

TEMPLETON EMERGING MARKETS FUND  
Form DEF 14A  
December 28, 2017

Schedule 14A Information

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(A) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant  [X]

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant  [ ]

Check the appropriate box:

[ ] Preliminary Proxy Statement  [ ] Confidential, for Use of the Commission

[X] Definitive Proxy Statement  [ ] Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

[ ] Definitive Additional Materials

[ ] Soliciting Material under Section 240.14a-12

Templeton Emerging Markets Fund

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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(3) Filing Party:

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**TEMPLETON EMERGING MARKETS FUND**

**IMPORTANT SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION**

These materials are for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “Meeting”) scheduled for March 1, 2018, at 12 Noon, Eastern time. The enclosed materials discuss the proposals (the “Proposals” or each, a “Proposal”) to be voted on at the Meeting, and contain the Notice of Meeting, proxy statement and proxy card. A proxy card is, in essence, a ballot. When you vote your proxy, it tells us how you wish to vote on important issues relating to Templeton Emerging Markets Fund (the “Fund”). If you specify a vote on a Proposal, your proxy will be voted as you indicate. If you specify a vote on one or more Proposals, but not all Proposals, your proxy will be voted as specified on such Proposals and, on the Proposals for which no vote is specified, your proxy will be voted FOR such Proposals. If you simply sign, date and return the proxy card, but do not specify a vote on any Proposal, your proxy will be voted FOR the Proposals.

**We urge you to spend a few minutes reviewing the Proposals in the proxy statement. Then, please fill out and sign the proxy card and return it to us so that we know how you would like to vote. When shareholders return their proxies promptly, the Fund may be able to save money by not having to conduct additional mailings.**

**We welcome your comments. If you have any questions, call Fund Information at (800) DIAL BEN®/342-5236.**

**TELEPHONE AND INTERNET VOTING**

**For your convenience, you may be able to vote by telephone or through the Internet, 24 hours a day. If your account is eligible, instructions are enclosed.**

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**TEMPLETON EMERGING MARKETS FUND**

**NOTICE OF 2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “Meeting”) of Templeton Emerging Markets Fund (the “Fund”) will be held at the Fund’s offices, 300 S.E. 2<sup>d</sup> Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301-1923 on March 1, 2018, at 12 Noon, Eastern time.

During the Meeting, shareholders of the Fund will vote on the following Proposals:

1. The election of four Trustees of the Fund;
2. To approve an amended fundamental investment restriction regarding investments in commodities;
3. To approve an amended fundamental investment restriction regarding lending;
4. To approve a change to the Fund’s status from diversified to non-diversified; and
5. The ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2018.

By Order of the Board of Trustees,

Lori A. Weber

*Vice President and Secretary*

December 28, 2017

***Please sign and promptly return the proxy card or voting instruction form in the enclosed self-addressed envelope regardless of the number of shares you own. If you have any questions, call Fund Information at (800) DIAL BEN®/342-5236.***

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE SHAREHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON MARCH 1, 2018**

**The Fund’s Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders, Proxy Statement and form of Proxy are available on the Internet at <https://www.proxyonline.com/docs/emf2018.pdf>. The form of Proxy on the Internet site cannot be used to cast your vote.**



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## TEMPLETON EMERGING MARKETS FUND

### PROXY STATEMENT

#### INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING

##### *Who is asking for my vote?*

The Board of Trustees of Templeton Emerging Markets Fund (the “Fund”), in connection with the Fund’s Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “Meeting”), has requested your vote.

##### *Who is eligible to vote?*

Shareholders of record at the close of business on December 15, 2017, are entitled to be present and to vote at the Meeting or any adjourned Meeting. Each share of record is entitled to one vote (and a proportionate fractional vote for each fractional share) on each matter presented at the Meeting. The Notice of Meeting, the proxy statement, and the proxy card were first mailed to shareholders of record on or about December 28, 2017.

##### *On what issues am I being asked to vote?*

You are being asked to vote on five Proposals:

1. The election of four Trustees of the Fund;
2. To approve an amended fundamental investment restriction regarding investments in commodities;
3. To approve an amended fundamental investment restriction regarding lending;
4. To approve a change to the Fund’s status from diversified to non-diversified; and
5. The ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2018.

##### *How do the Fund’s Trustees recommend that I vote?*

The Trustees unanimously recommend that you vote:

1. **FOR** the election of four Trustees of the Fund;
2. **FOR** the approval of an amended fundamental investment restriction regarding investments in commodities;
3. **FOR** the approval of an amended fundamental investment restriction regarding lending;
4. **FOR** the approval of a change to the Fund’s status from diversified to non-diversified; and
5. **FOR** the ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2018.

##### *How do I ensure that my vote is accurately recorded?*

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You may attend the Meeting and vote in person or you may complete and return the enclosed proxy card. If you are eligible to vote by telephone or through the Internet, instructions are enclosed.

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Proxy cards that are properly signed, dated and received at or prior to the Meeting will be voted as specified. If you specify a vote on all Proposals, your proxy will be voted as you indicate. If you specify a vote on one or more Proposals, but not all, your proxy will be voted as specified on such Proposal(s) and, on the Proposal(s) for which no vote is specified, your proxy will be voted "FOR" the Proposal(s). If you simply sign, date and return the proxy card, but do not specify a vote on any Proposal, your proxy will be voted "FOR" each Proposal.

***May I revoke my proxy?***

You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted by forwarding a written revocation or a later-dated proxy to the Fund that is received by the Fund at or prior to the Meeting, or by attending the Meeting and voting in person.

***What if my shares are held in a brokerage account?***

If your shares are held by your broker, then in order to vote in person at the Meeting, you will need to obtain a "Legal Proxy" from your broker and present it to the Inspector of Election at the Meeting. Also, in order to revoke your proxy, you may need to forward your written revocation or a later-dated proxy card or voting instruction form to your broker rather than to the Fund.

***May I attend the Meeting in Person?***

Shareholders of record at the close of business on December 15, 2017 are entitled to attend the Meeting. Eligible shareholders who intend to attend the Meeting in person will need to bring proof of share ownership, such as a shareholder statement or a letter from a custodian or broker-dealer confirming ownership, as of December 15, 2017 and a valid picture identification, such as a driver's license or passport, for admission to the Meeting. Seating is limited. Shareholders without proof of ownership and identification will not be admitted.

**THE PROPOSALS**

**PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

***How are nominees selected?***

The Board of Trustees of the Fund (the "Board" or the "Trustees") has a Nominating Committee consisting of Edith E. Holiday (Chairperson), J. Michael Luttig and Larry D. Thompson, none of whom is an "interested person" of the Fund as defined by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). Trustees who are not interested persons of the Fund are referred to as the "Independent Trustees," and Trustees who are interested persons of the Fund are referred to as the "Interested Trustees."

The Nominating Committee is responsible for selecting candidates to serve as Trustees and recommending such candidates (a) for selection and nomination as Independent Trustees by the incumbent Independent Trustees and the full Board; and (b) for selection and nomination as Interested Trustees by the full Board. In considering a candidate's qualifications, the Nominating Committee generally considers the potential candidate's educational background, business or professional experience, and reputation. In addition, the Nominating Committee has established as minimum qualifications for Board membership as an Independent Trustee: (1) that such candidate be independent from relationships with the Fund's investment manager and other principal service providers both within the terms and the spirit of the statutory independence requirements specified under the 1940 Act and the

rules thereunder; (2) that such candidate demonstrate an ability and willingness to make the considerable time commitment, including personal attendance at Board meetings, believed necessary to his or her function as an effective Board member; and (3) that such candidate have no continuing relationship as a director, officer or board member of any U.S. registered investment company other than those within the Franklin Templeton Investments fund complex or a closed-end business development company primarily investing in non-public entities. The Nominating Committee has not adopted any specific policy on the issue of diversity, but will take this into account, among other factors, in its consideration of new candidates to the Board.

