

Investment Monthly

Monetary policy divergence is driving market sentiment

July 2023



Key takeaways

- The Fed paused in June to monitor the effect of rate hikes while the BoE and ECB continued their inflation fight with more hikes. This policy divergence supports our preference for US equities over Eurozone and UK equities. Technology is also benefitting from US peak rates and the great enthusiasm for Al. Yet, short-term consolidation is likely as equity valuations have risen.
- Despite improved performance, global high yield is less preferred due to their relatively high valuations and tighter credit conditions. While yields on cash and short-term bonds are tempting, they may miss returns during periods of looser monetary policy, when yields and deposit rates often fall. We continue to favour global IG bonds with medium maturities to lock in attractive yields.



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We expect the Chinese government to roll out further stimulus measures to achieve a broader, sustainable recovery. As the drag on the property sector continues, we have lowered our GDP forecast from 6.3% to 5.3%, but remain positive on China's earnings outlook and valuations. We upgrade South Korean equities to neutral, and Asian IT to overweight to reflect the global Al-backed tech stocks boom. The upgrades will help broaden our Asian exposure.

Asset class	6-month view	Comment			
Global equities	>	Divergent economic growth, persistent inflation and higher rates in key DM markets remain headwinds but the economic slowdown is less severe than expected. We are less defensive but remain focused on quality and Asia.			
Government bonds	•	We see better opportunities in investment grade bonds as credit spreads remain fair.			
Investment grade (IG corporate bonds)	We prefer quality bonds amid tightening credit conditions and growth slowdown. We maintain a medium duration as we balance yield levels against volatility.			
High yield (HY) corporate bonds	>	We favour investment grade over high yield as reduced bank lending could lead to fears of higher default rates.			
Gold	>	Gold benefits from USD weakness and central bank buying but valuations seems stretched.			

- "Overweight" implies a positive tilt towards the asset class, within the context of a well-diversified, typically multi-asset portfolio.
- "Underweight" implies a negative tilt towards the asset class, within the context of a well-diversified, typically multi-asset portfolio.
- "Neutral" implies neither a particularly negative nor a positive tilt towards the asset class, within the context of a well-diversified, typically multi-asset portfolio.

Talking points

Each month, we discuss 3 key issues facing investors

1. What does DM policy divergence mean to equities?

- ◆ The Fed paused in June to monitor the effect of rate hikes but hinted that there could be two more hikes by year end. We still expect that the hiking cycle will end soon. As inflation remains sticky in Europe, we expect two more hikes there. However, in the UK, we now see the Bank Rate peaking at 5.75% (i.e. 0.5% hike in August and 0.25% in September), while markets have priced in 6.25%. The divergent rate outlook impacts valuations and growth potential, supporting US equities to outperform Eurozone and UK equities, and the USD to weaken versus EUR and GBP.
- ◆ Technology has benefitted from US peak rates as most tech stocks are growth-oriented, and there is great enthusiasm for artificial intelligence (AI). Potential beneficiaries also include tech companies in communications and consumer discretionary. Many of them are trading at attractive valuations with stronger earnings outlook for next year.
- We are overweight on technology and US equities as the Fed is near the end of the tightening cycle, while keeping Eurozone and UK equities neutral. Yet, investors should prepare for some consolidation as equity valuations have risen, and further Fed tightening may cut into future earnings estimates and valuations in the short term.

2. Why do investment grade credit remain attractive?

- Resilient macro-economic data and robust market sentiment have been supportive to global high yield, resulting in better performance relative to global investment grade year-to-date. However, global high yield bonds look quite expensive in USD and the tighter credit conditions remain a concern.
- Although time deposit rates in DM generally look attractive, especially with inverted yield curves, they are not in favour. Based on data as far back as 2000, bonds have generally outperformed cash when policy rates peak due to higher rate sensitivity of the asset class. While yields on cash and short-term bonds are currently tempting, they come with a high opportunity cost of missing returns during periods of looser monetary policy, as yields often decline alongside central banks easing monetary policy, as do deposit rates.
- ◆ Therefore, we remain overweight on investment grade corporate bonds with medium maturities to lock in higher yields while available. In fact, the 5-to-7-year duration has performed better than the shorter end following a new repricing of policy rate expectations.

