take/targets set to avoid or reduce the principal adverse impacts identified.

Information on the impact of our funds' investments on these indicators will be published by 30 June 2023, and continuously on an annual basis. This information will cover the period of 1 January until 31 December of the preceding year. Information on impact compared to previous year will be reported by 30 June 2024, and continuously on an annual basis.

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Table 1

## Indicators applicable to investments in investee companies

Adverse sustainability indicator	Metric	Impact [year n] <sup>3</sup>	Impact [year n-1] <sup>4</sup>	Explanation <sup>5</sup>	Actions taken, and actions planned and targets set for the next reference period	
CLIMATE AND OTHER ENVIRONMENT-RELATED INDICATORS						
Greenhouse gas emissions	1. GHG emissions	Scope 1 GHG emissions	N/A	N/A	N/A	We are a signatory to Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative and committed to supporting the goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C. We have an organisational-wide target to reduce the weighted average carbon intensity (WACI) of our funds' investments; a set of portfolio-specific carbon footprint reduction targets, and a complementary target to ensure individual companies are engaged to become 1.5°C aligned.  We have set a 2025 target to ensure 80% of our top 200 largest carbon footprint contributors are on a Paris-aligned trajectory or else subject to engagement to become aligned.  Most of the funds managed by us that have been classified as Article 8 or Article 9 funds under the SFDR are subject to our Paris Aligned Fossil Fuel Policy which prohibits investments in fossil fuel companies that are not transitioning in line with the climate
		Scope 2 GHG emissions	N/A	N/A	N/A	
		Scope 3 GHG emissions	N/A	N/A	N/A	
		Total GHG emissions	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	2. Carbon footprint	Carbon footprint	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	3. GHG intensity of investee companies	GHG intensity of investee companies	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	4. Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector	Share of investments in companies active in the fossil fuel sector	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	5. Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production	Share of non-renewable energy consumption and non-renewable energy production of investee companies from non-renewable energy sources compared to renewable energy	N/A	N/A	N/A	

<sup>3</sup> Information on impact will be published by 30 June 2023, and continuously on an annual basis. This information will cover the period of 1 January until 31 December of the preceding year. Impact will be calculated and illustrated as the average of impacts on 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December of each reference period.

<sup>4</sup> Information on impact compared to previous year will be reported by 30 June 2024, and continuously on an annual basis.

<sup>5</sup> Explanation of difference in impact reported will be published by 30 June 2023, and continuously on an annual basis.

		sources, expressed as a percentage of total energy sources				objectives of the Paris Agreement, while still enabling investments in companies that are leading the transition out of fossil fuels, and hence for who we forecast sufficient reductions in Scope 1,2 and 3 PAI indicators over time.
	6. Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector	Energy consumption in GWh per million EUR of revenue of investee companies, per high impact climate sector	N/A	N/A	N/A	In our funds, we will consider GHG emissions using an internally developed monitoring system. Issuers identified as outliers on any of the GHG emission indicators or which exhibit high adverse impact across several indicators, may be subject to further analysis and potential actions as further described below.
Biodiversity	7. Activities negatively affecting biodiversity-sensitive areas	Share of investments in investee companies with sites/operations located in or near to biodiversity-sensitive areas where activities of those investee companies negatively affect those areas	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>We are a member of the Finance for Biodiversity Pledge, a commitment of financial institutions to protect and restore biodiversity through finance activities and investments.</p> <p>In our funds, we commit to take potential negative effects on biodiversity into consideration in our investment decisions. Where possible, we engage with companies deemed to be outliers on biodiversity.</p> <p>In our funds, we will consider the impact on biodiversity of our investment decisions using an internally developed monitoring system. Issuers identified as outliers on the biodiversity indicator or which exhibit high adverse impact across several indicators, may be subject to further analysis and potential actions, as further described below.</p>

Water	8. Emissions to water	Tonnes of emissions to water generated by investee companies per million EUR invested, expressed as a weighted average	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>In our funds, we will consider emissions to water generated by investee companies using an internally developed monitoring system.</p> <p>Issuers identified as outliers on the emissions to water indicator or which exhibit high adverse impact across several indicators, may be subject to further analysis and potential actions, as further described below.</p>
Waste	9. Hazardous waste and radioactive waste ratio	Tonnes of hazardous waste and radioactive waste generated by investee companies per million EUR invested, expressed as a weighted average	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>In our funds, we will consider the hazardous waste and radioactive waste ratio generated by investee companies using an internally developed monitoring system.</p> <p>Issuers identified as outliers on the indicator or which exhibit high adverse impact across several indicators, may be subject to further analysis and potential actions, as further described below.</p>

