

**Information Statement In Accordance with Article 15 of the  
Securities Financing Transactions Regulation**

**1. Introduction**

You have received this Information Statement because you may have entered into or may hereafter enter into one or more title transfer collateral arrangements or security collateral arrangements containing a right of use (together, "**Collateral Arrangements**") with us.

This Information Statement has been prepared to comply with Article 15 of the Securities Financing Transactions Regulation by informing you of the general risks and consequences that may be involved in consenting to a right of use of collateral provided under a security collateral arrangement or of concluding a title transfer collateral arrangement ("**Re-use Risks and Consequences**"). The information required to be provided to you pursuant to Article 15 of the Securities Financing Transactions Regulation relates only to Re-use Risks and Consequences, and so this Information Statement does not address any other risks or consequences that may arise as a result of your particular circumstances or as a result of the terms of particular Transactions.

This Information Statement is not intended to be, and should not be relied upon as, legal, financial, tax, accounting or other advice. Unless otherwise expressly agreed in writing, we are not providing you with any such legal, financial, tax, accounting or other advice and you should consult your own advisors for advice on consenting to a right of use of collateral provided under a security collateral arrangement or on concluding a title transfer collateral arrangement, including the impact on your business and the requirements of, and results of, entering into any Transaction.

In this Information Statement:

- "We", "our", "ours" and "us" refer to the provider of this Information Statement that may conduct Transactions with you (or, where we are acting on behalf of another person, including where that person is an affiliate, that person);
- "You", "your" and "yours" refer to each of the persons to which this Information Statement is delivered or addressed in connection with entering into, continuing, executing or agreeing upon the terms of Transactions with us (or, where you are acting on behalf of other persons, each of those persons);
- "Right of use" means any right we have to use, pledge, repledge, hypothecate or rehypothecate, in our own name and on our own account or the account of another counterparty, financial instruments received by us by way of collateral under a security collateral arrangement between you and us;
- "Securities Financing Transactions Regulation" means Regulation (EU) 2015/2365 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on transparency of securities financing transactions and of reuse and amending Regulation (EU) No 648/2012 (as amended from time to time);
- "Transaction" means a transaction entered into, executed or agreed between you and us under which you agree to provide financial instruments as collateral, either under a security collateral arrangement or under a title transfer collateral arrangement;
- "Financial instruments", "security collateral arrangement" and "title transfer collateral arrangement" have the meaning given to those terms in the Securities Financing Transactions Regulation. These are set out in Appendix 1 for reference.

**2. Re-use Risks and Consequences**

This Section describes the Re-use Risks and Consequences that may arise under Collateral Arrangements with a U.S. entity that is registered as a broker-dealer with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (a "**broker-dealer**").

U.S. law draws a distinction between financial instruments delivered to a broker-dealer treated as customer assets ("**Customer Assets**") and financial instruments delivered or pledged to a broker-dealer in a principal (non-customer) capacity ("**Non-Customer Assets**"). Customer Assets held by a broker-dealer are subject to mandatory segregation requirements under the rules of the SEC and special-purpose insolvency regimes under which segregated assets, *i.e.*, Customer Assets and cash required to be held in segregated accounts, are distributed to customers. In some circumstances broker-dealers are permitted to segregate Customer Assets on an omnibus basis for all customers.

Financial instruments held in a securities account at a broker-dealer as margin (or “performance bond”) for a cleared derivative generally constitute Customer Assets. On the other hand, securities delivered to us under a repurchase or securities lending agreement generally do not constitute Customer Assets. If, with respect to Customer Assets received by us as a broker-dealer, you separately agree to lend financial instruments to us under a securities lending agreement, or agree to sell financial instruments to us under a repurchase agreement, then the financial instruments are removed from your account and are no longer eligible for customer protection. Any financial instruments delivered to us under such transactions are Non-Customer Assets. ***If you are uncertain whether a financial instrument pledged or delivered to us is a Customer Asset, please obtain legal advice.***

With respect to Customer Assets received by us as a broker-dealer in connection with your SEC-regulated transactions, we generally can use such Customer Assets only with your consent and subject to regulatory usage limits that are imposed both at the account level (by reference to the amount of your obligations to us) and across all customers (by reference to the amount of all customer obligations to us). The SEC requires that broker-dealers perform a daily valuation of Customer Assets (including related customer obligations) and maintain in segregation either Customer Assets or cash or other high-grade assets such that the value of segregated assets will at all times exceed the value of all Customer Assets net of customer obligations to the broker-dealer. Further, to the extent segregated assets were to be insufficient to satisfy customer claims in full, customers would continue to have a claim against the proprietary assets of the broker-dealer.

Notwithstanding point (b) of paragraph 2 of Article 15 of the Securities Financing Transactions Regulation, when we use your Customer Assets, they continue to be included on your account statement reflecting their status as Customer Assets, and we may not identify to you the financial instruments that we have used.