3. What are the implications of China's mixed economic data?

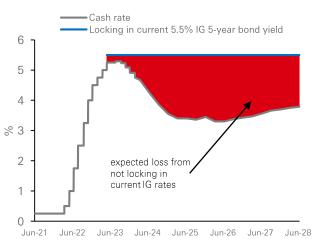
- ◆ After a strong consumption-led economic rebound in Q1, China's growth momentum has softened with slower recovery in property sales and disappointment in manufactory rebound. Retail and services have less immediate lifting impact on mid and upstream industries.
- ◆ We believe the Chinese government will roll out more stimulus in the coming months (e.g. lower interest rates, reserve ratio requirements and lending loan rates), but the pace will be more gradual than before, as their priority has shifted towards a longer-term, structural recovery. We have also lowered our GDP growth forecast from 6.3% to 5.3% with the drag from the property sector. However, both EPS growth forecasts (e.g. 15% for 2023) and valuations remain attractive.
- ◆ India and Indonesia are another two growth engines driving Asia's upturn. Following a recent overweight upgrade of Indian equities, we also upgrade South Korean equities to neutral, and Asian technology to overweight because of the global Al-backed tech stocks boom and increased demand for semiconductor chips. Fundamentals and earnings outlook of the sector are also improving. These upgrades are aligned with our strategy to broaden our Asian exposure.

Chart 1: US equities are outperforming Eurozone and UK equities due to the divergent rate outlook



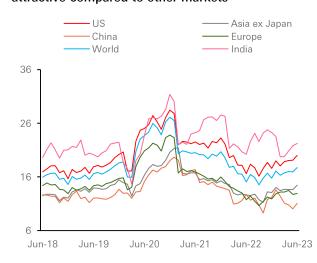
Source: Bloomberg, HSBC Global Private Banking as at 16 June 2023. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

Chart 2: Investment grade bonds are more attractive than time deposits via locking in current yields



Source: Bloomberg, HSBC Global Private Banking as at 20 June 2023. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

Chart 3: Chinese equity valuations remain relatively attractive compared to other markets



Source: Wind, HSBC Global Private Banking and Wealth as at 20 June 2023. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

