

# Currencies: Outlook 2023

## A volatile end to US dollar outperformance

22 DECEMBER 2022, CIO OFFICE & MACRO RESEARCH

FLASH NOTE

### SUMMARY

- The US dollar is likely coming off a major peak, suggesting a decline in 2023 (12-month projection at USD1.10 per euro). But we see scope for a rebound in the US dollar in the next few months (three-month projection at USD1.00 per euro).
- An economic downturn in major economies coupled with central banks keeping financial conditions tight may favour defensive currencies such as the Japanese yen. Recent signs of policy normalisation in Japan could prove to be another key supportive factor, explaining our revised 12-month projection to JPY125.
- On the contrary, cyclical currencies, including EM currencies, could underperform in the first part of 2023 before outperforming when the worst of the economic slowdown has passed.

### A MAJOR TURN LIKELY UNDERWAY FOR US DOLLAR

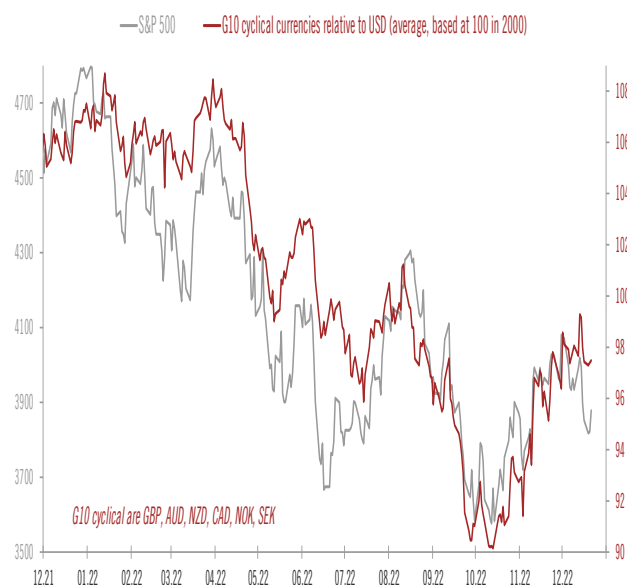
The US dollar was particularly strong in 2022, reaching extreme levels similar to previous long-term peaks (i.e. 1985 and 2021). The decline in the US dollar since early November has been mostly linked to the ‘U-turn’ in the Chinese zero-Covid policy and signs that US inflationary pressure was peaking. While the former suggests an improving global growth outlook, the latter points to a less aggressive monetary stance by the Fed and potentially a healthier global risk appetite. Such developments back our scenario of a weaker US dollar in 2023 with a 12-month projection at USD1.10 per euro.

However, we would be cautious about chasing US dollar weakness in the short term. Contrary to 1985, there is no international agreement to drive down the US dollar while a global economic downturn and tightening of financial conditions should prove supportive of the high-yielding and safe-haven US dollar. The Chinese reopening could also be disorderly, which could weigh on Chinese economic activity in the short term, while the Fed recently hammered home its (hawkish) message

*For illustrative purposes. Past performance should not be taken as a guide to or guarantee of future performance. Performances and returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. There can be no assurance that these projections, forecasts or expected returns will be achieved. The projection is not based on simulated past performance.*

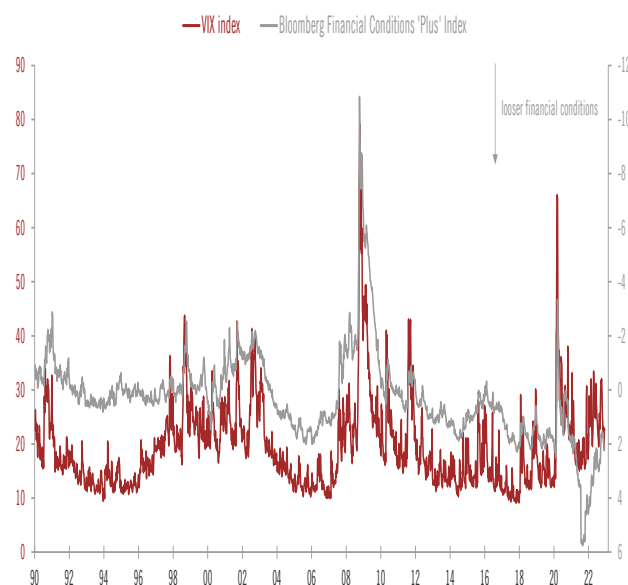
rejecting any premature loosening monetary policy (market is pricing rate cuts in H2 2023). As such, we would not be surprised to see some rebound in the US dollar in the next few months, justifying our three-month projection at USD1.00 per euro.

