

**UOB Asset Management Ltd** 

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Co. Reg. No. 198600120Z

3 January 2022

## **NOTICE TO UNITHOLDERS OF:**

- GrowthPath Portfolios
  - GrowthPath Today
  - GrowthPath 2030
  - GrowthPath 2040
    United Global Portfolios
  - United Global Dividend Balanced Fund
- United Global Recovery Funds
  - United High Grade Corporate Bond Fund

(In this notice, "Funds" shall refer collectively to the abovenamed sub-funds of the relevant umbrella fund.)

Dear Unitholder

# UNITED GLOBAL RECOVERY FUNDS - UNITED HIGH GRADE CORPORATE BOND FUND CHANGE OF INVESTMENT FOCUS AND APPROACH

Thank you for investing in the Funds, which are managed by us, UOB Asset Management Ltd (the "Managers" or "UOBAM").

Currently, each of the sub-funds of GrowthPath Portfolios and United Global Dividend Balanced Fund may invest a substantial portion (i.e. 30% or more) of its assets in United High Grade Corporate Bond Fund.

We are writing to inform you that the investment focus and approach of the United High Grade Corporate Bond Fund (referred to in the table below as the "**Sub-Fund**"), as set out in paragraph 2.2 of Appendix 1 of the prospectus of the United Global Recovery Funds, will be changed in the following manner from 3 March 2022 (the "**Effective Date**").

## **Prior to the Effective Date**

We aim to create a portfolio which consists mainly of investment grade bonds, fixed income securities, debt securities, fixed and floating rate securities and other similar instruments (collectively referred to as "bonds" in this paragraph 2), denominated in any currency and issued by corporations anywhere in the world. We may also invest in bonds issued by governments, government agencies and supranationals worldwide.

A bond is considered investment grade (or "IG") if it is rated BBB- or higher by Standard & Poor's or Fitch Inc, or Baa3 or higher by Moody's Investor's Service. We may also consider equivalent ratings issued by other reputable credit rating agencies as determined by us, or conduct our own credit assessments to verify the ratings issued by the relevant credit rating agencies. In the event of a difference between the ratings issued by the different credit ratings agencies, or between such external credit ratings and our internal credit assessments, the lowest rating will be used. Generally, IG bonds are judged by the relevant

### With effect from the Effective Date

We aim to create a portfolio which consists mainly of investment grade bonds, fixed income securities, debt securities, fixed and floating rate securities and other similar instruments (collectively referred to as "bonds" in this paragraph 2), denominated in any currency and issued by corporations anywhere in the world. We may also invest in bonds issued by governments, government agencies and supranationals worldwide.

A bond is considered investment grade (or "IG") if it is rated BBB- or higher by Standard & Poor's or BBB- or higher by Fitch Ratings or Baa3 or higher by Moody's Investors Services. We may also consider equivalent ratings issued by other reputable credit rating agencies as determined by us, or conduct our own credit assessments to verify the ratings issued by the relevant credit rating agencies. In the event of a difference between the ratings issued by the different credit rating agencies, the lowest rating will be used to classify a bond. For split-rated bonds, we will only invest in bonds that are rated IG by at least



credit rating agency as likely enough to meet payment obligations that banks are allowed to invest in them. Bonds that are not rated as IG bonds are known as high yield bonds or "junk" bonds.

If a bond is downgraded below IG by any one or more of the major reputable credit rating agencies after the initial investment by the Sub-Fund, the Sub-Fund may continue to hold that bond, but may not make additional investments in that bond. The Sub-Fund may also continue to hold bonds which ratings have been withdrawn by all major reputable credit rating agencies. If the aggregate of all investments described in this sub-paragraph exceeds 20% of the net asset value ("NAV") of the Sub-Fund at any time, we will use their best endeavours to ensure that any portfolio management action does not increase the proportion of the NAV of the Sub-Fund that is held in investments described in this sub-paragraph.

The Sub-Fund may also hold part of its assets in liquid investments or cash for liquidity purposes.