PUBLIC 2

Asset Class Views

Our latest house view on various asset classes

Asset class	6-month v	riew Comment				
Global equities						
Global	>	Divergent economic growth, persistent inflation and higher rates in key DM markets remain headwinds but the economic slowdown is less severe than expected. We are less defensive but remain focused on quality and Asia.				
United States	A	We like the diversity and quality character of US stocks and the strong tech sector but growth slowdown may drive near-term volatility. A pause from the Fed, combined with continued disinflation, could be a positive boost to fundamentals.				
United Kingdom	•	The UK stock market is cheap but inflation is sticky and rate hikes are likely to continue.				
Eurozone	•	Europe should benefit from China's reopening and easing energy crisis. However, tighter lending conditions and stubbornly high inflation could keep tightening longer.				
Japan	•	We expect the Bank of Japan to widen its Yield Curve Control trading range in Q3, which could reverse recent JPY weakness and equity strength. A stronger currency will weigh on exports.				
Emerging Markets (EM)	>	China's reopening and USD weakness are positive for emerging markets, particularly EM Asia, which benefits from a rebound in Chinese demand and tourism.				
EM EMEA	▼	The region is impacted by high energy prices and weak growth in Europe.				
EM LatAm	A	A more dovish rate outlook and rising Chinese demand are growth drivers for Brazil and Mexico.				
Asian ex Japan equitie	:S					
Asia ex-Japan	A	Supply-chain reorientation, domestic consumption and China's focus on sustainable growth are driving Asia's upturn. We favour the large domestic markets including China, India and Indonesia.				
Mainland China	A	We expect to see more fiscal and monetary stimulus to achieve a broader, sustainable recovery although the pace may slow down. Green transition, manufacturing upgrading and technology innovation remain attractive.				
India	A	Solid economic growth, young demographics and the rise of the middle class are some key drivers supporting our overweight on Indian equities. We like the Indian banks and IT companies, in particular.				
Hong Kong	A	Hong Kong will benefit from mainland China's economic recovery. Consumption and tourism recovery are key drivers and retail landlords, consumption and insurance companies should stand to benefit.				
Singapore	>	The trade headwinds continue to weigh on growth but have been partially offset by travel-related services. The return of Chinese tourists could be a catalyst as flight constraints continue to be eased.				
South Korea	▶ ↑	We upgrade South Korean equities to neutral on stronger earnings recovery in 2024, attractive forward valuations and the global Al-backed tech stocks boom. Demand for semiconductor chips is also improving.				
Taiwan	•	Although domestic consumption and tourism provide some cushion, economic growth is still impacted by ongoing muted demand of the global electronics cycle.				
Government bonds						
Developed markets (DM)	▼	We see better opportunities in investment grade bonds as credit spreads remain fair.				
United States	•	Treasury yields should remain volatile as the markets are monitoring how inflation, growth and Fed comments unfold.				
United Kingdom	A	We remain overweight on gilts for their attractive yields and potential capital gains. Very short-dated gilts can deliver lucrative returns when held to maturity. We prefer medium durations as the market now prices in too many rate hikes.				
Eurozone	▶ ↑	The negative interest rate environment is over. With higher rates, European sovereign bond valuations look more appealing and warrant our upgrade to neutral.				
Japan	▼	The BoJ's accommodative policy is not sustainable and yields are low, therefore we maintain our underweight position.				
Emerging Markets (Local currency)	•	Select opportunities exist as some economies are slowing rate hikes but others continue. USD weakness remains a tailwind.				
Emerging Markets (Hard currency)	•	Amid higher Treasury volatility, we still find yield but remain selective and bearish on USD.				
Corporate bonds						
Global investment grade (IG)	A	We prefer quality bonds amid tightening credit conditions and growth slowdown. We maintain a medium duration as we balance yield levels against volatility.				
USD investment grade (IG)	A	As economic growth is slowing, we continue to focus on investment grade bonds while peaking policy rates support our preference for medium maturities to lock in attractive yields. We prefer senior bonds when investing in financials.				
EUR and GBP investment grade (IG)	A	We remain overweight on investment grade which offers better risk-adjusted returns than high yield. Companies with greater revenue exposure to Asia are preferred.				
Asia investment grade (IG)	A	The outlook for Asian credit has improved given China's growth recovery and improved fundamentals in the region. We prefer medium duration to lock in yields at current compelling levels.				
Global high-yield (HY)	>	We favour investment grade over high yield as reduced bank lending could lead to fears of higher default rates.				
US high-yield (HY)	>	While US high-yield companies still enjoy low default rates, they should start to rise soon as economic growth slows at financial conditions tighten. Spreads are not particularly generous and higher default rates should lead them to widen.				
EUR and GBP high-yield (HY)	>	Despite an improved growth outlook, tighter monetary policy remains a challenge. We maintain a neutral stance on high yield due to their higher exposure to growth risks and expectations for rising default rates.				
Asia high-yield (HY)	>	Low inflation means Asian central banks generally do not need to hike rates. But we stay cautious on Chinese property and prefer quality state-owned developers due to their stronger financial positions and lower leverage.				
Commodities						
Gold	•	Gold benefits from USD weakness and central bank buying but valuations seems stretched.				
Oil	•	Slowing growth weighs on oil prices but we foresee a supply/demand deficit in H2.				