Chart 1: S&amp;P 500 vs. G10 cyclical currencies



Source: Pictet Wealth Management, Refinitiv, 22 Dec. 2022

Chart 2: US financial conditions vs. VIX



Source: Pictet Wealth Management, Refinitiv, 22 Dec. 2022

## A DEFENSIVE TILT IS FAVOURED AT THE START OF 2023

While a weaker US dollar should translate into a stronger euro, the significant change in monetary policy (end of negative rates and asset purchases) coupled with limited vulnerabilities to higher rates (notably in the housing sector) compared to other economies should even favour a strong euro relative to its G10 peers. Still, the euro area dependence on energy at a time of limited availability should remain a thorn in the euro's side.

A major currency that could outperform is the Japanese yen. Historically, a US economic downturn is supportive of the yen. This is likely to remain true as weak US economic activity should cap US long-term rates and bring solace to the yen as long-term interest rate differential is a key driver. Long-term undervaluation and further steps from the Bank of Japan towards a less accommodative monetary stance are additional factors that could help the yen in 2023. In that regard, following the earlier-than-expected adjustment to the yield-curve-control framework, we have decided to revise our projections, as such developments open the door to further gradual normalisation of monetary policy. Our 12-month projection is now set at JPY125 per US dollar (vs. JPY130), while the three-month, which assumes a rebound of the US dollar, has been lowered to JPY135 from JPY144.

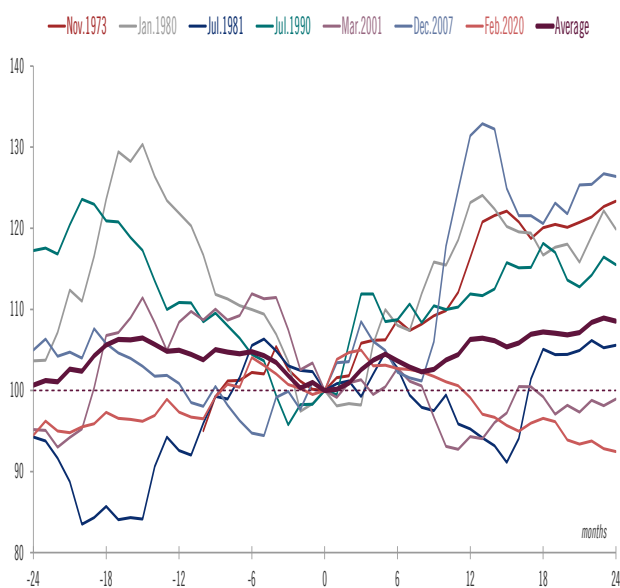
Similarly, the Swiss franc could perform relatively well in a weak global growth environment. In December, President Thomas Jordan said that the Swiss National Bank (SNB) had sold FX in the past months to strengthen the franc and reaffirmed its readiness to intervene further if it were to weaken. As the SNB wants to use a strong

*For illustrative purposes. Past performance should not be taken as a guide to or guarantee of future performance. Performances and returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. There can be no assurance that these projections, forecasts or expected returns will be achieved. The projection is not based on simulated past performance.*

franc as its first line of defense against high imported price pressure, we expect the central bank to continue to target a relatively strong franc. However, with comparatively modest price increases in Switzerland, we expect the SNB to reach a lower terminal rate than other central banks and this could weigh on the franc through reduced interest rate differentials. Also, inflation differentials, which have been a key positive driver for the franc this year, will be less supportive as we move beyond peak inflation in most economies.