When the Board has or expects to have a vacancy, the Nominating Committee receives and reviews information on individuals qualified to be recommended to the full Board as nominees for election as Trustees, including any recommendations by “Qualifying Fund Shareholders” (as defined below). Such individuals are evaluated based upon the criteria described above. To date, the Nominating Committee has been able to identify, and expects to continue to be able to identify, from its own resources an ample number of qualified candidates. The Nominating Committee, however, will review recommendations from Qualifying Fund Shareholders to fill vacancies on the Board if these recommendations are submitted in writing and addressed to the Nominating Committee at the Fund’s offices and are presented with appropriate background material concerning the candidate that demonstrates his or her ability to serve as a Trustee, including as an Independent Trustee, of the Fund. A Qualifying Fund Shareholder is a shareholder who (i) has continuously owned of record, or beneficially through a financial intermediary, shares of the Fund having a net asset value of not less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) during the twenty-four month period prior to submitting the recommendation; and (ii) provides a written notice to the Nominating Committee containing the following information: (a) the name and address of the Qualifying Fund Shareholder making the recommendation; (b) the number of shares of the Fund which are owned of record and beneficially by the Qualifying Fund Shareholder and the length of time that the shares have been owned by the Qualifying Fund Shareholder; (c) a description of all arrangements and understandings between the Qualifying Fund Shareholder and any other person or persons (naming such person or persons) pursuant to which the recommendation is being made; (d) the name, age, date of birth, business address and residence address of the person or persons being recommended; (e) such other information regarding each person recommended by the Qualifying Fund Shareholder as would be required to be included in a proxy statement filed pursuant to the proxy rules of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) had the nominee been nominated by the Board; (f) whether the Qualifying Fund Shareholder making the recommendation believes the person recommended would or would not be an “interested person” of the Fund, as defined in the 1940 Act; and (g) the written consent of each person recommended to serve as a Trustee of the Fund if so nominated and elected/appointed.

The Nominating Committee may amend these procedures from time to time, including the procedures relating to the evaluation of nominees and the process for submitting recommendations to the Nominating Committee.

The Board has adopted and approved a formal written charter for the Nominating Committee. A copy of the charter is attached as Exhibit A to this proxy statement.

***Who are the nominees and Trustees?***

The Board is divided into three classes. Each class has a term of three years. Each year, the term of office of one class expires. This year, the terms of four Trustees expire: Ann Torre Bates, David W. Niemiec, Larry D. Thompson and Robert E. Wade. These individuals have been nominated for three-year terms, set to expire at the

2021 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. These terms continue, however, until their successors are duly elected and qualified. All of the nominees are currently members of the Board and deemed to be Independent Trustees. In addition, all of the current nominees and Trustees are also directors or trustees of other investment companies within the Franklin Templeton Investments fund complex.

Interested Trustees of the Fund hold director and/or officer positions with, or are principal stockholders of, Franklin Resources, Inc. (“Resources”) and its affiliates. Resources is a publicly owned holding company, a principal stockholder of which is Rupert H. Johnson, Jr., who beneficially owned approximately 19.1% of its outstanding shares as of August 31, 2017. The shares deemed to be beneficially owned by Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. include certain shares held by a private charitable foundation or by his spouse, of which he disclaims beneficial ownership. Resources, a global investment management organization operating as Franklin Templeton Investments, is primarily engaged, through various subsidiaries, in providing investment management, share distribution, transfer agent and administrative services to a family of investment companies. Resources is a New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) listed holding company (NYSE: BEN). Rupert H. Johnson, Jr., Chairman of the Board, Trustee and Vice President of the Fund, is the uncle of Gregory E. Johnson, a Trustee of the Fund. There are no other family relationships among the Trustees or nominees for Trustee.

Each nominee currently is available and has consented to serve if elected. If any of the nominees should become unavailable, the designated proxy holders will vote in their discretion for another person or persons who may be nominated to serve as Trustees.

In addition to personal qualities, such as integrity, in considering candidates for the Fund Board, the Nominating Committee seeks to find persons of good reputation whose experience and background evidence that such person has the ability to comprehend, discuss and critically analyze materials and issues presented, in exercising judgments and reaching informed conclusions relevant to fulfillment of a Fund Trustee’s duties and fiduciary obligations. Information on the business activities of the nominees and other Trustees during the past five years and beyond appears below and it is believed that the specific background of each Trustee evidences such ability and is appropriate to his or her serving on the Fund’s Board. As indicated, Harris J. Ashton has served as a chief executive officer of NYSE listed public corporations; Larry D. Thompson and Edith E. Holiday each have legal backgrounds, including high level legal positions with departments of the U.S. Government; David W. Niemiec has served as a chief financial officer of a major corporation; Ann Torre Bates has served as a chief financial officer of a major corporation and as a board member of a number of public companies; J. Michael Luttig has fifteen years of judicial experience as a Federal Appeals Court Judge and eleven years of experience as Executive Vice President and General Counsel of a major public company; Robert E. Wade has had more than thirty years’ experience as a solo practicing attorney; Constantine D. Tseretopoulos has professional and executive experience as founder and Chief of Staff of a hospital; Mary C. Choksi has an extensive background in asset management, including founding an investment management firm; and Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. and Gregory E. Johnson are both high ranking executive officers of Resources.

Listed below with the business activities of the nominees and Trustees are their names and years of birth, their positions and length of service with the Fund and the number of portfolios in the Franklin Templeton Investments fund complex that they oversee.

**Nominees for Independent Trustee to serve until 2021 Annual Meeting of Shareholders:**

<b>Name, Year of Birth and Address</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Franklin Templeton Investments Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee*</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held During at Least the Past Five Years</b>
<b>Ann Torre Bates</b> (1958) 300 S.E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Trustee	Since 2008	42	Ares Capital Corporation (specialty finance company) (2010–present), United Natural Foods, Inc. (distributor of natural, organic and specialty foods) (2013–present), Allied Capital Corporation (financial services) (2003–2010), SLM Corporation (Sallie Mae) (1997–2014) and Navient Corporation (loan management, servicing and asset recovery) (2014–2016).

**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Director of various companies; and **formerly**, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, NHP Incorporated (manager of multifamily housing) (1995–1997); and Vice President and Treasurer, US Airways, Inc. (until 1995).

<b>David W. Niemiec</b> (1949) 300 S.E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Trustee	Since 2005	42	Hess Midstream Partners LP (oil and gas midstream infrastructure) (April 2017–present).
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**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Advisor, Saratoga Partners (private equity fund); and **formerly**, Managing Director, Saratoga Partners (1998–2001) and SBC Warburg Dillon Read (investment banking) (1997–1998); Vice Chairman, Dillon, Read & Co. Inc. (investment banking) (1991–1997); and Chief Financial Officer, Dillon, Read & Co. Inc. (1982–1997).

**Number of  
Portfolios in  
Franklin  
Templeton  
Investments  
Fund Complex**

<b>Name, Year of Birth and Address</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Overseen by Trustee*</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held During at Least the Past Five Years</b>
<b>Larry D. Thompson</b> (1945) 300 S.E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Trustee	Since 2005	139	The Southern Company (energy company) (2014–present; previously 2010–2012), Graham Holdings Company (education and media organization) (2011–present) and Cbeyond, Inc. (business communications provider) (2010–2012).

**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Director of various companies; Counsel, Finch McCranie, LLP (law firm) (2015–present); Independent Compliance Monitor and Auditor, Volkswagen AG (manufacturer of automobiles and commercial vehicles) (April 2017–present); John A. Sibley Professor of Corporate and Business Law, University of Georgia School of Law (2015–present; previously 2011–2012); and **formerly**, Executive Vice President—Government Affairs, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, PepsiCo, Inc. (consumer products) (2012–2014); Senior Vice President—Government Affairs, General Counsel and Secretary, PepsiCo, Inc. (2004–2011); Senior Fellow of The Brookings Institution (2003–2004); Visiting Professor, University of Georgia School of Law (2004); and Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice (2001–2003).

<b>Robert E. Wade</b> (1946) 300 S.E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Trustee	Since 2006	42	El Oro Ltd (investments) (2003–present).
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**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Attorney at law engaged in private practice as a sole practitioner (1972–2008) and member of various boards.

**Independent Trustees serving until 2020 Annual Meeting of Shareholders:**

<b>Name, Year of Birth and Address</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Franklin Templeton Investments Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee*</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held During at Least the Past Five Years</b>
<b>Harris J. Ashton</b> (1932) 300 S.E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Fort Lauderdale, FL	Trustee	Since 1992	139	Bar-S Foods (meat packing company) (1981–2010).

