

**Article 10 Information Statement**  
**Issued by Northern Trust Fund Managers (Ireland) Limited**

**In respect of**

**The NT Emerging Markets ESG Leaders Equity Index Fund (the “Fund”), a sub-fund of Northern Trust Investment Funds plc (the “NTIF”)**

Date of initial publication of this Information Statement: 10 March 2021

This Information Statement is accurate as at: 10 March 2021

This Information Statement has been prepared for the purpose of meeting the specific website financial product level disclosure requirements contained in SFDR and, specifically, the disclosure requirements applicable to an ESG Orientated Fund under Article 10 of SFDR.

In this Information Statement the following words and phrases have the meanings set forth below:

“European Commission Letter”	a letter from the European Commission to the European supervisory authorities on the application of SFDR dated 20 October 2020 available <a href="#">here</a> .
“ESG”	environmental, social and governance.
“ESG Orientated Fund”	a fund that meets the criteria in SFDR to qualify as a financial product (which includes a UCITS) and promotes, among other characteristics, environmental or social characteristics, or a combination of those characteristics and provided that the companies that the fund invests in follow good governance practices.
“SFDR”	the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (Regulation EU/2019/2088) as amended and as may be further amended from time to time.
“Sustainability Risk”	an environmental, social or governance event or condition that, if it occurs, could cause a negative material impact on the value of the investment.
“Sustainable Investment”	means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental objective, as measured, for example, by key resource efficiency indicators on the use of energy, renewable energy, raw materials, water and land, on the production of waste, and greenhouse gas emissions, or on its impact on biodiversity and the circular economy, or an investment in an economic activity that contributes to a social objective, in particular an investment that contributes to tackling inequality or that fosters social cohesion, social integration and labour relations, or an investment in human capital or economically or socially disadvantaged communities, provided that such investments do not significantly harm any of those objectives and that the investee companies follow good governance practices, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.
“Taxonomy Regulation”	the Regulation on the Establishment of a Framework to Facilitate Sustainable Investment (Regulation EU/2020/852) as may be amended from time to time.

All other defined terms used in this Information Statement shall have the same meaning as in the supplement for the Fund or the prospectus of the NTIF, as appropriate, which are also available at <https://www.northerntrust.com/europe/what-we-do/investment-management/pooled-funds>.

## 1 Sustainable Finance Transparency

The European Union has introduced a series of legal measures (the primary one being SFDR) requiring firms that manage investment funds to provide transparency on how they integrate sustainability considerations into the investment process with respect to the investment funds they manage.

This Information Statement has been prepared for the purpose of meeting the website disclosure requirements in Article 10 of SFDR.

It is noted that the application of the regulatory technical standards ("**RTS**") to specify the details of the content, methodologies and presentation of the information to be disclosed under Article 10 of SFDR have been delayed and will not be effective when the relevant disclosure obligations in SFDR become effective.

It is noted that the European Commission Letter has recommended that from the effective date of SFDR, firms are recommended to comply with the specific disclosure obligations in SFDR that are reliant on RTS on the basis of a high-level, principles-based approach.

We therefore seek to comply on a best efforts basis with the relevant disclosure obligations and issue this Information Statement as a means of achieving this objective.

It is expected that this Information Statement will be reviewed and updated once the relevant RTS come into effect, noting in particular, that the RTS are expected to contain details on the content, methodologies and presentation of the information to be disclosed and this could therefore require a revised approach to how we seek to meet the SFDR disclosure obligations.

The Information Statement may also be updated to take account of the Taxonomy Regulation.

## 2 Article 10 Disclosures

Disclosure Requirement	Disclosure
Information on how the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the fund are met	<p>The investment objective of the Fund is to closely match the risk and return of the MSCI Emerging Markets ESG Leaders Index (the "<b>Index</b>") with net dividends reinvested. The Fund operates an index tracking strategy replication strategy primarily through investment directly in assets that are Index constituents.</p> <p>The Index provides exposure to companies with high Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance relative to their sector peers, based on MSCI's ESG ratings. Companies found to be in violation of international norms (for example, facing very severe controversies related to human rights, labour rights or the environment) and companies involved in controversial weapons (landmines, cluster munitions, depleted uranium, and biological and chemical weapons) are excluded from the Index.</p> <p>The Investment Manager shall also ensure that any investments made by the Fund pursuant to the foregoing strategy are in accordance with rules regarding cluster munitions laid down in the relevant national legislation adopting the Convention on Cluster Munitions.</p>