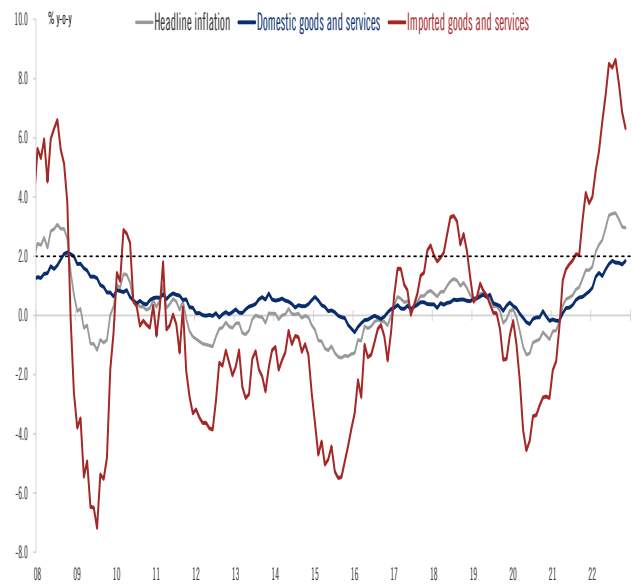
All in all, considering also the resilience of Switzerland’s current account surplus, we continue to have a rather positive view on the franc, but we acknowledge that the upside potential of the Swiss currency could be limited. Our 12-month EUR/CHF projection stands at 0.97.

Chart 3: JPY trade-weighted index vs. US recessions



Source: Pictet Wealth Management, Refinitiv, 22 Dec. 2022

Chart 4: Switzerland inflation breakdown



Source: Enter source information

### HIGH INTEREST RATES NO PANACEA FOR CYCLICAL CURRENCIES

While sterling has had a good run since the ‘mini-budget’ turmoil, we see limited reasons for outperformance to extend in 2023. The main drag should remain the unsupportive capital flows in the balance of payments: with the current account in deficit (UK is a net commodity importer) and FDI outflows, sterling is highly sensitive to foreign portfolio investment flows. The recent financial turmoil in the UK suggests that the housing sector may not cope with elevated interest rates, which means that sterling may have to stay weak to keep UK debt attractive to foreign investors. Furthermore, a deteriorating global risk appetite could also weigh on sterling through lower portfolio investment inflows. Our 12-month projection stands at USD1.22, while the three-month one is at USD1.13.

We have a relatively mixed view on cyclical currencies. In particular, we believe that the upside potential of most of them may be limited due to households’ high level of indebtedness and their exposure to variable mortgage rates. This could weigh

*For illustrative purposes. Past performance should not be taken as a guide to or guarantee of future performance. Performances and returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. There can be no assurance that these projections, forecasts or expected returns will be achieved. The projection is not based on simulated past performance.*

heavily on economic activity (notably in Sweden, Canada and Australia) and curtail the hawkishness of central banks. Our preference goes to oil-sensitive currencies. In particular, if energy prices move higher in 2023 as we expect, the Norwegian krone will benefit from favourable terms of trade as Norway. In the longer term, we believe that currencies of secure commodity producers will benefit from playing a part in the eventual solution for Europe’s energy independence from Russia.

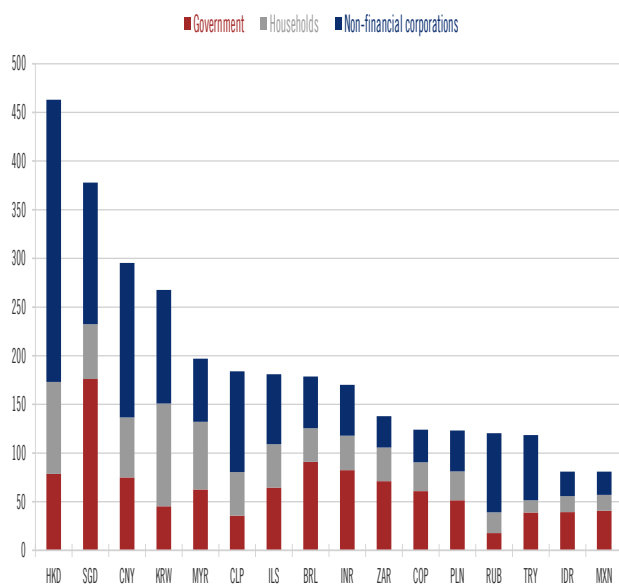
**OPPORTUNITIES LIKELY TO ARISE IN EM CURRENCIES**

Given their cyclical nature, EM currencies may also suffer should global risk appetite deteriorate. That said, we see reasons for optimism in 2023.

First, economic growth projections from major intergovernmental agencies point to a supportive differential for emerging countries relative to developed countries. Second, the reopening of China should ultimately help emerging economies, notably through higher levels of trade. Third, even if major central banks are likely to keep a tight grip on monetary conditions, a pause in the tightening cycle could put a lid on global interest rates. Assuming a rather healthy global risk appetite, investors may look for high-yielding assets in EM markets. Finally, a lower US dollar would be a boon to EM currencies.