INDICATORS FOR SOCIAL AND EMPLOYEE, RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, ANTI-CORRUPTION AND ANTI-BRIBERY MATTERS						
<b>Social and employee matters</b>	10. Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises	Share of investments in investee companies that have been involved in violations of the UNGC principles or OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>We adhere to the UN Global Compact principles and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and our aim is that the investee companies that our funds invest into comply with these norms.</p> <p>Our funds are subject to norm-based screening, which identifies investee companies that have been involved in violations of the UN Global Compact principles or OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.</p> <p>If a company is identified in this screening process, an internal assessment of the company is initiated and potential actions considered, as further described below.</p>
	11. Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises	Share of investments in investee companies without policies to monitor compliance with the UNGC principles or OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises or grievance/ complaints handling mechanisms to address violations of the UNGC principles or OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>We adhere to the UN Global Compact principles and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and our aim is that the investee companies that our funds invest into comply with these norms.</p> <p>To assess compliance with UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, we monitor the share of investments in investee companies without processes and compliance mechanisms. This is done for all managed assets on an ongoing basis using an internally developed monitoring system.</p> <p>Issuers identified as outliers on the indicator, or which exhibit high adverse impact across several indicators, may be subject to further analysis and</p>

						potential actions, as further described below.
	12. Unadjusted gender pay gap	Average unadjusted gender pay gap of investee companies	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>In our funds, we will consider the average unadjusted gender pay gap of investee companies, subject to data quality and availability, using an internally developed monitoring system.</p> <p>Issuers identified as outliers on the indicator, or which exhibit high adverse impact across several indicators, may be subject to further analysis and potential actions, as further described below.</p>
	13. Board gender diversity	Average ratio of female to male board members in investee companies, expressed as a percentage of all board members	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>In our funds, we will consider the average ratio of female to male board members, expressed as a percentage of all board members in investee companies, subject to data quality and availability, using an internally developed monitoring system.</p> <p>Issuers identified as outliers on the indicator, or which exhibit high adverse impact across several indicators, may be subject to further analysis and potential actions, as further described below.</p>

	14. Exposure to controversial weapons (anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)	Share of investments in investee companies involved in the manufacture or selling of controversial weapons	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>Our funds do not invest in companies that are involved in the production or development of cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines, biological weapons, chemical weapons, weapons with non-detectable fragments, incendiary and blinding laser weapons or depleted uranium munitions. Our funds do not invest in companies that are verified to be involved in the production of nuclear weapons.</p> <p>Our holdings are screened on an ongoing basis for exposure to controversial weapons. If such a holding is detected, we conduct further analysis which is presented to the Responsible Investment Committee that decides how to proceed and any actions to take (e.g. engagement or exclusion).</p>
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### Indicators applicable to investments in sovereigns and supranationals

Adverse sustainability indicator		Metric	Impact [year n]	Impact [year n-1]	Explanation	Actions taken, and actions planned and targets set for the next reference period
<b>Environmental</b>	15. GHG intensity	GHG intensity of investee countries	N/A	N/A	N/A	We are a signatory to Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative and committed to supporting the goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C. We have an organisational-wide target to reduce the weighted average carbon intensity (WACI) of our funds' investments; a set of portfolio-specific carbon footprint reduction targets, and a complementary target to ensure individual companies are engaged to become 1.5°C aligned.



						<p>We have set a 2025 target to ensure 80% of our top 200 largest carbon footprint contributors are on a Paris-aligned trajectory or else subject to engagement to become aligned.</p> <p>Most of the funds managed by us that have been classified as Article 8 or Article 9 funds under the SFDR are subject to our Paris Aligned Fossil Fuel Policy. The Policy prohibits investments in fossil fuel companies that are not transitioning in line with the climate objectives of the Paris Agreement, while still enabling investments in companies that are leading the transition out of fossil fuels, and hence for who we forecast sufficient reductions in Scope 1,2 and 3 PAI indicators over time.</p> <p>We will work to enhance data coverage and calculation capabilities to enable monitoring of this indicator.</p>
<b>Social</b>	16. Investee countries subject to social violations	Number of investee countries subject to social violations (absolute number and relative number divided by all investee countries), as referred to in international treaties and conventions, United Nations principles and, where applicable, national law	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>We adhere to investment restrictions applicable further to sanctions imposed by the EU, UN and US.</p> <p>Sovereign bonds are also assessed on their Human Rights performance using our proprietary methodology, which is based on the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other recognised standards.</p> <p>We will work to continuously enhance data coverage and calculation capabilities to enable monitoring of this indicator.</p>