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**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Director of various companies; and **formerly**, Director, RBC Holdings, Inc. (bank holding company) (until 2002); and President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board, General Host Corporation (nursery and craft centers) (until 1998).

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position	Length of Time Served	Number of Portfolios in Franklin Templeton Investments Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee*	Other Directorships Held During at Least the Past Five Years
<b>Mary C. Choksi</b> (1950) 300 S.E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Trustee	Since 2016	133	Avis Budget Group Inc. (car rental) (2007–present), Omnicom Group Inc. (advertising and marketing communications services) (2011–present) and White Mountains Insurance Group, Ltd. (holding company) (August 2017–present).

**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Director of various companies; and **formerly**, Founder and Senior Advisor, Strategic Investment Group (investment management group) (2015–2017); Founding Partner and Senior Managing Director, Strategic Investment Group (1987–2015); Founding Partner and Managing Director, Emerging Markets Management LLC (investment management firm) (1987–2011); and Loan Officer/Senior Loan Officer/Senior Pension Investment Officer, World Bank Group (international financial institution) (1977–1987).

<b>Edith E. Holiday</b> (1952) 300 S.E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Lead Independent Trustee	Trustee since 1996 and Lead Independent Trustee since 2007	139	Hess Corporation (exploration of oil and gas) (1993–present), Canadian National Railway (railroad) (2001–present), White Mountains Insurance Group, Ltd. (holding company) (2004–present), Santander Consumer USA Holdings, Inc. (consumer finance) (2016–present), RTI International Metals, Inc. (manufacture and distribution of titanium) (1999–2015) and H.J. Heinz Company (processed foods and allied products) (1994–2013).
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**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Director or Trustee of various companies and trusts; and **formerly**, Assistant to the President of the United States and Secretary of the Cabinet (1990–1993); General Counsel to the United States Treasury Department (1989–1990); and Counselor to the Secretary and Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs and Public Liaison—United States Treasury Department (1988–1989).

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position	Length of Time Served	Number of Portfolios in Franklin Templeton	Other Directorships Held During at Least the Past Five Years
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<b>J. Michael Luttig</b> (1954) 300 S.E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Trustee	Since 2009	<b>Investments</b>	139	Boeing Capital Corporation (aircraft financing) (2006–2013).
			<b>Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee*</b>		

**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and member of the Executive Council, The Boeing Company (aerospace company) (2006–present); and **formerly**, Federal Appeals Court Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (1991–2006).

**Independent Trustee serving until 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders:**

<b>Name, Year of Birth and Address</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Franklin Templeton Investments Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee*</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held During at Least the Past Five Years</b>
<b>Constantine D. Tseretopoulos</b> (1954) 300 S.E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Trustee	Since 1999	26	None

**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Physician, Chief of Staff, owner and operator of the Lyford Cay Hospital (1987–present); director of various nonprofit organizations; and **formerly**, Cardiology Fellow, University of Maryland (1985–1987); and Internal Medicine Resident, Greater Baltimore Medical Center (1982–1985).

**Interested Trustees serving until 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders:**

<b>Name, Year of Birth and Address</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Franklin Templeton Investments Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee*</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held During at Least the Past Five Years</b>
<b>**Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.</b> (1940) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Chairman of the Board, Trustee and Vice President	Chairman of the Board and Trustee since 2013 and Vice President since 1996	139	None

**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Vice Chairman, Member—Office of the Chairman and Director, Franklin Resources, Inc.; Director, Franklin Advisers, Inc.; Senior Vice President, Franklin Advisory Services, LLC; and officer and/or director or trustee, as the case may be, of some of the other subsidiaries of Franklin Resources, Inc. and of 41 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

<b>**Gregory E. Johnson</b> (1961) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Trustee	Since 2007	155	None
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**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Chairman of the Board, Member—Office of the Chairman, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Franklin Resources, Inc.; officer and/or director or trustee, as the case may be, of some of the other subsidiaries of Franklin Resources, Inc. and of 43 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments; Vice Chairman, Investment Company Institute; and **formerly**, President, Franklin Resources, Inc. (1994–2015).

\* We base the number of portfolios on each separate series of the U.S. registered investment companies within the Franklin Templeton Investments fund complex. These portfolios have a common investment manager or affiliated investment manager, and also may share a common underwriter.

\*\* Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. and Gregory E. Johnson are “interested persons” of the Fund as defined by the 1940 Act. The 1940 Act limits the percentage of interested persons that can comprise a fund’s board of trustees. Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. is considered an interested person of the Fund due to his position as an officer, director and major shareholder of Resources, which is the parent company of the Fund’s investment manager, and his position with the Fund. Gregory E. Johnson is considered an interested person of the Fund due to his position as an officer, director and shareholder of Resources. Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. is the uncle of Gregory E. Johnson. The remaining Trustees of the Fund are Independent Trustees.



The following tables provide the dollar range of equity securities of the Fund and of all U.S. registered funds in the Franklin Templeton Investments fund complex beneficially owned by the Trustees as of December 15, 2017:

	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund <sup>(1)</sup>	Aggregated Equity Securities in the Fund and in the Investments of Other Funds
.....	\$1—\$10,000	C
.....	None	C
.....	None	C
.....	\$1—\$10,000	C
.....	\$10,001—\$50,000	C
.....	None	C
.....	\$10,001—\$50,000	C
.....	None	C
.....	None	C
	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund <sup>(1)</sup>	Aggregated Equity Securities in the Fund and in the Investments of Other Funds
.....	None	C
.....	None	C

(1) Dollar range based on NYSE closing price on December 15, 2017.

**How often do the Trustees meet and what are they paid?**

The role of the Trustees is to provide general oversight of the Fund’s business and to ensure that the Fund is operated for the benefit of all of the Fund’s shareholders. The Trustees anticipate meeting at least five times during the current fiscal year to review the operations of the Fund and the Fund’s investment performance, and will meet more frequently

as necessary. The Trustees also oversee the services furnished to the Fund by Templeton Asset Management Ltd., the Fund's investment manager (the "Investment Manager"), and various other service providers.

The Fund's Independent Trustees constitute the sole independent Board members of 14 investment companies in the Franklin Templeton Investments fund complex for which each Independent Trustee currently is paid a \$155,000 annual retainer fee, together with a \$7,000 per meeting fee for attendance at each regularly scheduled Board meeting, a portion of which fees are allocated to the Fund. To the extent held, compensation also may be paid for attendance at specially called Board meetings. The Fund's Lead Independent Trustee is paid an annual supplemental retainer of \$25,000 for service to such investment companies, a portion of which is allocated to the Fund. Board members who serve on the Audit Committee of the Fund and such other investment companies receive a flat fee of \$3,000 per Audit Committee meeting attended in person and \$2,000 per Audit Committee telephonic meeting attended, a portion of which is allocated to the Fund. David W. Niemiec, who serves as Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Fund and such other investment companies, receives an additional fee of \$15,000 per year, a portion of which is allocated to the Fund. Members of a committee are not separately compensated for any committee meeting held on the day of a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

During the fiscal year ended August 31, 2017, there were five meetings of the Board, six meetings of the Audit Committee, and three meetings of the Nominating Committee. Each Trustee then in office attended at least 75% of the aggregate of the total number of meetings of the Board and the total number of meetings held by all committees of the Board on which the Trustee served. The Fund does not currently have a formal policy regarding Trustees' attendance at the annual shareholders' meeting. No Trustees attended the Fund's last annual meeting held on March 1, 2017.

Independent Trustees are also reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with attending Board meetings. The Interested Trustees and certain officers of the Fund who are shareholders of Resources are not compensated by the Fund for their services, but may receive indirect remuneration due to their participation in management fees and other fees received by the Investment Manager and its affiliates from the funds in Franklin Templeton Investments. The Investment Manager or its affiliates pay the salaries and expenses of the officers and the Interested Trustees. No pension or retirement benefits are accrued as part of Fund expenses.