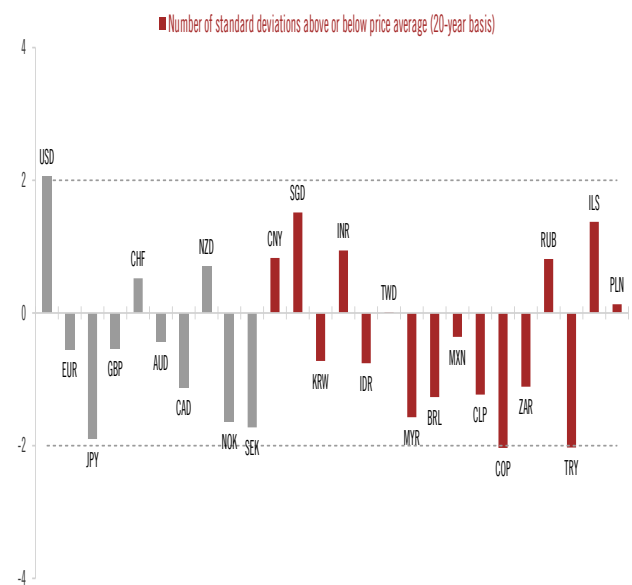
Among the currencies that provide high carry with some defensive tilt, the Mexican peso and the Indonesian rupiah look attractive, even if their spot performance may be underwhelming relative to peers (i.e. the carry is expected to be the main driver of outperformance). External buffers (current account and FX reserves) are on the strong side, while debt levels are particularly low relative to peers. Should we be correct with the sequence of a more supportive environment in the latter part of the year for risky assets, undervalued and highly cyclical currencies, such as the Korean won and the Chilean peso, are likely to outperform.

**Chart 5: EM: total debt breakdown (as % of GDP)**



Source: Pictet Wealth Management, Refinitiv, 22 Dec. 2022

**Chart 6: real effective exchange rates**



Source: Pictet Wealth Management, Refinitiv, 22 Dec. 2022

*For illustrative purposes. Past performance should not be taken as a guide to or guarantee of future performance. Performances and returns may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. There can be no assurance that these projections, forecasts or expected returns will be achieved. The projection is not based on simulated past performance.*

## DISCLAIMERS

Distributors: Banque Pictet & Cie SA, Route des Acacias 60, 1211 Geneva 73, Switzerland and Pictet & Cie (Europe) SA, 15A, avenue J. F. Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg/B.P. 687 L-2016 Luxembourg.

Banque Pictet & Cie SA is established in Switzerland, exclusively licensed under Swiss Law and therefore subject to the supervision of the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA).

Pictet & Cie (Europe) SA is established in Luxembourg, authorized and regulated by the Luxembourg Financial Authority, Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier.

This marketing communication is not intended for persons who are citizens of, domiciled or resident in, or entities registered in a country or a jurisdiction in which its distribution, publication, provision or use would violate current laws and regulations.

The information, data and analysis furnished in this document are disclosed for information purposes only. They do not amount to any type of recommendation, either general or tailored to the personal circumstances of any person. Unless specifically stated otherwise, all price information is indicative only. No entity of the Pictet Group may be held liable for them, nor do they constitute an offer or an invitation to buy, sell or subscribe to securities or other financial instruments. The information contained herein is the result neither of financial analysis within the meaning of the Swiss Bankers Association's Directives on the Independence of Financial Research, nor of investment research for the purposes of the relevant EU MiFID provisions. All information and opinions expressed in this document were obtained from sources believed to be reliable and in good faith, but no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to its accuracy or completeness.

Except for any obligations that any entity of the Pictet Group might have towards the addressee, the addressee should consider the suitability of the

transaction to individual objectives and independently assess, with a professional advisor, the specific financial risks as well as legal, regulatory, credit, tax and accounting consequences.

Furthermore, the information, opinions and estimates in this document reflect an evaluation as of the date of initial publication and may be changed without notice. The Pictet Group is not under any obligation to update or keep current the information contained herein. In case this document refers to the value and income of one or more securities or financial instruments, it is based on rates from the customary sources of financial information that may fluctuate. The market value of financial instruments may vary on the basis of economic, financial or political changes, currency fluctuations, the remaining term, market conditions, the volatility and solvency of the issuer or the benchmark issuer. Some investments may not be readily realizable since the market in the securities can be illiquid. Moreover, exchange rates may have a positive or negative effect on the value, the price or the income of the securities or the related investments mentioned in this document. When investing in emerging countries, please note that the political and economic situation in those countries is significantly less stable than in industrialized countries. They are much more exposed to the risks of rapid political change and economic setbacks.