## Indicators applicable to investments in real estate assets

Adverse sustainability indicator		Metric	Impact [year n]	Impact [year n-1]	Explanation	Actions taken, and actions planned and targets set for the next reference period
<b>Fossil fuels</b>	17. Exposure to fossil fuels through real estate assets	Share of investments in real estate assets involved in the extraction, storage, transport or manufacture of fossil fuels	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not applicable given investment universe of our funds.
<b>Energy efficiency</b>	18. Exposure to energy-inefficient real estate assets	Share of investments in energy-inefficient real estate assets	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not applicable given investment universe of our funds.

## Other indicators for principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors

In addition to the set of mandatory indicators above, we consider two additional indicators subject to data availability and quality.

We consider an indicator relating to exposure of fund holdings to areas of high water stress. In regard to this indicator, we monitor the share of investments in investee companies with sites located in areas of high water stress without a water management policy, using our internally developed monitoring system. This indicator is part of the set of additional indicators that relate to climate and the environment, as defined in the SFDR (**Table 2, indicator 8**).

We also consider an indicator that relates to identified cases of severe human rights issues and incidents. In regard to this indicator we monitor and identify number of cases of severe human rights issues and incidents connected to investee companies on a weighted average basis. This indicator is part of the set of additional indicators that relate to social and employee, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters, as defined in the SFDR (**Table 3, indicator 14**).

In our funds, we will consider these indicators using an internally developed monitoring system, subject to data availability and quality. Issuers identified as outliers on any of the indicators or which exhibit high adverse impact across several indicators may be subject to further analysis and the process described below.

We do not use other indicators to identify and assess additional principal adverse impacts on a sustainability factor than those mandatory indicators that are set out in **Table 1 above**, and the additional indicators that we have opted to consider as per the above.

## Description of policies to identify and prioritise principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors

The SFDR defines sustainability factors as environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters. Principal adverse impact (PAI) is generally understood to mean the negative impact, caused by an investment decision or investment advice, on these factors. The SFDR includes a set of specific indicators that can be used to measure an issuer's or investee company's negative impact on sustainability factors, to enable identification of the principal adverse impact of investments by a financial market participant.

In our funds, we have implemented certain safeguards to ensure that our investments meet a minimum ESG standard and we use specific processes to identify and mitigate/manage principal adverse impact where possible. When applicable, our ESG safeguards include application of exclusion lists, norm-based screening, and integrating consideration of PAI in our investment-decision making process. By applying general screening criteria pre-investment, we aim to limit investing into companies with negative impact on sustainability factors. Identification of high negative impact on environmental and social factors results in further analysis and may be a driver for active ownership activities, including voting and engagement, as a means to mitigate that impact. High negative impact on sustainability factors may ultimately lead to divestment. Monitoring of principal adverse impact is subject to data availability and quality.

We consider PAI on entity level by measuring and monitoring the aggregated negative impact on sustainability indicators of our funds' investments.<sup>6</sup>

### Selection of indicators

Our Responsible Investment Policy describes the framework governing our approach to responsible investments and ESG/sustainability. Our ESG strategy identifies four core areas of interest:

- Climate
- Human rights
- Good corporate governance
- Biodiversity/water

These four core areas of interest have been identified as such due to the severe long-term consequences that adverse impact may have on these matters. We have developed certain ESG positions around these four core areas to describe the requirements that we have on investee companies in relation hereto. The PAI indicators that we consider are aligned with our ESG positions and subject to data quality and availability. Our ESG positions are further described in our Responsible Investment Policy.

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<sup>6</sup> It should be noted that the level of principal adverse impact consideration may differ depending on fund strategy. We will report on the principal adverse impact of all of our financial products, subject to data availability and quality.

Considering principal adverse impact of investment decisions, i.e. the environmental and social impact of our activities, and sustainability risk, i.e. material negative impact of ESG issues on the value of investments, captures the full scope of the double materiality concept. Information on how NAM integrates sustainability risk in the investment decision-making process is available [here](#).