We take an active approach to fund management. Through its disciplined research and investment processes, we will seek to optimise portfolio performance by focusing on and investing in selected sectors and individual credits that have the potential to outperform while maintaining adequate portfolio diversification.

The research process consists of a team of analysts who specialise in company fundamental analysis and valuation. The research process enables the team of analysts to identify the best investments on a risk-adjusted basis in their respective sectors subject to the applicable investment guidelines and restrictions.

The investment process is driven by our assessment of the macro and technical factors which are important to the performance of the Sub-Fund. We may choose to increase exposure to selected sectors that have the potential to outperform and reduce exposure to sectors that may underperform.

This top-down approach is supplemented by bottomup analysis to arrive at the final investment decision. The Sub-Fund's portfolio will be reviewed regularly so as to enable a switch out of overvalued securities or sectors to undervalued securities or sectors.

We maintain a continuous review of their processes and models in line with market developments. The portfolio management process emphasises teamwork. In addition, compliance and performance two credit rating agencies. For bonds that are unrated by any credit rating agency, we will only invest in bonds with internal credit rating of BBB- and above. Generally, IG bonds are judged by the relevant credit rating agency as likely enough to meet payment obligations that banks are allowed to invest in them. Bonds that are not rated as IG bonds are known as high yield bonds or "junk" bonds.

For the purpose of the Sub-Fund, if a bond is downgraded below IG by any one or more of the major reputable credit rating agencies after the initial investment by the Sub-Fund, the Sub-Fund may continue to hold that bond if it is still rated IG by at least two rating agencies, but may not make additional investments in that bond. If there are less than two IG ratings after the downgrade, we will use our best endeavours to dispose the downgraded bond within 90 days.

The Sub-Fund may also hold part of its assets in liquid investments or cash for liquidity purposes.

We take an active approach to fund management. Through disciplined research and investment processes, we will seek to optimise portfolio performance by focusing on and investing in selected sectors and individual credits that have the potential to outperform while maintaining adequate portfolio diversification.

The research process consists of a team of analysts who specialise in company fundamental analysis and valuation. The research process enables the team of analysts to identify the best investments on a risk-adjusted basis in their respective sectors subject to the applicable investment guidelines and restrictions.

The investment process is driven by our assessment of the macro and technical factors which are important to the performance of the Sub-Fund. We may choose to increase exposure to selected sectors that have the potential to outperform and reduce exposure to sectors that may underperform.

This top-down approach is supplemented by bottomup analysis to arrive at the final investment decision. The Sub-Fund's portfolio will be reviewed regularly so as to enable a switch out of overvalued securities or sectors to undervalued securities or sectors.

We maintain a continuous review of our processes and models in line with market developments. The portfolio management process emphasises teamwork. In addition, compliance and performance attribution are strongly emphasised and overseen by our independent units.

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We may use or invest in financial derivative instruments ("FDIs") for hedging existing positions and/or efficient portfolio management of the Sub-Fund.

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In the current volatile market environment, we believe focusing on investing in investment grade bonds could potentially reduce the volatility and enhance the risk-return profile of the Sub-Fund. We will accordingly divest the high yield bonds in the portfolio which constitute around 2.26% of the net asset value of the Sub-Fund as at 31 October 2021. At UOBAM, we have an Asian High Yield strategy which are suitable for investors who are looking for exposure to Asian High Yield fixed income securities and are comfortable with the volatility of such a strategy that invests in the high yield sector.

For the avoidance of doubt, there is no change to the investment objective of the United High Grade Corporate Bond Fund.

The following options are available to you:

#### Option 1

You may continue holding your units in the relevant Fund ("Units"). If you choose to do so, no action is required of you.

## Option 2

You may switch your Units (at the prevailing net asset value per Unit) to units in any other authorised collective investment scheme managed by us (each a "**UOBAM Fund**" and collectively, the "**UOBAM Funds**"), subject to the provisions on switching of units in the trust deed and the prospectus of the relevant Fund, and the trust deed and prospectus of the relevant UOBAM Fund you wish to switch into.

Applications for switching of Units may be made by submitting the relevant form to any of our authorised agents or distributors.