Past performance must not be considered an indicator or guarantee of future performance, and the addressees of this document are fully responsible for any investments they make. No express or implied warranty is given as to future performance. Moreover, forecasts are not a reliable indicator of future performance. The content of this document can only be read and/or used by its addressee. The Pictet Group is not liable for the use, transmission or exploitation of the content of this document. Therefore, any form of reproduction, copying, disclosure, modification and/or publication of the

content is under the sole liability of the addressee of this document, and no liability whatsoever will be incurred by the Pictet Group. The addressee of this document agrees to comply with the applicable laws and regulations in the jurisdictions where they use the information reproduced in this document.

This document is issued by Banque Pictet & Cie SA. This publication and its content may be cited provided that the source is indicated. All rights reserved. Copyright 2022.

Distributor: Pictet & Cie (Europe) S.A., London branch ("Pictet London Branch")

This is a marketing communication distributed by Pictet London Branch.

This document sets forth neither a personal recommendation tailored to the needs, objectives and financial situation of any individual or company (investment advice as defined in the Financial Conduct Authority's Handbook of rules and guidance (the "FCA Handbook")), nor the results of investment research within the meaning of the FCA Handbook. Moreover, it does not constitute an offer, or an invitation to buy, sell or subscribe to securities or other financial instruments, nor is it meant as a proposal for the conclusion of any type of agreement. Furthermore, this document should not be considered a suitability report as Pictet London Branch has not received all the necessary information on the recipient to complete its suitability assessment that covers the recipient's knowledge and experience, tolerance to risk, investment needs and the recipient's ability to absorb financial risk. Should its addressee decide to proceed to any transaction in relation to a financial product referred to herein, this will be in his sole responsibility, and the suitability/appropriateness of the transaction and other financial, legal and tax aspects should be assessed by an expert.

Any information contained in this document is disclosed for information purposes only, and neither the producer nor the distributor can be held

liable for any fluctuation of the price of the securities. No express or implied warranty is given as to future performance. The opinions expressed reflect an objective evaluation of information available to the general public, such as rates from customary sources of financial information. The market value of securities mentioned may vary on the basis of economic, financial or political changes, the remaining term, market conditions, the volatility and solvency of the issuer or the benchmark issuer. Moreover, exchange rates may have a positive or negative effect on the value, the price or the income of the securities or the related investments mentioned in this document. It is also expressly noted that forecasts are not a reliable indicator of future performance, while past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

You shall only take investment decisions when you fully understand the relevant financial product and the involved risks. In particular, the relevant product documentation (such as the issuance program, final terms, prospectus, simplified prospectus and key (investor) information document), as well as Appendix 4: Risk Warnings Relating to Trading in Financial Instruments of the Terms and Conditions of Pictet London Branch, shall be read. Structured products are complex financial products and involve a high degree of risk. The value of structured products depends not only on the performance of the underlying asset(s), but also on the credit rating of the issuer. Furthermore, the investor is exposed to the risk of default of the issuer/guarantor.

In respect of any product documentation, including key information documents of Packaged Retail and Insurance-based Investment Products ("KIDs") and key investor information documents of Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities ("KIIDs"), please note that these may change without notice. You should therefore ensure that you review the latest version of them

prior to confirming to Pictet London your decision to invest. If you have been provided with a link to access the respective KID/KIID/other product document, you should therefore click on the link immediately before confirming to Pictet London Branch your decision to invest, in order to review the most recent version of the respective KID/KIID/other product document. If you have not been provided with a link to access the relevant document, or if you are in any doubt as to what the latest version of the respective KID/KIID/other product document is, or where it can be found, please ask your usual Pictet London Branch contact.

Pictet London Branch is not the manufacturer of the product(s) and the KID/KIID/other product document is provided by a third party. The KID/KIID/other product document is obtained from sources believed to be reliable. Pictet London Branch does not make any guarantee or warranty as to the correctness and accuracy of the data contained in the KID/KIID/other product document. Pictet London Branch may not be held liable for an investment decision or other transaction made based on reliance on, or use of, the data contained in the KID/KIID/other product document.