	<p>The Investment Manager has appointed Hermes Equity Ownership Services to act as the Manager’s agent in carrying out corporate engagement with carefully selected companies held within the Fund.</p>
<p>Information on the methodologies used to assess, measure and monitor the environmental or social characteristics or the impact of the sustainable investments selected for the fund, including its data sources, screening criteria for the underlying assets and the relevant sustainability indicators used to measure the environmental or social characteristics or the overall sustainable impact of the fund</p>	<p>The Index excludes certain companies not considered to meet socially responsible principles and provides exposure to companies with high Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance relative to their sector peers, based on MSCI’s ESG ratings.</p> <p>The ESG exclusions will be produced according to MSCI ESG research data.</p> <p>The below Sustainability Indicators are produced by the Investment Manager to measure the Environmental, Social and overall Sustainable impact of the product:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advocacy data: Number of Engagements by theme</li> <li>- ESG Screens: Number of securities excluded and associated Market Cap for each screen</li> <li>- Potential Carbon Emissions relative to the Index</li> <li>- Weighted Average Carbon Intensity relative to the Index</li> </ul>
<p>Information on the manner in which sustainability risks are integrated into the investment decision-making process</p>	<p>As part of the process to undertake appropriate due diligence on investments, the Investment Manager will generally conduct a level of research on each company or issuer. This may include a consideration of fundamental and quantitative elements such as financial position, revenue, capital structure etc. It may also involve qualitative and non-financial elements such as the company’s approach and/or industry relative standing to ESG factors and consideration of Sustainability Risks. The Investment Manager considers that material ESG issues are business issues; when managed well, these factors can position a company for success. When managed poorly, they can lead to negative externalities that can result in reputational and financial risk.</p> <p>The Investment Manager integrates these ESG factors and this Sustainability Risk assessment into its investment research process, portfolio construction, and/or its risk management process – both initially and on an ongoing basis for the duration of the period the Fund holds an investment or pursues a particular investment strategy.</p> <p>In respect of the Funds, the Investment Manager’s investment approach and decision-making processes are based on clearly defined investment objectives, investment policies, investment strategy, investment restrictions and risk management parameters, as contained in the relevant Supplement.</p>

	<p>Using both quantitative and qualitative processes, further details on which may be set out in the relevant Supplement, Sustainability Risk is identified, monitored and managed by the Investment Manager in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prior to acquiring investments on behalf of a Fund, the Investment Manager uses ESG metrics of third party data providers (“Data Providers”) in order to screen the relevant investment against Sustainability Risk and to identify whether it is vulnerable to such risk. This process incorporates applying both an exclusion policy (whereby potential investments are removed from the investment universe on the basis that they pose too great a Sustainability Risk to the Fund) and integration of additional ESG approaches, where relevant.</li> <li>- During the life of the investment, Sustainability Risk is monitored through the review of ESG data published by the issuer (where relevant) or selected Data Providers to determine whether the level of Sustainability Risk has changed since the initial assessment has been conducted. Where the Sustainability Risk associated with a particular investment has increased beyond the ESG risk appetite for the relevant Fund, where applicable, the Investment Manager will consider selling or reducing the Fund’s exposure to the relevant investment, taking into account the best interests of the Shareholders of the Fund.</li> </ul>
<p>Information on the results of the assessment of the likely impacts on sustainability risks on the returns of the Fund</p>	<p>Factoring an assessment of the likely impact of Sustainability Risk into the investment design and decision making process has the potential to impact the returns of the Fund. Accordingly, an ESG Orientated Fund may perform differently relative to other comparable funds that do not promote environmental and/or social characteristics.</p> <p>For more details on how ESG factors are integrated into the investment process please refer to <a href="https://www.northerntrust.com/europe/what-we-do/investment-management/pooled-funds">https://www.northerntrust.com/europe/what-we-do/investment-management/pooled-funds</a>.</p>
<p>Assessment of the Index in the context of the Fund's environmental and/or social characteristics</p>	<p>As outlined above, based on ESG criteria selected by the Investment Manager the Index excludes certain companies not considered to meet socially responsible principles.</p>
<p>Information on where the methodology of the Index may be obtained</p>	<p>Further details of the index (including information on its constituents, weightings, full calculation methodology, criteria for rebalancing, calculation process and leverage effect) can be navigated to from the following link: <a href="https://www.msci.com/custom-indexes">https://www.msci.com/custom-indexes</a></p>

### **3 Important Information**

This Information Statement is issued for information purposes only.

This Information Statement is not intended as investment advice and is not an offer or a recommendation about managing or investing assets and should not be used as the basis for any investment decision.

The information contained herein is current as of the date of issuance and is subject to change without notice.

We do not make any express or implied warranties or representations as to the completeness or accuracy or accept responsibility for errors.

No risk management technique can guarantee the mitigation or elimination of risk in any market environment.

**Past performance is not a guarantee or a reliable indicator of future results and an investment could lose value. All investments involve risk, including the possible loss of capital.**

Northern Trust Fund Managers (Ireland) Limited has its registered office at 54-62 Townsend Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Northern Trust Fund Managers (Ireland) Limited is authorised in Ireland and regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.