### Identification and assessment of principal adverse impact

Principal adverse impact assessment is integrated in our active ownership and engagement policies and processes, and can be summarised as set out below.

As a starting point, our funds apply norm-based screening filters to identify companies that are allegedly involved in breaches of international law and norms on environmental protection, human rights, labour standards and anti-corruption. These filters identify impact relating to some of the principal adverse impact indicators. To identify impact of our investment decisions across all the mandatory and the additional principal adverse impact indicators that we have chosen to consider, we have developed a proprietary PAI monitoring system (a PAI “engine”) to increase the scope of the indicators, subject to data availability.

The PAI engine is based on data acquired from third-party providers and investee companies. By ranking the performance of companies across each indicator, we aim to identify each company's negative impact on climate and social issues as defined by the PAI metrics, both intrinsically and compared to its peers. We measure the overall exposure on entity level as well as the impact on product level.

Companies identified by the PAI engine as outliers on specific indicators or that exhibit high adverse impact across several indicators, are analysed further by our Responsible Investment team and a recommendation for action is made to our Responsible Investment Committee (RIC). RIC is presented with an update on the identified company on a quarterly basis and may, based on this, decide on the appropriate action to be taken in each case.<sup>7</sup>

The range of possible actions consists of the following:

**No action:** The PAI indicator level of the investee company is deemed acceptable or judged not to reflect the actual ongoing performance of the company, and no further action is deemed needed at this point. The investee company will continue to be assessed on an ongoing basis.

**Engagement:** Companies that have been flagged as having a high adverse impact on one or across several indicators may be identified as candidate for an engagement case. Engagement may also be initiated due to other reasons such as the issuer's PAI performance overall, material exposure to one of our four core areas (listed above),

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<sup>7</sup> Descriptions of actions taken under our active ownership and engagement policies and processes are referring to actions taken on behalf of the funds managed by Nordea Investment Funds S.A. and Nordea Funds Ltd. Depending on specific client requests, such actions may also be taken on behalf of clients to whom Nordea Investment Management AB provide portfolio management services, subject to the individually negotiated agreements.

identification in norms-based screening, or low data coverage for the investee company compared to benchmark. Reasons for and scope of engagement activities is further described below. The Responsible Investment team engages with the investee company and tracks performance after the engagement, based on relevant engagement key performance indicators (KPIs). Our engagement with investee companies is further described in the section about Engagement policies below.

**Exclusion:** The investee company is deemed not eligible for investments across our portfolios, and is added to our exclusion list. Addition to the exclusion list may be due to the identification of high negative adverse impact on sustainability factors in the PAI engine as described above. It may also be due to the fact that the sector of the investee company is deemed incompatible with our ESG strategy. Exclusion is the last possible option as we believe that engagement is more efficient to positively influence the issuer to move in the right direction. Our exclusion list is available [here](#).

In deciding the appropriate action, the RIC considers, among other things, the severity and scope of individual adverse impacts, and the probability of occurrence and severity of adverse impacts, including their potentially irremediable characteristics. For further information, please refer to our [Responsible Investment Annual Report](#) and our [Responsible Investments Policy](#).

Our active ownership efforts also include proxy voting, attending annual general meetings, contributing to the development of industry ESG standards and the filing of shareholder resolutions. We vote in as many annual general meetings as practically possible, and prioritise votes related to the four core areas of interest defined in our ESG strategy (listed above). This is further described in the section about engagement policies below.

Details of our voting activities through the fund companies can be accessed via our [voting portal](#).

### **Margin of error with our methodologies**

The methodology to identify PAI is always subject to data availability and quality. We are reliant on the quality of data received from e.g. investee companies and third-party data providers. To the extent possible, data reported by investee companies is prioritised. This is done in order to minimise the reliance on third-party estimations, contributing to improving the overall quality of the data we use as input in our investment and active ownership processes.

Where reported data is not available or of adequate quality, we use proxy data provided by third-party data providers.

A limitation in terms of data availability is that we may not be able to gather the same level of information about the impact of indirect investments, e.g. fund-of-fund investments and certain derivatives. We continuously strive to improve data coverage.