By subscribing to the product(s) proposed herein, you acknowledge that you have (i) received, in good time, read and understood any relevant documentation linked to the product(s), including, as the case may be, the respective KID/KIID/other product document; (ii) taken note of the product(s) restrictions; and (iii) meet the applicable subjective and objective eligibility conditions to invest in the product(s).

Pictet London Branch may, if necessary, rely on these acknowledgements and receive your orders, to transmit them to another professional, or to execute them, according to the relevant clauses of your mandate, as well as the Terms and Conditions of Pictet London Branch.

The content of this document shall only be read and/or used by its addressee. Any form of reproduction, copying, disclosure, modification and/or publication in any form or by any means whatsoever is not permitted without the prior written consent of Pictet London Branch and no liability whatsoever will be incurred by Pictet London Branch. The addressee of this document agrees to comply with the applicable laws and regulations in the jurisdictions where they use the information provided in this document.

Pictet London Branch is a branch of Pictet & Cie (Europe) S.A.. Pictet & Cie (Europe) S.A. is a société anonyme (public limited liability company) incorporated in Luxembourg and registered with the Luxembourg Registre de Commerce et des Sociétés (RCS no. B32060). Its head office is at 15A, avenue J.F. Kennedy, L-2016 Luxembourg. Pictet London Branch is registered as a UK establishment with Companies House (establishment number BR016925) and its UK establishment office address is Stratton House 6th Floor, London, 5 Stratton Street, W1J 8LA.

Authorised and regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier. Deemed authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority. Subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and limited regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority. Details of the Temporary Permissions Regime, which allows EEA-based firms to operate in the UK for a limited period while seeking full authorisation, are available on the Financial Conduct Authority's website.

Distributors: Bank Pictet & Cie (Asia) Ltd ("BPCAL") in Singapore and/or Banque Pictet & Cie SA, Hong Kong Branch ("Pictet HK Branch") in Hong Kong.

The information, tools and material presented in this document are provided for information purposes only and are not to be used or considered as an offer, an invitation to offer or solicitation to buy, sell or subscribe for any securities,

commodities, derivatives, (in respect of Singapore only) futures, or other financial instruments (collectively referred to as "Investments") or to enter into any legal relations, nor as advice or recommendation with respect to any Investments. This document is intended for general circulation and it is not directed at any particular person. This document does not have regard to the specific investment objectives, financial situation and/or the particular needs of any recipient of this document. Investors should seek independent financial advice regarding the appropriateness of investing in any Investments or adopting any strategies discussed in this document, taking into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of the investor, before making a commitment to invest.

BPCAL/Pictet HK Branch has not taken any steps to ensure that the Investments referred to in this document are suitable for any particular investor, and accepts no fiduciary duties to any investor in this regard, except as required by applicable laws and regulations. Furthermore, BPCAL/Pictet HK Branch makes no representations and gives no advice concerning the appropriate accounting treatment or possible tax consequences of any Investment. Any investor interested in buying or making any Investment should conduct its own investigation and analysis of the Investment and consult with its own professional adviser(s) as to any Investment including the risks involved.

This document is not to be relied upon in substitution for the exercise of independent judgment. The value and income of any Investment mentioned in this document may fall as well rise. The market value may be affected by, amongst other things, changes in economic, financial, political factors, time to maturity, market conditions and volatility, and the credit quality of any issuer or reference issuer. Furthermore, foreign currency rates of exchange may have a positive or adverse effect on the value, price or income of

any Investment mentioned in this document. Accordingly, investors must be willing and able to assume all risks and may receive back less than originally invested.

Past performance should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of future performance and no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, is made by BPCAL/Pictet HK Branch regarding future performance.

This document does not constitute the investment policy of BPCAL/Pictet HK Branch, or an investment recommendation, and merely contains the different assumptions, views and analytical methods of the analysts who prepared them. Furthermore, the information, opinions and estimates expressed herein reflect a judgment at its original date of publication and are subject to change without notice and without any obligation on BPCAL/Pictet HK Branch to update any of them. BPCAL/Pictet HK Branch may have issued or distributed other reports or documents that are inconsistent with, and reach different conclusions from, the information presented in this document.

While the information and opinions presented herein are from sources believed to be reliable, BPCAL/Pictet HK Branch is not able to, and do not make any representation or warranty as to its accuracy or completeness. Accordingly, BPCAL/Pictet HK Branch accepts no liability for loss arising from the use of or reliance on this document presented for information purposes only. BPCAL/Pictet HK Branch reserves the right to act upon or use any of the information in this document at any time, including before its publication herein.

