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## MARKET REVIEW

- Global equities fell in October. Equities remained steady for most of the month but sold off in the final days, as investors awaited key US elections, navigated heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, and assessed ongoing policy easing measures. Favorable US economic data, including subdued inflation, drove expectations that the US Federal Reserve (Fed) may slow its pace of rate cuts. This sentiment was further emphasized by the notable rise in 10-year Treasury yields, which reached 4.28% in October, up from a 15-month low of 3.62% in late September, underscoring the market's expectations for the pace of Fed rate cuts, positive economic indicators, and improved prospects for a soft landing. In Europe, third-quarter GDP exceeded expectations, and the European Central Bank (ECB) lowered interest rates by 25 basis points (bps), to 3.25%, amid waning inflation and a weak economic outlook. Japan's Liberal Democratic Party lost its parliamentary majority in national elections, generating political and monetary policy uncertainty. Emerging markets faced pressure from a stronger US dollar, while the conflict in the Middle East reached its one-year mark, with military strikes escalating between Israel and Iran.

## FUND PERFORMANCE AND ATTRIBUTION

- The Multi-Asset High Income Fund ended October with negative absolute returns, led by allocations to both equities and fixed income. Within equities, our allocation to Asia was a key detractor as the sharp property sector downturn, alongside weakening export growth and deflationary pressures, continued to weigh on China's economy. Our US covered call writing strategy also pulled back slightly amid heightened volatility and presidential-election uncertainty. Weakness from our fixed income implementation was driven by our global corporates allocation as yields rose against a backdrop of political uncertainty stemming from the US elections and intensifying tensions in the Middle East. Risk management added to gains as a result of currency hedging activities.
- The Fund continues to pay out an 8% p.a. current income in USD terms, as of 31st October 2024<sup>1</sup>.

## FUND POSITIONING AND OUTLOOK

- Looking ahead, our base case is a soft landing with steady economic growth and low recession risk. We expect most central banks globally to loosen monetary policy over the next 12 months and are of the view that inflation will continue to trend downwards. That said, we do expect bouts of volatility to continue which may present opportunities for long-term investors.
- We remain optimistic on equities as we believe that steady economic growth, low recession risk and largely controlled inflation will support robust earnings growth and equity valuations. We continue to expect the equity rally to broaden and retain our moderate overweight on global equities given expectations of some volatility through the end of the year. In Japan, we remain modestly overweight as we believe the structural case for Japanese equities, including an improving macro backdrop and ongoing corporate governance improvements, remains largely intact. Within the US, the economy displays continued resilience, with robust economic growth, strong labour markets and falling inflation. However, valuations at the index level remain rich and the upcoming election represents a near-term risk catalyst, which leads us to remain neutral. We still take an underweight view on Europe as earnings momentum remains weak and growth expectations are lacklustre, with no compelling near-term catalyst for outperformance. As for China, the recent stimulus announcements have contributed to an improved outlook, but persistent structural headwinds and increased uncertainty around the direction of US-China trade relations lead us to hold a neutral view. In the current environment, we see a wide range of potential outcomes for EM ex China. Within defensive fixed income, we remain neutral until the election results are finalized and given the potential for near-term repricing in rates markets. On a relative basis, we are neutral across all regions. We

**1INCOME MAY FLUCTUATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH MARKET CONDITIONS AND IS NOT GUARANTEED.** Data for the Wellington Multi Asset High Income Fund USD S Dist Unhedged share class. The Fund aims to pay dividends between 5-10% of the Fund's Net Asset Value in USD on an annual basis. Income will be declared and paid as described in the section of the Prospectus entitled Distribution Policy and, where there is insufficient income in a given month, may be distributed before the deduction of fees and expenses, so in order to deliver a regular income the potential for capital growth may be reduced and capital may be eroded in the long term. Share classes in other currencies may be impacted by changes in currency conversion rates.

### **PAST PERFORMANCE DOES NOT PREDICT FUTURE RETURNS. AN INVESTMENT CAN LOSE VALUE.**

Fund performance is based on USD S M4 Dist share class and are net of fees and expenses. Other share class performance may differ. | Index used in the calculation of attribution data: Non-benchmark Relative Strategy. | Fund performance is net of actual (but not necessarily maximum) withholding and capital gains tax but are not otherwise adjusted for the effects of taxation and assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. | If an investor's own currency is different from the currency in which the fund is denominated, the investment return may increase or decrease as a result of currency fluctuations. | The views expressed are in the context of the investment objective of the Fund only and should not be considered a recommendation or advice.

maintain a neutral posture on investment grade credit given tighter valuations. As for growth fixed income, we have reduced our slight overweight view to neutral given the tight spread levels.

## RISKS

**BELOW INVESTMENT GRADE:** Lower rated or unrated securities may have a significantly greater risk of default than investment grade securities, can be more volatile, less liquid, and involve higher transaction costs. **CAPITAL:** Investment markets are subject to economic, regulatory, market sentiment and political risks. All investors should consider the risks that may impact their capital, before investing. The value of your investment may become worth more or less than at the time of the original investment. The Fund may experience a high volatility from time to time. **CREDIT:** The value of a bond may decline, or the issuer/guarantor may fail to meet payment obligations. Typically lower-rated bonds carry a greater degree of credit risk than higher-rated bonds. **CURRENCY:** The value of the Fund may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates. Unhedged currency risk may subject the Fund to significant volatility. **DERIVATIVES (D+E) (MKT):** Derivatives may provide more market exposure than the money paid or deposited when the transaction is entered into (sometimes referred to as Leverage). Market movements can therefore result in a loss exceeding the original amount invested. Derivatives may be difficult to value. Derivatives may also be used for efficient risk and portfolio management, but there may be some mismatch in exposure when derivatives are used as hedges. The use of derivatives forms an important part of the investment strategy. **EMERGING MARKETS:** Emerging markets may be subject to custodial and political risks, and volatility. Investment in foreign currency entails exchange risks. **EQUITIES:** Investments may be volatile and may fluctuate according to market conditions, the performance of individual companies and that of the broader equity market. **HEDGING:** Any hedging strategy using derivatives may not achieve a perfect hedge. **INTEREST RATES:** The value of bonds tends to decline as interest rates rise. The change in value is greater for longer term than shorter term bonds. **LEVERAGE:** The use of leverage can provide more market exposure than the money paid or deposited when the transaction is entered into. Losses may therefore exceed the original amount invested. **SHORT SELLING:** A short sale exposes the Fund to the risk of an increase in market price of a security sold short; this could result in a theoretically unlimited loss. **SMALL AND MID-CAP COMPANY:** Small and mid-cap companies' valuations may be more volatile than those of large cap companies. They may also be less liquid. **SUSTAINABILITY:** A Sustainability Risk can be defined as an environmental, social or governance event or condition that, if it occurs, could cause an actual or potential material negative impact on the value of an investment.

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