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Sector Views

Global and regional sector views based on a 6-month horizon

Sector	Global	US	Europe	Asia	Comment
Consumer Discretionary	A	A	A	•	Inflationary pressures are easing in many regions with rising wages for blue-collar workers offsetting some cost-of-living rises. Discretionary spending is improving, especially in the services segment with airlines, hotels, restaurants and resorts benefitting. Automakers are seeing modest improvement in orders while luxury goods continue to benefit from strong demand and pricing power.
Financials	•	•	•	•	The sector appears to be stabilising with attractive valuations and high interest rates fuelling profits for the lenders. However, markets remain cautious, especially with the interest rate cycle expected to peak soon and investment banking and brokerage revenues being lacklustre.
Industrials	A	A	A	>	Macro-economic concerns have eased but higher interest rates, inflationary pressures and higher input costs persist. China's growth momentum slows and industrial goods remain muted. European industrials continue to perform well, but the valuation gap with US peers has mostly closed. The US's Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is boosting companies that supply the electric vehicles and renewables industries.
Information Technology	A	A	A	▲ ↑	The outlook continues to improve in certain sub-segments including digital Al and automation as business and consumer sentiment is improving. Cloud computing and digital advertising growth remains muted. We upgrade Asia on improving fundamentals, strong 2024 earnings forecasts, attractive valuations and an improving outlook for semiconductors as demand picks upgradually across the region.
Communications Services	A	•	▼↓	•	The media & entertainment industry is starting to see some limited signs of a demand recovery. Valuations remain moderately attractive. Regulatory concerns remain a headwind to sentiment. We downgrade Europe, which is mainly composed of telecoms stocks, on poor fundamentals, negative earnings growth, rising competitive pressures and the increased risk of dividend cuts in the region.
Materials	•	•	•	>	After rapidly reopening, China's macro-economic environment is challenged by muted demand for commodities and chemicals. This, together with elevated energy and feedstock prices, is weighing on margins and earnings outlook. Valuations are among the lowest in the market. The long-term outlook for copper remains positive given the drive for renewables and electrification.
Real Estate	•	•	•	>	The sector is challenged by rising interest rates and softening demand in many categories. Long-term structural changes due to differing consumption and usage patterns as a result of secular trends including ecommerce, digital technologies, urbanisation and work-from-home are hitting many existing and new projects. Declining yields and rising regulation are also headwinds.
Consumer Staples	•	•	•	•	Global and European consumer staples face a more challenging pricing environment after last year's above inflation rises, tough y-o-y comparables and rich valuations. We focus on quality stocks with strong brands and more resilient pricing power. Dividends are also recommended where attractive.
Energy	•	>	A	•	Sector valuations remain relatively low and dividend yields are attractive fo some companies. Quarterly financial statements are likely to show slowe y-o-y revenue and earnings growth after last year's bumper profits. OPEC may further tighten oil supplies to put a floor on price declines.
Healthcare	•	•	▶ ↓	▼ ↓	We remain constructive on the sector, but downgrade Europe and Asia in the absence of obvious catalysts to drive prices and valuations higher. In Asia valuations are particularly elevated, trading well above historical levels, bu also in Europe where valuations are full.
Utilities	•	>	•	•	Valuations remain attractive in Europe with supportive earnings revisions US's Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Europe's green initiatives should continue to be supportive. The sector's stable earnings/cash flow characteristics and high dividend yielding stocks appeal to more cautious investors.

PUBLIC 4

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Nilai investasi dan pendapatan dari investasi tersebut bisa turun dan juga naik dan ada kemungkinan investor kehilangan nilai pokok yang diinvestasikan. Kinerja masa lalu yang terkandung dalam dokumen atau video ini bukan merupakan indikator yang dapat diandalkan untuk kinerja di masa mendatang, sedangkan prakiraan, proyeksi, dan simulasi apa pun yang terkandung di sini tidak dapat diandalkan sebagai indikasi hasil di masa mendatang. Jika ada investasi luar negeri, nilai tukar mata uang dapat menyebabkan nilai investasi tersebut turun dan juga naik. Investasi di pasar negara berkembang pada dasarnya berisiko lebih tinggi dan berpotensi lebih tidak stabil daripada investasi di pasar negara maju. Perekonomian di pasar negara perkembang umumnya sangat bergantung pada perdagangan internasional dan, oleh karena itu, telah dan kemungkinan dapat terus terpengaruh oleh hambatan perdagangan, pengawasan bursa, penyesuaian terkelola dalam nilai mata uang relatif, dan tindakan protektif lainnya yang diterapkan atau dinegosiasikan oleh negara tempat terjadinya perdagangan. Negara-negara ini juga telah dan mungkin dapat terus terpengaruh oleh kondisi negatif ekonomi di negara-negara mitra dagang mereka. Investasi memiliki risiko pasar, Nasabah wajib membaca semua dokumen terkait investasi dengan cermat.

Dokumen atau video ini memberikan ikhtisar tingkat tinggi tentang kondisi ekonomi terkini dan disiapkan hanya untuk tujuan informasi. Pandangan yang disajikan adalah pandangan HBAP dan didasarkan pada pandangan global HBAP dan belum tentu selaras dengan pandangan Distributor lokal. Dokumen atau video ini belum disiapkan sesuai dengan persyaratan hukum yang dirancang untuk mendorong independensi penelitian investasi dan tidak ada larangan bertransaksi sebelum pendistribusian. Dokumen atau video ini tidak bertujuan untuk menyediakan dan diandalkan untuk nasihat akuntansi, hukum atau pajak. Sebelum Anda membuat keputusan investasi, Anda dapat berkonsultasi dengan penasihat keuangan independen. Jika Anda memilih untuk tidak meminta saran dari penasihat keuangan, Anda harus mempertimbangkan dengan cermat apakah produk investasi tersebut cocok untuk Anda. Anda disarankan untuk mendapatkan saran profesional yang sesuai jika diperlukan.