The table below indicates the total fees paid to the Independent Trustees by the Fund individually and by all of the funds in the Franklin Templeton Investments fund complex. These Trustees also serve as directors or trustees of other funds in Franklin Templeton Investments, many of which hold meetings at different dates and times. The Trustees and the Fund's management believe that having the same individuals serving on the boards of multiple funds in Franklin Templeton Investments enhances the ability of each fund to obtain, at a relatively modest cost to each separate fund, the services of high caliber, experienced and knowledgeable Independent Trustees who can bring their experience and talents to, and effectively oversee the management of, several funds.

	<b>Aggregate Compensation from the Fund<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Total Compensation from Franklin Templeton Investments Fund Comple</b>
.....	\$ 2,448	\$ 493,000
.....	\$ 2,493	\$ 521,000
.....	\$ 2,499	\$ 494,418
.....	\$ 2,522	\$ 536,000
.....	\$ 2,476	\$ 520,000
.....	\$ 2,542	\$ 518,000
.....	\$ 2,445	\$ 506,000
.....	\$ 2,493	\$ 206,000
.....	\$ 2,445	\$ 578,000

- (1) Compensation received for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2017.
- (2) Compensation received for the 12 months ended September 30, 2017.
- (3) We base the number of boards on the number of U.S. registered investment companies in the Franklin Templeton Investments fund complex. This number does not include the total number of series or funds within each investment company for which the Board members are responsible. Franklin Templeton Investments currently includes 45 U.S. registered investment companies, with approximately 188 U.S. based funds or series.
- (4) Ms. Bates and Mr. Wade also are independent trustees of Franklin Mutual Series Funds and may, in the future, receive payments pursuant to a discontinued retirement plan that generally provides payments to independent board members who have served seven years or longer for such fund.

Board members historically have followed a policy of having substantial investments in one or more of the funds in Franklin Templeton Investments, as is consistent with their individual financial goals. In February 1998, this policy was formalized through adoption of a requirement that each Board member annually invest one-third of the fees received for serving as a director or trustee of a Templeton fund (excluding committee fees) in shares of one or more Templeton funds (which may include the Fund) until the value of such investments equals or exceeds five times the annual retainer and regular Board meeting fees paid to such Board member. Investments in the name of family members or entities controlled by a Board member constitute fund holdings of such Board member for purposes of this policy, and a three-year phase-in period applies to such investment requirements for newly elected Board members. In implementing such policy, a Board member's fund holdings existing on February 27, 1998, were valued as of such date with subsequent investments valued at cost.

***Who are the Executive Officers of the Fund?***

Officers of the Fund are appointed by the Trustees and serve at the pleasure of the Board. Listed below, for the Executive Officers, are their names, years of birth and addresses, as well as their positions and length of service with the Fund, and principal occupations during at least the past five years.

<b>Name, Year of Birth and Address</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Length of Time Served</b>
<b>Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.</b>	Chairman of the Board, Trustee and  Vice President	Chairman of the Board and Trustee since 2013 and Vice President since 1996

Please refer to the table "Interested Trustees serving until 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders" for additional information about Mr. Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.

<b>Alison E. Baur</b> (1964) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Vice President and  Assistant Secretary	Since 2012
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**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Deputy General Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments; and officer of some of the other subsidiaries of Franklin Resources, Inc. and of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

<b>Stephen H. Dover</b> (1961) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	President and Chief  Executive Officer—  Investment Management	Since June 2017
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**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Chief Investment Officer, Templeton Emerging Market Group; Executive Vice President, Franklin Advisers, Inc.; and officer of four of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

<b>Aliya S. Gordon</b> (1973) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Vice President and  Assistant Secretary	Since 2009
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**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**



Senior Associate General Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments; and officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

<b>Steven J. Gray</b> (1955)	Vice President and	Since 2009
One Franklin Parkway		
San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Assistant Secretary	

**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Senior Associate General Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments; Vice President, Franklin Templeton Distributors, Inc. and FT AlphaParity, LLC; and officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

<b>Matthew T. Hinkle</b> (1971)	Chief Executive Officer— Finance	Since June 2017
One Franklin Parkway	and Administration	
San Mateo, CA 94403-1906		

**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Senior Vice President, Franklin Templeton Services, LLC; officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments; and **formerly**, Vice President, Global Tax (2012-April 2017) and Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer, Franklin Templeton Investments (2009–2017).

<b>Robert G. Kubilis</b> (1973)	Chief Financial Officer,	Since June 2017
300 S.E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street		
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Chief Accounting Officer	
	and Treasurer	

**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Treasurer, U.S. Fund Administration & Reporting, Franklin Templeton Investments; and officer of 18 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

<b>Robert Lim</b> (1948)	Vice President—AML Compliance	Since 2016
One Franklin Parkway		
San Mateo, CA 94403-1906		

**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Vice President, Franklin Templeton Companies, LLC; Chief Compliance Officer, Franklin Templeton Distributors, Inc. and Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC; and officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

<b>Kimberly H. Novotny</b> (1972)	Vice President and	Since 2013
300 S.E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street		
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Assistant Secretary	

**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Associate General Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments; Vice President and Corporate Secretary, Fiduciary Trust International of the South; Vice President, Templeton Investment Counsel, LLC; Assistant Secretary, Franklin Resources, Inc.; and officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

<b>Robert C. Rosselot</b> (1960)	Chief Compliance Officer	Since 2013
300 S.E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street		
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923		

**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Director, Global Compliance, Franklin Templeton Investments; Vice President, Franklin Templeton Companies, LLC; officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments; and **formerly**, Senior Associate General Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments (2007–2013); and Secretary and Vice President, Templeton Group of Funds (2004–2013).

<b>Karen L. Skidmore</b> (1952) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Vice President and  Assistant Secretary	Since 2009
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**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Senior Associate General Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments; and officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

<b>Navid J. Tofigh</b> (1972) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Vice President and  Assistant Secretary	Since 2015
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**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Associate General Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments; and officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

<b>Craig S. Tyle</b> (1960) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Vice President and  Assistant Secretary	Since 2005
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**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

General Counsel and Executive Vice President, Franklin Resources, Inc.; and officer of some of the other subsidiaries of Franklin Resources, Inc. and of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

<b>Lori A. Weber</b> (1964) 300 S.E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-1923	Vice President and  Secretary	Vice President since 2011 and Secretary since 2013
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**Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:**

Senior Associate General Counsel, Franklin Templeton Investments; Assistant Secretary, Franklin Resources, Inc.; Vice President and Secretary, Templeton Investment Counsel, LLC; and officer of 45 of the investment companies in Franklin Templeton Investments.

***What is the required vote on Proposal 1?***

For Proposal 1, the Trustee nominees will be elected to the Board by the affirmative vote of a plurality of votes cast by the shareholders of the Fund. This means that the Trustee nominees receiving the largest number of votes will be elected to fill the available positions, and a nominee may be elected even if he or she receives the affirmative vote of less than a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund.

**THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS**

**A VOTE “FOR” THE ELECTION OF EACH**

**OF THE NOMINEES TO THE BOARD.**

**PROPOSAL 2: TO APPROVE AN AMENDED FUNDAMENTAL INVESTMENT RESTRICTION REGARDING INVESTMENTS IN COMMODITIES**

Under the 1940 Act, a fund must have a fundamental investment restriction governing investments in “commodities.” The 1940 Act does not prohibit a fund from investing in commodities. The Fund’s current fundamental investment restriction regarding commodities is as follows:

[The Fund may not:] Purchase or sell commodities as defined in the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended, and the rules and regulations thereunder, unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments and provided that this restriction does not prevent the Fund from engaging in transactions involving futures contracts and options thereon or investing in securities that are secured by physical commodities.

The Investment Manager and the Board are recommending that the Fund amend its current fundamental investment restriction regarding investments in commodities to provide the Fund with the flexibility to adapt to continuously changing regulation and to react to changes in the financial markets and the development of new investment opportunities and instruments, in accordance with the Fund’s investment goal and subject to oversight by the Board. Since the adoption of the Fund’s current fundamental investment restriction regarding commodities, the financial markets and related regulation by the SEC, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”) and other governmental agencies have evolved, and new types of financial instruments have become available as potential investment opportunities, including commodity-linked instruments. Under the proposed restriction, if current applicable law were to change, the Fund would be able to conform to any such new law without shareholders taking further action.