### **Governance in relation to policies**

Nordea Asset Management's Senior Executive Management has overall responsibility to define the approach to ESG/sustainability within Nordea Asset Management (which applies also to the funds managed by Nordea Funds Ltd). The Responsible Investment Committee is responsible for securing compliance with the responsible investment framework, deciding on exclusions and engagements and monitoring engagements. The RIC includes members from the Nordea Asset Management Senior Executive Management team and is chaired by the Head of Nordea Asset Management, who is also the CEO of Nordea Asset Management Holding AB. The daily responsibility to implement our active ownership and engagement framework lies with our Responsible Investment team.

The Responsible Investment Policy is approved by the Board of Nordea Asset Management Holding AB and by RIC. The Responsible Investment Policy is updated on an annual basis and was approved in its current form by the board of Nordea Asset Management Holding AB in July 2022.

Our active ownership and engagement framework is updated on an annual basis. The responsibility to implement these lies with the Responsible Investment team.

Information on our engagement policies is set out below.

### **Data sources**

Our PAI engine applies a range of data, including values, scores and weights sourced from investee companies and several third-party data providers. For a given indicator, multiple data sources may be used. For each indicator data source, third-party data providers are selected based on data quality assessment. The indicator importance is prioritised according to parameters reviewed and maintained by ESG analysts in our Responsible Investment team. These parameters take into account various aspects that may impact the performance of the engine, including data quality, data freshness and history, data coverage, aspects of the methodology of the data providers, the materiality of the indicator's subject matter, and divergence of indicator values.

We apply various measures to control the data quality, both third-party and internal. The external data providers and other data sources are assessed on an ongoing basis for data quality, coverage and other attributes.

More information about the external data sources used is available upon request.

### **Engagement policies**

As described above, we undertake a range of engagement activities with investee companies and issuers on behalf of the funds. The purpose is to influence and encourage improved ESG practices, enhance sustainable long-term financial performance and to seek to mitigate adverse impact on sustainability factors.

Nordea Investment Management AB, Nordea Investment Funds S.A. and Nordea Funds Ltd have adopted engagement policies under the Shareholder Rights Directive II<sup>8</sup>. The purpose of these engagement policies is to describe how we ensure effective and sustainable shareholder engagement and protect shareholder's rights.

The Engagement Policy of Nordea Investment Management AB outlines the general principles for how shareholder engagement is integrated in investment strategies and sets out the different engagement activities that is carried out on behalf of clients where relevant. The NIM Engagement Policy elaborates on general principles that NIM has established for positively influencing investee companies, hereunder to improve their corporate governance practices as well as ensuring a more long-term approach. It should however be noted that the application of NIM's Engagement Policy is subject to the individually negotiated investment guidelines as agreed between NIM and its clients as well as any specific instructions provided by NIM's client from time to time under the applicable agreement with such clients. The Engagement Policy is governed by Nordea Investment Management AB and approved by its board, further to recommendation by the Corporate Governance Committee. The Engagement Policy is reviewed on an annual basis and was approved in its current form in 2022.

The Engagement Policy of Nordea Investment Funds S.A. describes the monitoring of and dialogues with investee companies of the funds, the exercise of voting rights, cooperation with other shareholders and communication with relevant stakeholders of the investee companies. The NIFSA Engagement Policy is complemented by NIFSA Corporate Governance Principles that guide voting and define issues that may lead to engagement with companies. The Engagement Policy is governed by Nordea Investments Funds S.A. and approved by its board, further to a recommendation by the Corporate Governance Committee. The Engagement Policy is reviewed on an annual basis and was approved in its current form in 2022.

The Corporate Governance Principles of Nordea Funds Ltd, which provides an overview of Nordea Fund's Engagement Policy focus on increasing transparency and openness in contacts between the company and its shareholders. These principles shall be seen as overall guidelines for corporate governance to be applied on a pragmatic basis as they may, in individual cases, have to be adapted to local laws, practices and regulations. The Corporate Governance Principles are governed by Nordea Funds Ltd and approved by its board. The Corporate Governance Principles are reviewed on an annual basis and were approved in their current form in 2022.

The scope of our engagement activities include three main categories: thematic, norms and investment-led. These engagement types may overlap and be applied to a company simultaneously.

**Thematic engagements** may be undertaken either by us alone or in collaboration with other asset managers and asset owners. Collaborative engagements can take place within the framework of industry initiatives such as Climate Action 100+, International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), The United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), CDP or Investor Alliance for Human Rights, or through ad hoc initiatives. We will in some cases initiate and lead such ad hoc investor alliances. Our thematic engagements will typically concern issues under one of the core areas of interest identified in our ESG strategy, as described above.