Akurasi dan/atau kelengkapan informasi pihak ketiga diambil dari sumber yang kami yakini dapat diandalkan mungkin belum diverifikasi secara independen, oleh karena itu Nasabah wajib mencari dari berbagai sumber sebelum membuat keputusan investasi.

Informasi Penting tentang HSBC Global Asset Management (Canada) Limited ("AMCA")

HSBC Asset Management adalah grup perusahaan, termasuk AMCA, yang bergerak di bidang penasihat investasi dan pengelolaan dana, yang pada akhirnya dimiliki oleh HSBC Holdings plc. AMCA adalah anak perusahaan yang dimiliki sepenuhnya oleh, namun merupakan entitas terpisah dari, HSBC Bank Canada.

Informasi Penting tentang HSBC Investment Funds (Canada) Inc. ("HIFC")

HIFC adalah distributor utama HSBC Mutual Funds dan menawarkan HSBC Mutual Funds dan/atau HSBC Pooled Funds melalui layanan HSBC World Selection® Portfolio. HIFC adalah anak perusahaan AMCA, dan anak perusahaan tidak langsung dari HSBC Bank Canada, dan menyediakan produk dan layanannya di seluruh provinsi di Kanada kecuali Prince Edward Island. Investasi reksa dana memiliki risiko. Silakan baca Fund Facts sebelum berinyestasi.

World Selection adalah merek dagang terdaftar dari HSBC Group Management Services Limited.

Informasi Penting tentang HSBC Private Investment Counsel (Canada) Inc. ("HPIC")

HPIC adalah anak perusahaan langsung dari HSBC Bank Canada dan menyediakan layanan di seluruh provinsi di Kanada kecuali Prince Edward Island. Layanan Private Investment Counsel adalah layanan manajemen portofolio pilihan yang ditawarkan oleh HPIC. Pada layanan ini, aset Nasabah yang berpartisipasi akan diinvestasikan oleh HPIC atau manajer portofolio yang didelegasikan, AMCA, pada efek, termasuk namun tidak terbatas pada, saham, obligasi, reksa dana, dana gabungan, dan derivatif. Nilai investasi pada layanan Private Investment Counsel atau yang dibeli sebagai bagian dari layanan Private Investment Counsel dapat berubah sewaktu-waktu dan kinerjanya di masa lalu mungkin tidak dapat terulang kembali.

Informasi Penting tentang HSBC InvestDirect ("HIDC")

HIDC adalah divisi dari HSBC Securities (Canada) Inc., anak perusahaan langsung, namun merupakan entitas terpisah dari, HSBC Bank Canada. HIDC adalah layanan untuk menjalankan instruksi pesanan saja. HIDC tidak akan melakukan penilaian kesesuaian atas kepemilikan rekening Nasabah atau atas instruksi yang diajukan oleh Nasabah atau dari siapa pun yang berwenang untuk bertransaksi atas nama Nasabah. Nasabah memiliki tanggung jawab penuh atas keputusan investasi dan transaksi efek mereka.

Informasi Penting tentang The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, India ("HSBC India")

HSBC India merupakan cabang dari The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited. HSBC India merupakan distributor Reksa Dana dan pemberi referensi produk investasi dari entitas pihak ketiga yang terdaftar dan diawasi di India. HSBC India tidak mendistribusikan produk investasi kepada perorangan yang berkewarganegaraan atau bertempat tinggal di Amerika Serikat (AS), Kanada, Australia atau Selandia Baru atau yuridiksi mana pun di mana distribusi tersebut melanggar hukum atau peraturan.