BPCAL/Pictet HK Branch and its affiliates (or employees thereof) may or may not have long or short positions in, and buy or sell, or otherwise have interest in, any of the Investments mentioned herein, and may or may not have relationships with the issuers of or entities connected with Investments mentioned in this document. BPCAL/Pictet HK Branch and their affiliates (or

employees thereof) may act inconsistently with the information and/or opinions presented in this document.

The information used to prepare this document and/or any part of such information, may have been provided or circulated to employees and/or one or more clients of BPCAL/Pictet HK Branch before this document was received by you and such information may have been acted upon by such recipients or by BPCAL/Pictet HK Branch.

This document is provided solely for the information of the intended recipient only and should not be reproduced, published, circulated or disclosed in whole or in part to any other person without the prior written consent of BPCAL/Pictet HK Branch.

#### Singapore

This document is not directed to, or intended for distribution, publication to or use by, persons who are not accredited investors, expert investors or institutional investors as defined in section 4A of the Securities and Futures Act (Cap. 289 of Singapore) ("SFA") or any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or other jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation or would subject BPCAL and any of its affiliates or related corporations to any prospectus or registration requirements.

BPCAL is a wholesale bank regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore ("MAS") under the Banking Act Cap. 50 of Singapore, an exempt financial adviser under the Financial Advisers Act Cap. 110 of Singapore ("FAA") and an exempt capital markets licence holder under the SFA. Please contact BPCAL in Singapore in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with this document.

#### Hong Kong

This document is not directed to, or intended for distribution, publication to or use by, persons who are not "professional investors" within the meaning of the Securities and

Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder (the "SFO") or any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or other jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation or would subject Pictet HK Branch and any of its affiliates or related corporations to any prospectus or registration requirements. If you do not want Pictet HK Branch to use your personal information for marketing purposes, you can request Pictet HK Branch to stop doing so without incurring any charge to you. In distributing investment products as agents for third party service providers, Pictet HK Branch is an agent of the third party service provider and the product is a product of the third party service provider but not Pictet HK Branch. In respect of an eligible dispute (as defined in the Terms of Reference for the Financial Dispute Resolution Centre in relation to the Financial Dispute Resolution Scheme) arising between Pictet HK Branch and you out of the selling process or processing of the related transaction, Pictet HK Branch is required to enter into a Financial Dispute Resolution Scheme process with you; however any dispute over the contractual terms of the product should be resolved between directly the third party service provider and you.

Banque Pictet & Cie SA is a limited liability company incorporated in Switzerland. It is an authorized institution within the meaning of the Banking Ordinance and a registered institution (CE No.: BMG891) under the SFO carrying on Type 1 (dealing in securities), Type 4 (advising on securities) and Type 9 (asset management) regulated activities. The registered address of Pictet HK Branch is 9/F., Chater House, 8 Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong.

Warning: The contents of this document have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Hong Kong. You are advised to exercise caution in relation to the offer. If you are

in any doubt about any of the contents of this document, you should obtain independent professional advice. Please contact Pictet HK Branch in Hong Kong in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with this document.

Distributor: Pictet Bank & Trust Limited, where registered office is located at Building 1, Bayside Executive Park, West Bay Street & Blake Road, Nassau, New Providence, The Bahamas.

The document is not directed to, or intended for distribution or publication to or use by persons who are not Accredited Investors (as defined in the Securities Industry Regulations, 2012) and subject to the conditions set forth in the Securities Industry Regulations, 2012 or to any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or other jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation or would subject Pictet Bank & Trust Limited to any prospectus or registration requirements. Pictet Bank & Trust Limited is incorporated in The Bahamas with limited liability. It is a bank and trust company that is licensed in accordance with the Banks and Trust Companies' Regulation Act and is regulated by the Central Bank of The Bahamas. Additionally, Pictet Bank & Trust Limited is registered with the Securities Commission of The Bahamas as a Broker Dealer II and is approved to (i) Deal in Securities 1.(a) & (c); (ii) Arrange Deals in securities; (iii) Manage Securities; (iv) Advise on Securities.

Warning: The content of this document has not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in The Bahamas. You are, therefore, advised to exercise caution when processing the information contained herein. If you are in any doubt about any of the content of this document, you should obtain independent professional advice.