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<sup>8</sup> Directive (EU) 2017/828 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 amending Directive 2007/36/EC as regards the encouragement of long-term shareholder engagement (Shareholder Rights Directive II)

**Norms engagements** may be triggered by observed norms breaches through the norms-based screening process, or by high negative impact on PAI indicators.

**Investment-led engagements** may be initiated and executed at the individual investment strategy level. Portfolio managers and the Responsible Investment team may engage proactively with companies when material ESG risks that may not be adequately managed are observed. Engagement may also be undertaken to advance certain themes related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, e.g. human rights and climate change.

We will monitor and review the principal adverse impact of our funds' holdings, as described above, on a yearly basis and adapt targets and measures to mitigate impact as required.

Our voting and engagement activities aim to mitigate principal adverse impact over time. Investee companies identified as a candidate for an engagement case may during the engagement be asked to identify actions taken to reduce emissions or to make certain commitments to measure and report emissions. To ensure that the company is responsive and makes progress, the Responsible Investment team continues to engage with the investee company and tracks performance after the engagement, based on relevant engagement KPIs. If the investee company does not meet the set KPIs in the relevant timeframe, the case may be escalated and additional actions taken. As a last resort, we may consider to divest.

For more information, please refer to the [Engagement Policy](#) and [SRD II Disclosure Report](#) of Nordea Investment Management AB, the [Engagement Policy, Corporate Governance Principles](#) and [SRD II Annual Report](#) of Nordea Investment Funds S.A., and the [Corporate Governance Principles of Nordea Funds Ltd.](#)

Our Responsible Investment Policy and active ownership framework sets out additional detail of our engagement with investee companies.

## References to international standards

Our ambition is that the companies that the funds invest in comply with the international conventions and norms that we adhere to. These include, but are not limited to those listed below with the respective PAI indicator(s) used to measure adherence to the respective standards:

- UN Global Compact
  - PAI 1.10.1 UNGC breaches
- OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
  - PAI 1.10.1 UNGC breaches
  - PAI 1.11.1 UNGC policy
- UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
  - PAI 1.10.1 UNGC breaches
  - PAI 1.11.1 UNGC policy



- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  - PAI 1.10.1 UNGC breaches
- Children's Rights and Business Principles
  - PAI 1.10.1 UNGC breaches
- ILO conventions on labour standards
  - PAI 1.10.1 UNGC breaches
- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
  - PAI 1.10.1 UNGC breaches
- UN Convention on Corruption
  - PAI 1.10.1 UNGC breaches
- Convention on Cluster Munitions
  - PAI 1.14.1 Controversial weapons

We have dedicated resources within the Responsible Investment team and systems to enable measurement of the adherence to these international conventions and norms. To the extent possible, data reported by companies, regulatory authorities and/or non-governmental organisations are prioritised over data from data providers' estimation models. For some indicators where availability of data is poor, we use proxy data provided by third-party data providers to enable assessment.

External data providers and other data sources are assessed on an ongoing basis for data quality, coverage and other attributes.

### Paris Agreement

As a signatory to Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative we are committed to supporting the goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C. Our short-and mid-term targets work towards this overall ambition, through complementary top-down and bottom-up approaches: from an organisational-wide target to reduce the weighted average carbon intensity (WACI) of investments; a set of portfolio-specific carbon footprint reduction targets, and a complementary target to ensure individual companies are engaged to become 1.5°C aligned. Specifically we have set a 2025 target to ensure 80% of our top 200 largest carbon footprint contributors to be on a Paris-aligned trajectory or else subject to engagement to become aligned.

To assess the alignment profile of companies, we have developed an in-house alignment assessment tool which complements PAI indicators by evaluating a set of forward looking alignment criteria as defined by the [PAII Net Zero Investment Framework](#). Key data sources include Transition Pathway Initiative, CA100+, Science-Based Targets Initiative and CDP.

In addition, the majority of our funds classified as Article 8 or Article 9 funds under the SFDR are subject to our Paris Aligned Fossil Fuel Policy which prohibits investments in fossil fuel companies that are not transitioning in line with the climate objectives of the Paris Agreement, while still enabling investments in companies that are leading the transition out of fossil fuels, and hence for who we forecast sufficient reductions in Scope 1,2 and 3 PAI indicators over time. Please refer to the [Fossil Fuel Policy](#) for more information.

### **Historical comparison**

A historical comparison of the period reported on with the previous reported period will be made as of 2024.