Pernyataan berikut ini hanya berlaku untuk HSBC Bank (Taiwan) Limited terkait cara pendistribusian publikasi kepada Nasabahnya: HSBC Bank (Taiwan) Limited ("Bank") wajib melaksanakan hukum terkait kewajiban fidusia sebagai pihak yang logis dalam melakukan penawaran/memberikan perhatian dengan cermat dalam menawarkan layanan/bisnis perwaliamanatan. Namun, Bank tidak menjamin apa pun atas kinerja manajemen atau operasi dari bisnis perwaliamanatan tersebut.

Pernyataan berikut ini hanya berlaku untuk PT Bank HSBC Indonesia ("HBID"): PT Bank HSBC Indonesia ("HBID") merupakan Bank yang berizin dan diawasi oleh Otoritas Jasa Keuangan ("OJK"). Nasabah wajib memahami bahwa kinerja masa lalu tidak menjamin kinerja masa yang akan datang. Produk investasi yang ditawarkan oleh HBID diterbitkan oleh pihak ketiga dan HBID merupakan agen penjual untuk produk pihak ketiga seperti Reksa Dana dan obligasi. HBID dan HSBC Group (HSBC Holdings PLC dan anak perusahaan serta perusahaan asosiasi atau cabangcabangnya) tidak memberikan jaminan atas dasar transaksi investasi, nilai pokok atau tingkat pengembalian atas investasi Nasabah. Investasi di Reksa Dana dan obligasi tidak termasuk dalam cakupan program penjaminan simpanan oleh Lembaga Penjamin Simpanan (LPS).

ISI DOKUMEN ATAU VIDEO INI BELUM DITINJAU OLEH OTORITAS REGULATOR DI HONG KONG ATAU YURISDIKSI LAINNYA.

ANDA DISARANKAN UNTUK BERHATI-HATI SEHUBUNGAN DENGAN INVESTASI DAN DOKUMEN ATAU VIDEO INI. JIKA ANDA RAGU TENTANG ISI DOKUMEN ATAU VIDEO INI, ANDA DAPAT MENCARI NASIHAT INDEPENDEN DARI PROFESIONAL.

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Tidak ada bagian dari dokumen atau video ini yang diperbolehkan untuk diproduksi ulang, disimpan dalam sistem pengambilan, atau disebarluaskan, dalam bentuk apa pun atau dengan cara apa pun, baik secara elektronik, mekanik, fotokopi, rekaman, atau lainnya, tanpa izin tertulis sebelumnya dari The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited.

Informasi penting terkait investasi berkelanjutan

"Investasi berkelanjutan" meliputi pendekatan atau instrumen investasi yang mempertimbangkan lingkungan, sosial, tata kelola dan/atau faktor berkelanjutan lainnya (secara kolektif, "berkelanjutan") untuk berbagai tingkat. Instrumen tertentu yang kami masukkan dalam kategori ini mungkin saja masih dalam proses perubahan untuk memberikan hasil berkelanjutan.

Tidak ada jaminan bahwa investasi berkelanjutan akan menghasilkan pengembalian yang mirip dengan investasi yang tidak mempertimbangkan faktor berkelanjutan. Investasi berkelanjutan mungkin dapat menyimpang dari tolok ukur pasar tradisional.

Sebagai tambahan, tidak ada definisi standar, atau kriteria pengukuran untuk investasi berkelanjutan, atau dampak investasi berkelanjutan ("dampak berkelanjutan"). Kriteria pengukuran investasi berkelanjutan dan dampak berkelanjutan dapat (a) sangat subyektif dan (b) bervariasi secara signifikan lintas dan di dalam sektor.

HSBC dapat bergantung pada kriteria pengukuran yang dibuat dan/atau dilaporkan oleh penyedia atau penerbit pihak ketiga. HSBC tidak selalu melakukan uji tuntas khusus terkait dengan kriteria pengukuran. Tidak ada jaminan: (a) bahwa sifat dampak berkelanjutan atau kriteria pengukuran sebuah investasi akan selaras dengan tujuan berkelanjutan investor tertentu; atau (b) bahwa tingkat atau target tingkat dampak berkelanjutan yang dinyatakan akan tercapai.

Investasi berkelanjutan adalah bidang yang terus berkembang dan peraturan baru dapat diberlakukan yang dapat memengaruhi cara suatu investasi dikategorikan atau diberi label. Investasi yang dianggap memenuhi kriteria berkelanjutan saat ini mungkin tidak memenuhi kriteria tersebut di masa mendatang.