As a broker-dealer, our exercise of our right to use Customer Assets has no effect on the nature of your property interest in the financial instruments or on your rights as a customer in the event of our insolvency. The amount of your customer claim in a broker-dealer insolvency proceeding is a function of the value of assets held in your account and the amount of your obligations to us, if any. In a broker-dealer insolvency proceeding, all customers generally receive the same pro rata share of their claims based on Customer Assets (and customer cash), regardless of whether their financial instruments were subject to use or were used by the broker-dealer.

Collateral Arrangements with respect to Non-Customer Assets can take a variety of forms with differing legal characterizations and practical consequences. Generally, a title transfer collateral arrangement entitles you only to a creditor claim for the return of your financial instruments. Under a security collateral arrangement, in some cases you may retain a property interest in the financial instruments delivered to us as collateral, but your property right (if any) may be subject to superior rights of our creditors or of a party to which we have transferred the financial instruments. Additionally, in the event of our insolvency, you may lose your property interest if you are unable to identify your property as distinct from our other assets, and our use of your financial instruments may impair your ability to do so.

This Section is not intended to provide a complete description of the treatment of Collateral Arrangements under U.S. law or the U.S. customer protection system, and you should not rely on it for that purpose.

### **Risks in Connection with Financial Instruments That Are Customer Assets**

If your financial instruments are Customer Assets, then we are permitted to use your financial instruments within the limits imposed by U.S. customer protection rules. When we use your Customer Assets, we may not hold them in segregation or trust, depending on the applicable U.S. regulation, but we continue to report them on your account statement reflecting their status as Customer Assets. As a result of our use of your Customer Assets, those assets are subject to the following Re-use Risks and Consequences:

- i. In the event that we are not able to readily obtain equivalent financial instruments to deliver to you at the time required: you may be unable to fulfil your settlement obligations under a hedging or other transaction you have entered into in relation to those financial instruments; a counterparty, exchange or other person may exercise a right to buy-in the relevant financial instruments; and you may be unable to exercise rights or take other action in relation to those financial instruments;
- ii. Subject to any express agreement between you and us, we will have no obligation to inform you of any corporate events or actions in relation to those financial instruments;

- iii. You will not be entitled to receive any dividends, coupon or other payments, interests or rights (including securities or property accruing or offered at any time) payable in relation to those financial instruments, although the express written terms of the relevant Collateral Arrangement or Transaction may provide for you to receive or be credited with a payment by reference to such dividend, coupon or other payment (a "manufactured payment");
- iv. The provision of title transfer collateral to us, our exercise of a right of use in respect of any financial collateral provided to us by you and the delivery by us to you of equivalent financial instruments may give rise to tax consequences that differ from the tax consequences that would have otherwise applied in relation to the holding by you or by us for your account of those financial instruments;
- v. Where you receive or are credited with a manufactured payment, your tax treatment may differ from your tax treatment in respect of the original dividend, coupon or other payment in relation to those financial instruments.

In addition, if we provide you with clearing services (whether directly as a clearing member or otherwise), Customer Assets are subject to the following Re-use Risks and Consequences:

- i. If we are declared to be in default by an EU central counterparty ("**EU CCP**") the EU CCP will try to transfer ("**port**") your transactions and assets to another clearing broker or, if this cannot be achieved, the EU CCP will terminate your transactions;
- ii. In the event that other parties in the clearing structure default (e.g., a central counterparty, a custodian, settlement agent or any clearing broker that we may instruct) you may not receive all of your assets back and your rights may differ depending on the law of the country in which the party is incorporated (which may not necessarily be English law) and the specific protections that that party has put in place;
- iii. In some cases a central counterparty may benefit from legislation which protects actions it may take under its default rules in relation to a defaulting clearing member (e.g., to port transactions and related assets) from being challenged under relevant insolvency law.

Moreover, as a result of our use of those financial instruments (including, in some cases, your ceasing to have a proprietary interest in those financial instruments), or the failure of a third party to deliver to us financial instruments, you may not be entitled to exercise any voting, consent or similar rights attached to the financial instruments, and even if we have agreed to exercise voting, consent or similar rights attached to any equivalent financial instruments in accordance with your instructions or the relevant Collateral Arrangement entitles you to notify us that the equivalent financial instruments to be delivered by us to you should reflect your instructions with respect to the subject matter of such vote, consent or exercise of rights, in the event that we do not hold and are not able to readily obtain equivalent financial instruments, we may not be able to comply (subject to any other solution that may have been agreed between the parties).

However, our right to use Customer Assets and our actual use of Customer Assets do not present any insolvency-related Re-use Risks and Consequences. This is because, as described above, in the event of our insolvency your claim for Customer Assets would be calculated according to a formula that does not take our use of assets into account.