The proposed standardized fundamental investment restriction regarding investments in commodities is as follows:

[The Fund may not:] Purchase or sell commodities, except to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act or any rules, exemptions or interpretations thereunder that may be adopted, granted or issued by the SEC.

***What effect will amending the current commodities restriction have on the Fund?***

The proposed fundamental investment restriction would clarify the ability of the Fund to engage in transactions involving currencies and other derivative transactions, such as futures contracts, forward contracts, commodity options and swaps, subject to oversight by the Board. Notwithstanding the potential flexibility



provided by the proposed fundamental investment restriction, the Fund is subject to limitations established from time to time by the Board regarding the use of derivatives. In addition, the Investment Manager, with respect to the Fund, currently relies on CFTC Rule 4.5 for an exclusion from commodity pool operator registration. The Investment Manager intends to continue to limit the Fund's use of commodity interests to the trading limitations set forth in such rule, as well as other applicable laws and regulations. It is not anticipated that the adoption of the proposed investment restriction would involve additional material risk to the Fund or affect the way the Fund is currently managed or operated.

***What is the required vote on Proposal 2?***

To amend a fundamental restriction, the Fund must receive an affirmative vote of a "majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund," which is defined in the 1940 Act as the lesser of: (A) 67% or more of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund present at the Meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund are present or represented by proxy; or (B) more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund (a "1940 Act Majority Vote").

If Proposal 2 is not approved by shareholders, the Fund's current fundamental investment restriction regarding commodities will remain in effect.

**THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS**

**A VOTE "FOR" PROPOSAL 2.**

**PROPOSAL 3: TO APPROVE AN AMENDED FUNDAMENTAL INVESTMENT RESTRICTION REGARDING LENDING**

Under the 1940 Act, a fund must describe, and designate as fundamental, its policy with respect to making loans. In addition to a loan of cash, the term "loan" may, under certain circumstances, be deemed to include certain transactions and investment-related practices. Among those transactions and practices are the lending of portfolio securities, the purchase of certain debt instruments and entering into repurchase agreements.

The Fund's current fundamental investment restriction regarding lending is as follows:

[The Fund may not:] Make loans to other persons except (a) through the lending of its portfolio securities, (b) through the purchase of debt securities, loan participations and/or engaging in direct corporate loans in accordance with its investment objectives and policies, and (c) to the extent the entry into a repurchase agreement is deemed to be a loan. The Fund may also make loans to other investment companies to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act or any exemptions therefrom which may be granted by the SEC.

The proposed standardized fundamental investment restriction regarding lending is as follows:

[The Fund may not:] Make loans if, as a result, more than 33 1/3% of its total assets would be lent to other persons, including other investment companies to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act or any rules, exemptions or interpretations thereunder that may be adopted, granted or issued by the SEC. This limitation does not apply to (i) the lending of portfolio securities, (ii) the purchase of debt securities, other debt instruments, loan participations and/or engaging in direct corporate loans in accordance with its investment goals and policies, and (iii) repurchase agreements to the extent the entry into a repurchase agreement is deemed to be a loan.



***What effect will amending the current lending restrictions have on the Fund?***

The proposed standardized fundamental investment restriction on lending, rather than prohibiting lending to other persons, places an overall limit on such lending and provides that the Fund may not make loans if, as a result, more than 33 1/3% of its total assets would be lent to other persons (including other investment companies as permitted by the 1940 Act and any exemptions therefrom). The proposed standardized restriction also includes a standardized list of permitted lending activities, which are also permitted under the Fund's current restrictions: (1) the lending of portfolio securities; (2) the purchase of debt securities, other debt instruments, loan participations and/or engaging in direct corporate loans in accordance with the Fund's investment goals and policies; and (3) repurchase agreements to the extent the entry into a repurchase agreement is deemed to be a loan.

Under SEC staff interpretations, lending by an investment company, under certain circumstances, may also give rise to issues relating to the issuance of senior securities. To the extent that the Fund enters into lending transactions under these limited circumstances, the Fund will continue to be subject to the limitations imposed under the 1940 Act regarding the issuance of senior securities and the Fund's fundamental investment restriction regarding issuing senior securities. However, it is not anticipated that the adoption of the proposed amended investment restriction would involve additional material risk to the Fund or affect the way the Fund is currently managed or operated.

***What is the required vote on Proposal 3?***

To approve Proposal 3, the Fund must receive the affirmative 1940 Act Majority Vote of its shareholders.

If Proposal 3 is not approved by shareholders, the Fund's current fundamental investment restriction regarding lending will remain in effect.

**THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS**

**A VOTE "FOR" PROPOSAL 3.**

**PROPOSAL 4: TO APPROVE A CHANGE TO THE FUND'S STATUS FROM DIVERSIFIED TO NON-DIVERSIFIED**

Under the 1940 Act an investment company is required to recite in its registration statement its status as either a "diversified" or "non-diversified" fund. A fund that is "diversified" is generally prohibited from purchasing the securities of any one issuer if, with respect to 75% of the fund's total assets at the time of purchase, more than 5% of its total assets would be invested in the securities of that issuer, or the fund would own or hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of that issuer. Up to 25% of a fund's total assets may be invested without regard to these limitations. Under the 1940 Act, these limitations do not apply to securities issued or guaranteed as to principal or interest by the U.S. government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities, or to the securities of other investment companies.

The Fund is currently classified as a "diversified" fund and has the following fundamental investment restriction regarding diversification:

The Fund may not purchase the securities of any one issuer (other than the U.S. government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities or securities of other investment companies) if immediately after such investment (a) more than 5%

of the value of the Fund's total assets would be invested in such issuer or (b) more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer would be owned by the Fund, except that up to 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested without regard to such 5% and 10% limitations.



The Investment Manager and the Board are recommending that the Fund be reclassified as a “non-diversified” fund, which would include the elimination of its current fundamental investment restriction regarding diversification. As a “non-diversified” fund, the Fund could invest a greater portion of its assets in any one issuer and invest overall in a smaller number of issuers than a “diversified” fund. The Investment Manager and the Board believe that the flexibility of the Fund to make more concentrated investments (i.e., to be able to invest to a greater extent in the securities of one or more issuers that if the Fund remained diversified) will benefit the Fund.

***What effect will changing the Fund’s status to a non-diversified fund have on the Fund?***

If the proposed change to the Fund’s status from a “diversified” to a “non-diversified” fund is approved (which includes the elimination of its current fundamental investment restriction regarding diversification), the Fund would be permitted to invest, and intends to invest, a greater portion of its assets (i) in a smaller number of issuers and (ii) in the securities of one or more issuers. As a result, the Fund may be more sensitive to economic, business, political or other changes affecting the issuers or securities held by the Fund, which may result in greater fluctuation in the value of the Fund’s shares. However, the Fund will still be subject to the tax diversification requirements applicable to investment companies under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The Subchapter M diversification requirement is similar to the 1940 Act diversification requirement, but Subchapter M permits a fund to invest more than 5% of its total assets in any one issuer with respect to 50% of the fund’s total assets, whereas the 1940 Act only permits a fund to invest more than 5% of its total assets in any one issuer with respect to 25% of the fund’s total assets. Subchapter M also prohibits a fund from investing more than 25% of its total assets in any single issuer.

***What is the required vote on Proposal 4?***

To approve Proposal 4, the Fund must receive the affirmative 1940 Act Majority Vote of its shareholders.

If Proposal 4 is not approved by shareholders, the Fund will remain “diversified” and its current fundamental investment restriction regarding diversification will remain in effect.

**THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS**

**A VOTE “FOR” PROPOSAL 4.**

**PROPOSAL 5: RATIFICATION OF THE SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

***How are independent auditors selected?***

The Board has a standing Audit Committee currently comprised of David W. Niemiec (Chairman), Ann Torre Bates, J. Michael Luttig and Constantine D. Tseretopoulos, all of whom are Independent Trustees and considered to be “independent” as that term is defined by the NYSE’s listing standards. The Audit Committee is responsible for the appointment, compensation and retention of the Fund’s independent registered public accounting firm (“independent auditors”), including evaluating their independence, recommending the selection of the Fund’s independent auditors to the full Board, and meeting with such independent auditors to consider and review matters relating to the Fund’s financial reports and internal controls.