Units purchased using Central Provident Fund ("CPF") or SRS monies may only be switched to UOBAM Funds included under CPF Investment Scheme ("CPFIS") or which are available for subscription using SRS monies respectively. A list of CPFIS-included funds managed by us which are available for switching is set out in the Annex to this letter.

This document is not to be construed as an offer of units in any UOBAM Fund and does not constitute investment advice or a recommendation on any investment. Before deciding whether to switch your Units to units in any of the UOBAM Funds, you should read the prospectus of the relevant UOBAM Fund carefully and consult your financial adviser to help you assess the suitability of the relevant UOBAM Fund for you. Electronic copies of the prospectuses of the UOBAM Funds are available at <a href="http://www.uobam.com.sg">http://www.uobam.com.sg</a>, and hard copies may be obtained from us or any of our authorised agents or distributors.

#### Option 3

You may realise your Units by submitting a completed realisation form to any of our authorised agents or distributors. Please note that the realisation of your Units is subject to the provisions of the trust deed and prospectus of the relevant Fund. Currently, there is no realisation charge imposed for realisations of Units.

If you maintain an account directly with UOBAM (and not through one of our authorised agents or distributors), please contact us at our number set out at the end of this letter by 18 February 2022 for assistance on switching your Units and we will refer you to one of our authorised agents or distributors to effect the switch.

If you hold Units that were subscribed for using cash or CPF or SRS, there will be no switching fee or any other fees and charges imposed. In addition, if you hold Units that were subscribed for using CPF or SRS monies, you will not be required to bear any CPF agent bank charges, should you choose either Option 2 or Option 3 between 3 January 2022 and 25 February 2022 (both days inclusive) (the "Switching Period"). If you wish to use this free switch, you may approach the authorised agent or distributor from whom you originally purchased your Units during the Switching Period. For the avoidance of doubt, normal fees and charges (including the prevailing switching fee of 1% for Funds which are not CPFIS-included funds) will apply for switches of units before or after the Switching Period.

The above change will be reflected in a replacement or supplementary prospectus of the relevant Fund to be lodged with the Monetary Authority of Singapore on or around the date of this notice. Thereafter, you may obtain a copy of it from us or any of our authorised agents or distributors, or from our website at uobam.com.sg.

This notice is for your information only. You do not need to take any action. These changes have no effect on your current holding of Units.

We look forward to your continued support. Should you have any queries, please call our hotline number at 1800 222 2228 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily (Singapore time) or email us at <a href="mailto:uobam@uobgroup.com">uobam@uobgroup.com</a>.

Yours sincerely

Faizal Gaffoor

Managing Director I CMO

## <u>Annex</u>

List of CPFIS-included funds managed by UOB Asset Management Ltd which are available for switching as at 3 January 2022

1. **United Global Quality Growth Fund – Class C SGD Acc (Hedged)** (a sub-fund of United Global Diversified Portfolios)

Investment Objective: It seeks to provide long-term total return by investing in equity and equity-related securities of companies listed and traded on stock exchanges globally.

2. United SGD Fund – Class A (Acc) SGD (a sub-fund of United Choice Portfolios II)

Investment Objective: To achieve a yield enhancement over Singapore dollar deposits.

3. **United Singapore Bond Fund –** Class A SGD Acc (a sub-fund of United Global Portfolios)

Investment Objective: To maximise returns over the longer term by investing mainly in bonds denominated in Singapore Dollars (issued by entities incorporated or domiciled globally) and bonds denominated in foreign currencies (issued by entities incorporated or domiciled in Singapore). Apart from investments in bonds, the United Singapore Bond Fund may also invest in money market instruments (denominated in SGD or foreign currencies), bond funds (including funds managed by us) and time deposits in any currency. Investments shall be made in accordance with the CPF Investment Guidelines. There is no target industry or sector.

"bonds" include, without limitation, fixed income/debt securities of all maturities, zero coupon bonds, callable bonds, equity-linked bonds and convertible bonds, whether issued by governments, statutory bodies or public or private entities.