In the event that a receiver, conservator or other insolvency official exercises its powers under an insolvency regime in relation to us, any rights you may have to take any action against us, such as to terminate our agreement, may be subject to a stay by the relevant authority and a transfer of assets or liabilities may result in your claim on us, or our claim on you, being transferred to different entities. However, this risk exists regardless of whether we have used your financial instruments or you have consented to their use.

### **Risks in Connection with Financial Instruments That Are Non-Customer Assets**

Non-Customer Assets are not protected by the U.S. customer protection rules that apply to Customer Assets. If your financial instruments are Non-Customer Assets and you have granted us a right to use your financial instruments, then we will not hold such financial instruments in segregation or trust. Your rights, including any proprietary rights that you may have had, in those financial instruments may be replaced by a contractual claim (which would be unsecured unless

otherwise agreed) for the delivery of equivalent financial instruments subject to the terms of the relevant Collateral Arrangement.

As a result of our use of your Non-Customer Assets, those assets are subject to the following Re-use Risks and Consequences:

- i. In the event that we are not able to readily obtain equivalent financial instruments to deliver to you at the time required: you may be unable to fulfil your settlement obligations under a hedging or other transaction you have entered into in relation to those financial instruments; a counterparty, exchange or other person may exercise a right to buy-in the relevant financial instruments; and you may be unable to exercise rights or take other action in relation to those financial instruments;
- ii. Subject to any express agreement between you and us, we will have no obligation to inform you of any corporate events or actions in relation to those financial instruments;
- iii. You will not be entitled to receive any dividends, coupon or other payments, interests or rights (including securities or property accruing or offered at any time) payable in relation to those financial instruments, although the express written terms of the relevant Collateral Arrangement or Transaction may provide for you to receive or be credited with a payment by reference to such dividend, coupon or other payment (a "manufactured payment");
- iv. The provision of title transfer collateral to us, our exercise of a right of use in respect of any financial collateral provided to us by you and the delivery by us to you of equivalent financial instruments may give rise to tax consequences that differ from the tax consequences that would have otherwise applied in relation to the holding by you or by us for your account of those financial instruments;
- v. Where you receive or are credited with a manufactured payment, your tax treatment may differ from your tax treatment in respect of the original dividend, coupon or other payment in relation to those financial instruments.

Moreover, as a result of our use of financial instruments (including, in some cases, your ceasing to have a proprietary interest in those financial instruments), or the failure of a third party to deliver to us financial instruments, you may not be entitled to exercise any voting, consent or similar rights attached to the financial instruments, and even if we have agreed to exercise voting, consent or similar rights attached to any equivalent financial instruments in accordance with your instructions or the relevant Collateral Arrangement entitles you to notify us that the equivalent financial instruments to be delivered by us to you should reflect your instructions with respect to the subject matter of such vote, consent or exercise of rights, in the event that we do not hold and are not able to readily obtain equivalent financial instruments, we may not be able to comply (subject to any other solution that may have been agreed between the parties).

In the event of our insolvency, your rights in financial instruments that we have used may be replaced by a general claim (which would be unsecured unless otherwise agreed) against us for equivalent financial instruments or the value of those financial instruments, and you may not receive such equivalent financial instruments or recover the full value of the financial instruments (although your exposure may be reduced to the extent that we have provided collateral to you or you have liabilities to us which can be set off or netted against or discharged by reference to our obligation to deliver equivalent financial instruments to you). To the extent you retain a property interest in financial assets we have used, our use of the financial instruments may give other parties superior rights in them and may interfere with your ability to identify the financial instruments for the purpose of obtaining their return.

In the event that a receiver, conservator or other insolvency official exercises its powers under an insolvency regime in relation to us, any rights you may have to take any action against us, such as to terminate our agreement, may be subject to a stay by the relevant authority and a transfer of assets or liabilities may result in your claim on us, or our claim on you, being transferred to different entities. However, this risk exists regardless of whether we have used your financial instruments or you have consented to their use.

## Appendix 1

Defined terms for the purposes of the Securities Financing Transactions Regulation:

**"Financial instrument"** means the instruments set out in Section C of Annex I to Directive 2014/65/EU on markets in financial instruments, and includes without limitation:

- 1) Transferable securities;
- 2) Money-market instruments;
- 3) Units in collective investment undertakings.

**"Title transfer collateral arrangement"** means an arrangement, including repurchase agreements, under which a collateral provider transfers full ownership of financial collateral to a collateral taker for the purpose of securing or otherwise covering the performance of relevant financial obligations.

**"B collateral arrangement"** means an arrangement under which a collateral provider provides financial collateral by way of security in favor of, or to, a collateral taker, and where the full ownership of the financial collateral remains with the collateral provider when the security right is established.

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