***Which independent auditors did the Board select?***

The Audit Committee and the Board have selected the firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (“PwC”) as the independent auditors for the Fund for the current fiscal year. PwC has examined and reported on the fiscal year-end financial statements dated August 31, 2017, and certain related SEC filings. You are being asked to ratify the Board’s selection of PwC for the current fiscal year ending August 31, 2018. Services to be performed by the independent auditors include examining and reporting on the fiscal year-end financial statements of the Fund and certain related filings with the SEC.

The selection of PwC as the independent auditors for the Fund for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2018, was recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board on October 24, 2017. PwC’s reports on the financial statements of the Fund for the fiscal years for which it has served as auditors did not contain an adverse opinion or a disclaimer of opinion, nor were qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles.

The Audit Committee and the Board have been advised by PwC that neither PwC nor any of its members have any material direct or indirect financial interest in the Fund. Representatives of PwC are not expected to be present at the Meeting, but will have the opportunity to make a statement if they wish, and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

***What is the required vote on Proposal 5?***

To approve Proposal 5, the Fund must receive the affirmative 1940 Act Majority Vote of its shareholders.

**THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A**

**VOTE “FOR” PROPOSAL 5.**

**AUDITOR INFORMATION**

***Audit Fees.*** The aggregate fees paid to PwC for professional services rendered by PwC for the audit of the Fund’s annual financial statements or for services that are normally provided by PwC in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements were \$44,656 for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2017, and \$44,796 for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2016.

***Audit-Related Fees.*** There were no fees paid to PwC for assurance and related services rendered by PwC to the Fund that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit of the Fund’s financial statements and not reported under “Audit Fees” above for the fiscal years ended August 31, 2017 and August 31, 2016.

In addition, the Audit Committee pre-approves PwC’s engagement for audit-related services to be provided to the Investment Manager and any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Investment Manager that provides ongoing services to the Fund, which engagements relate directly to the operations and financial reporting of the Fund. For the fiscal years ended August 31, 2017, and August 31, 2016, there were no fees paid to PwC for such services.

***Tax Fees.*** There were no fees paid to PwC for professional services rendered by PwC to the Fund for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning for the fiscal years ended August 31, 2017, and August 31, 2016.



In addition, the Audit Committee pre-approves PwC's engagement for tax services to be provided to the Investment Manager and any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Investment Manager that provides ongoing services to the Fund, which engagements relate directly to the operations and financial reporting of the Fund. For the fiscal years ended August 31, 2017 and August 31, 2016, there were no fees paid to PwC for such services.

**All Other Fees.** There were no fees paid to PwC for products and services rendered by PwC to the Fund, other than the services reported above, for the fiscal years ended August 31, 2017, and August 31, 2016.

In addition, the Audit Committee pre-approves PwC's engagement for other services to be provided to the Investment Manager and any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Investment Manager that provides ongoing services to the Fund, which engagements relate directly to the operations and financial reporting of the Fund. For the fiscal years ended August 31, 2017 and August 31, 2016, there were no fees paid to PwC for such services.

**Aggregate Non-Audit Fees.** For the fiscal years ended August 31, 2017, and August 31, 2016, there were no aggregate fees paid to PwC for non-audit services rendered by PwC to the Fund or to the Investment Manager and to any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Investment Manager that provides ongoing services to the Fund, which engagements relate directly to the operations and financial reporting of the Fund.

**Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures.** As of the date of this proxy statement, the Audit Committee has not adopted written pre-approval policies and procedures within the meaning of Regulation S-X. As a result, all such services described above and provided by PwC must be directly pre-approved by the Audit Committee or by a designated member of the Audit Committee.

**Audit Committee Charter.** The Board has adopted and approved a formal written charter for the Audit Committee which sets forth the Audit Committee's responsibilities. A copy of the charter is attached as Exhibit B to this proxy statement.

As required by the charter, the Audit Committee reviewed the Fund's audited financial statements and met with management, as well as with PwC, the Fund's independent auditors, to discuss the financial statements.

**Audit Committee Report.** The Audit Committee received the written disclosures and the letter from PwC required by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("PCAOB") regarding PwC's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence. The Audit Committee also received the report of PwC regarding the results of their audit. In connection with the Audit Committee's review of the financial statements and PwC's report, the members of the Audit Committee discussed with a representative of PwC, PwC's independence, as well as the matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standard No. 1301, Communications with Audit Committees, issued by the PCAOB, including the following: PwC's responsibilities in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards; PwC's responsibilities for information prepared by management that accompanies the Fund's audited financial statements and any procedures performed and the results; the initial selection of, and whether there were any changes in, significant accounting policies or their application; management's judgments and accounting estimates; whether there were any significant audit adjustments; whether there were any disagreements with management; whether there was any consultation with other accountants; whether there were any major issues discussed with management prior



to PwC's retention; whether the auditors encountered any difficulties in dealing with management in performing the audit; and PwC's judgments about the quality of the Fund's accounting principles.

Based on its review and discussions with management and PwC, the Audit Committee did not become aware of any material misstatements or omissions in the financial statements. Accordingly, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in the Fund's Annual Report to Shareholders for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2017, for filing with the SEC.

#### AUDIT COMMITTEE

David W. Niemiec (Chairman)

Ann Torre Bates

J. Michael Luttig

Constantine D. Tseretopoulos

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

***Board Role in Risk Oversight.*** The Board, as a whole, considers risk management issues as part of its general oversight responsibilities throughout the year at regular Board meetings, through regular reports that have been developed by management in consultation with the Board and its counsel. These reports address certain investment, valuation and compliance matters. The Board also may receive special written reports or presentations on a variety of risk issues, either upon the Board's request or upon the Investment Manager's initiative. In addition, the Audit Committee of the Board meets regularly with the Investment Manager's internal audit group to review reports on their examinations of functions and processes within Franklin Templeton Investments that affect the Fund.

With respect to investment risk, the Board receives regular written reports describing and analyzing the investment performance of the Fund. In addition, the portfolio managers of the Fund meet regularly with the Board to discuss portfolio performance, including investment risk. To the extent that the Fund changes a particular investment strategy that could have a material impact on the Fund's risk profile, the Board generally is consulted with respect to such change. To the extent that the Fund invests in certain complex securities, including derivatives, the Board receives periodic reports containing information about exposure of the Fund to such instruments. In addition, the Investment Manager's investment risk personnel meet regularly with the Board to discuss a variety of issues, including the impact on the Fund of the investment in particular securities or instruments, such as derivatives and commodities, if applicable.

With respect to valuation, the Fund's administrator provides regular written reports to the Board that enable the Board to monitor the number of fair valued securities in the Fund's portfolio, the reasons for the fair valuation and the methodology used to arrive at the fair value. Such reports also include information concerning illiquid securities within the Fund's portfolio. The Board also reviews dispositional analysis information on the sale of securities that require special valuation considerations such as illiquid or fair valued securities. In addition, the Fund's Audit Committee reviews valuation procedures and results with the Fund's independent auditors in connection with the Committee's review of the results of the audit of the Fund's year-end financial statements.

With respect to compliance risks, the Board receives regular compliance reports prepared by the Investment Manager's compliance group and meets regularly with the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") to discuss compliance issues, including compliance risks. In accordance with SEC rules, the Independent Trustees meet regularly in executive session with the CCO and the CCO prepares and presents an annual written compliance report to the Board. The Fund's Board adopts compliance policies and procedures for the Fund and approves these procedures for the Fund's service providers. The compliance policies and procedures are specifically designed to detect and prevent violations of the federal securities laws.

The Investment Manager periodically provides an enterprise risk management presentation to the Board to describe the way in which risk is managed on a complex-wide level. The presentation covers such areas as investment risk, reputational risk, personnel risk, and business continuity risk.

**Board Structure.** Seventy-five percent or more of the Fund's Board members consist of Independent Trustees who are not deemed to be "interested persons" by reason of their relationship with the Fund's management or otherwise as provided under the 1940 Act. While the Chairman of the Board is an interested person, the Board is also served by a Lead Independent Trustee. The Lead Independent Trustee, together with independent counsel, reviews proposed agendas for Board meetings and generally acts as a liaison with Fund management with respect to questions and issues raised by the Independent Trustees. The Lead Independent Trustee also presides at separate meetings of Independent Trustees held in advance of each scheduled Board meeting where various matters, including those being considered at such Board meeting, are discussed. It is believed such structure and activities assure that proper consideration is given at Board meetings to matters deemed important to the Fund and its shareholders.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND**

**The Investment Manager.** The Investment Manager of the Fund is Templeton Asset Management Ltd., a Singapore company with a branch office at The Chater House, 17th Floor, 8 Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong. Pursuant to an investment management agreement, the Investment Manager manages the investment and reinvestment of Fund assets. The Investment Manager is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Resources.

**The Administrator.** The administrator of the Fund is Franklin Templeton Services, LLC ("FT Services"), with offices at 300 S.E. 2nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301-1923. FT Services is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Resources and an affiliate of the Investment Manager. Pursuant to a subcontract for administrative services, FT Services performs certain administrative functions for the Fund.

**The Transfer Agent.** The transfer agent, registrar and dividend disbursement agent for the Fund is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, 6201 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

**The Custodian.** The custodian for the Fund is JPMorgan Chase Bank, 270 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017-2070.

**Other Matters.** The Fund's latest audited financial statements and annual report for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2017, are available free of charge. To obtain a copy, please call (800) DIAL BEN®/342-5236 or forward a written request to Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC, P.O. Box 33030, St. Petersburg, Florida 33733-8030.



**Principal Shareholders.** As of December 15, 2017, the Fund had 17,444,581 shares outstanding and total net assets of \$309,689,880.16. The Fund’s shares are listed on the NYSE (NYSE: EMF). From time to time, the number of shares held in “street name” accounts of various securities dealers for the benefit of their clients may exceed 5% of the total shares outstanding. To the knowledge of the Fund’s management, as of December 15, 2017, there were no other entities holding beneficially or of record more than 5% of the Fund’s outstanding shares, except as shown in the following table:

Beneficial Ownership	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership Outstanding
..... Street	1,531,188 *

\* The nature of beneficial ownership is sole voting and dispositive power as reported on Form 13F-HR filed with the SEC on November 9, 2017.

..... Street	1,312,820 **
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\*\* The nature of beneficial ownership is sole voting and dispositive power as reported on Form 13F-HR filed with the SEC on November 14, 2017.

In addition, to the knowledge of the Fund’s management, as of December 15, 2017, no nominee or Trustee of the Fund owned 1% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund, and the Trustees and officers of the Fund owned, as a group, less than 1% of the outstanding shares of the Fund.

**Contacting the Board of Trustees.** If a shareholder wishes to send a communication to the Board, such correspondence should be in writing and addressed to the Board of Trustees at the Fund’s offices, 300 S.E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301-1923, Attention: Secretary. The correspondence will be given to the Board for review and consideration.

**FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING AND THE MEETING**

***Solicitation of Proxies.*** Your vote is being solicited by the Board. AST Fund Solutions, LLC (the “Solicitor”) has been engaged to assist in the solicitation of proxies. The cost of soliciting proxies, including the fees of a proxy soliciting agent, is estimated to be \$19,500 to \$36,400 and will be borne by the Fund.

As the date of the Meeting approaches, certain Fund shareholders may receive a telephone call from a representative of the Solicitor if their votes have not yet been received. The Fund reimburses brokerage firms and others for their expenses in forwarding proxy materials to the beneficial owners of shares of the Fund and soliciting them to execute voting instructions. The Fund expects that the solicitation will be primarily by mail, but may also include telephone, facsimile, electronic or other means of communication. Trustees and officers of the Fund, and regular employees and agents of the Investment Manager or its affiliates, involved in the solicitation of the proxies are not reimbursed.

Authorization to permit the Solicitor to execute proxies may be obtained by telephonic instructions from eligible shareholders of the Fund. Proxies that are obtained telephonically will be recorded in accordance with the procedures set forth below. The Fund believes that these procedures are reasonably designed to ensure that both the identity of the shareholder casting the vote and the voting instructions of the shareholder are accurately determined.

In all cases where a telephonic proxy is solicited, the Solicitor representative is required to ask for each shareholder's full name and address and to confirm that the shareholder has received the proxy materials in the mail or by other acceptable means. If the shareholder is a corporation or other entity, the Solicitor representative is required to ask for the person's title and confirmation that the person is authorized to direct the voting of the shares. If the information elicited accords with the information provided to the Solicitor, then the Solicitor may ask for the shareholder's instructions on the Proposals. Although the Solicitor representative is permitted to answer questions about the process, he or she is not permitted to recommend to the shareholder how to vote, other than to read any recommendation set forth in the proxy statement. The Solicitor will record the shareholder's instructions on the proxy card. Within 72 hours, the shareholder will be sent a letter to confirm his or her vote and asking the shareholder to call the Solicitor immediately if his or her instructions are not correctly reflected in the confirmation.

A shareholder may also vote by submitting the proxy card or voting instruction form originally sent with this proxy statement by mail, via telephone (if eligible), via the Internet (if eligible) or by attending the Meeting in person.

***Voting by Broker-Dealers.*** The Fund expects that, before the Meeting, broker-dealer firms holding shares of the Fund in "street name" for their customers will request voting instructions from their customers and beneficial owners. If these instructions are not received by the date specified in the broker-dealer firms' proxy solicitation materials, the Fund understands that current NYSE Rules permit the broker-dealers to vote on the Proposals 1 and 5 on behalf of their customers and beneficial owners. Certain broker-dealers may exercise discretion over shares held in their name for which no instructions are received by voting these shares in the same proportion as they vote shares for which they received instructions.

***Quorum.*** A majority of the Fund's shares entitled to vote at the Meeting—present in person or represented by proxy—constitutes a quorum at the Meeting. The shares over which broker-dealers have discretionary voting power, the shares that represent "broker non-votes" (*i.e.*, shares held by brokers or nominees as to which (i) instructions have not been received from the beneficial owners or persons entitled to vote and (ii) the broker or nominee has voted such shares in its discretion on Proposal 1 or 5, but (iii) the broker does not have discretionary voting power on other matters), and the shares whose proxies reflect an abstention on any item will all be counted as shares present and entitled to vote at the Meeting for purposes of determining whether the required quorum of shares exists.

***Method of Tabulation.*** The vote required to approve each Proposal is set forth in the discussion of the Proposal above. Generally, abstentions and broker non-votes on each Proposal will be treated as votes present at the Meeting, but will not be treated as votes cast. Therefore, abstentions and broker non-votes may have the same effect as a vote "against" Proposals 2-5, but will not have an effect on Proposal 1, which requires a plurality of votes cast for approval.

**Adjournment.** The Chairman of the Board or an authorized officer of the Fund for the Meeting, or the holders of a majority of the shares present (in person or by proxy) and entitled to vote at the Meeting, may adjourn the Meeting from time to time. Such authority to adjourn the Meeting may be used in the event that a quorum is not present at the Meeting or, in the event that a quorum is present but sufficient votes have not been received to approve the Proposals, or for any other reason consistent with Delaware law and the Fund's By-Laws, including to allow for the further solicitation of proxies. Unless otherwise instructed by a shareholder granting a proxy, the persons designated as proxies may use their discretionary authority to vote as instructed by management of the Fund on questions of adjournment and on any other proposals raised at the Meeting to the extent permitted by the SEC's proxy rules, including proposals for which management of the Fund did not have timely notice, as set forth in the SEC's proxy rules and the Fund's proxy statement for the 2017 annual meeting.

**Shareholder Proposals.** The Fund anticipates that its 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held on or about March 4, 2019. A shareholder who wishes to submit a proposal for consideration for inclusion in the Fund's proxy statement for the 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders must send such written proposal to the Fund's offices at 300 S.E. 2nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301-1923, Attention: Secretary, so that it is received no later than August 30, 2018 in order to be included in the Fund's proxy statement and proxy card relating to that meeting and presented at the meeting.

A shareholder of the Fund who has not submitted a written proposal for inclusion in the Fund's proxy statement by August 30, 2018, as described above, may nonetheless present a proposal at the Fund's 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders if such shareholder notifies the Fund in writing at the Fund's offices, of such proposal not earlier than October 5, 2018 and not later than November 4, 2018. If a shareholder fails to give notice within these dates, then the matter shall not be eligible for consideration at the shareholders' meeting. If, notwithstanding the effect of the foregoing notice provisions, a shareholder proposal is acted upon at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, the persons designated as proxies for the 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders may exercise discretionary voting power with respect to any shareholder proposal not received by the Fund at the Fund's offices by November 13, 2018. A shareholder proposal may be presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders only if such proposal concerns a matter that may be properly brought before the meeting under applicable federal proxy rules and state law. In addition to the requirements set forth above, a shareholder must comply with the following:

1. A shareholder intending to present a proposal must (i) be entitled to vote at the meeting; (ii) comply with the notice procedures set forth in this proxy statement and in the Fund's By-Laws; and (iii) have been a shareholder of record at the time the shareholder's notice was received by the Secretary of the Fund.
2. A notice regarding a nomination for the election of a Trustee shall set forth in writing (i) the name, age, business address and, if known, residence address of each nominee proposed in such notice; (ii) the principal occupation or employment of each such nominee; (iii) the number of outstanding shares of the Fund which are beneficially owned by each such nominee; and (iv) all such other information regarding each such nominee as would have been required to be included in a proxy statement filed pursuant to the proxy rules of the SEC had each such nominee been nominated by the Trustees of the Fund. In addition, the shareholder making such nomination shall promptly provide any other information reasonably requested by the Fund.

3. A notice regarding a business proposal shall set forth in writing as to each matter: (i) a brief description of the business desired to be brought before the meeting and the reasons for conducting such business at the meeting; (ii) the name and address, as they appear on the Fund's books, of the shareholder proposing such business; (iii) the number of shares of the Fund which are beneficially owned by the shareholder; (iv) any material interest of the shareholder in such business; and (v) all such other information regarding each such matter that would have been required to be included in a proxy statement filed pursuant to the proxy rules of the SEC had each such matter been proposed by the Trustees of the Fund.

Submission of a proposal by a shareholder does not guarantee that the proposal will be included in the Fund's proxy statement or presented at the meeting.

By Order of the Board of Trustees,

Lori A. Weber

*Vice President and Secretary*

December 28, 2017

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHARTER****I. The Committee.**

The Nominating Committee (the “Committee”) is a committee of, and established by, the Board of Directors/Trustees of the Fund (the “Board”). The Committee consists of such number of members as set by the Board from time to time and its members shall be selected by the Board. The Committee shall be comprised entirely of “independent members.” For purposes of this Charter, independent members shall mean members who are not interested persons of the Fund (“Disinterested Board members”) as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”).

**II. Board Nominations and Functions.**

1. The Committee shall make recommendations for nominations for Disinterested Board members on the Board to the incumbent Disinterested Board members and to the full Board. The Committee shall evaluate candidates’ qualifications for Board membership and the independence of such candidates from the Fund’s investment manager and other principal service providers. Persons selected must be independent in terms of both the letter and the spirit of the 1940 Act. The Committee shall also consider the effect of any relationships beyond those delineated in the 1940 Act that might impair independence, e.g., business, financial or family relationships with investment managers or service providers.

2. The Committee also shall evaluate candidates’ qualifications and make recommendations for “interested” members on the Board to the full Board.

3. The Committee may adopt from time to time specific, minimum qualifications that the Committee believes a candidate must meet before being considered as a candidate for Board membership and shall comply with any rules adopted from time to time by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission regarding investment company nominating committees and the nomination of persons to be considered as candidates for Board membership.

4. The Committee shall review shareholder recommendations for nominations to fill vacancies on the Board if such recommendations are submitted in writing and addressed to the Committee at the Fund’s offices. The Committee shall adopt, by resolution, a policy regarding its procedures for considering candidates for the Board, including any recommended by shareholders.

**III. Committee Nominations and Functions.**

The Committee shall make recommendations to the full Board for nomination for membership on all committees of the Board.

**IV. Other Powers and Responsibilities.**

1. The Committee shall meet at least once each year or more frequently in open or executive sessions. The Committee may invite members of management, counsel, advisers and others to attend its meetings as it deems appropriate. The Committee shall have separate sessions with management and others, as and when it deems appropriate.



2. The Committee shall have the resources and authority appropriate to discharge its responsibilities, including authority to retain special counsel and other experts or consultants at the expense of the Fund.
3. The Committee shall report its activities to the Board and make such recommendations as the Committee may deem necessary or appropriate.
4. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Committee. The action of a majority of the members of the Committee present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the action of the Committee. The Committee may meet in person or by telephone, and the Committee may act by written consent, to the extent permitted by law and by the Fund's by-laws. In the event of any inconsistency between this Charter and the Fund's organizational documents, the provisions of the Fund's organizational documents shall be given precedence.
5. The Committee shall review this Charter at least annually and recommend any changes to the full Board.

**ADDITIONAL STATEMENT FOR CLOSED-END FUNDS ONLY**

The Committee shall comply with any rules of any stock exchange, if any, applicable to nominating committees of closed-end funds whose shares are registered thereon.



## FRANKLIN TEMPLETON INVESTMENTS

## AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

**I. The Committee.**

The Audit Committee (“Committee”) is a committee of, and established by, the Board of Directors/Trustees of the Fund (the “Board”). The Committee shall consist of such number of members as set by the Board from time to time, but in no event fewer than three (*NYSE-listed Funds only*), and its members shall be selected by the Board. The Committee shall be comprised entirely of members who satisfy the requirements for independence set out in Rule 10A-3(b)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “1934 Act”) (“Disinterested Board members”). Each member of the Committee must be financially literate, as such qualification is interpreted by the Board in its business judgment, or must become financially literate within a reasonable period of time after his or her appointment to the Committee. At least one member of the Committee must be an “audit committee financial expert,” as determined by the Board and as defined in Item 3(b) of U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) Form N-CSR. The Committee will make recommendations to the Board for its approval with respect to such audit committee financial expert determinations at least annually.

If a Committee member of an NYSE-listed Fund simultaneously serves on the audit committee of more than three public companies, the Board must determine that such simultaneous service would not impair the ability of such member to effectively serve on the Fund’s Committee. When a member serves on multiple boards in the same fund complex, such service will be counted as one board for these purposes (*NYSE-listed Funds only*).

**II. Purposes of the Committee.**

The function of the Committee is to assist Board oversight of the Fund’s financial statements and accounting and auditing processes, which shall include being directly responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of the Fund’s independent registered public accounting firm (“auditors”) engaged (including resolution of disagreements between management and the auditors regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Fund. It is management’s responsibility to prepare the Fund’s financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) and to maintain appropriate systems for accounting and internal controls. It is the auditors’ responsibility to express an opinion on the Fund’s financial statements, to plan and carry out an audit in accordance with the standards of the SEC and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (“PCAOB”) and to report directly to the Committee. It is not the duty of the Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Fund’s financial statements are complete and in accordance with GAAP.

<sup>1</sup> This document serves as the Charter for the Committee of each U.S. registered investment company (a “Fund”) within Franklin Templeton Investments, and each series thereof as applicable, including certain Exchange-listed Funds included on Appendix A hereto.

<sup>2</sup> Each member of the Committee may not, other than in his or her capacity as a member of the Committee, the Board, or any other Board committee: (A) accept directly or indirectly any consulting, advisory, or other compensatory fee from the Fund or any subsidiary thereof, provided that, unless the rules of the applicable national securities exchange or national securities association provide otherwise, compensatory fees do not include the receipt of fixed amounts of compensation under a retirement plan (including deferred compensation) for prior service with the

Fund (provided that such compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service); or (B) be an “interested person” of the Fund as defined in section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

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Consistent with such allocation of functions, the purposes of the Committee are:

- (a) To oversee the Fund's accounting and financial reporting policies and practices and its internal controls, and to obtain, where it deems appropriate, reports on internal controls of service providers to the Fund;
- (b) To oversee or, as appropriate, assist Board oversight of the quality, objectivity and integrity of the Fund's financial statements and the independent audit thereof;
- (c) To oversee or, as appropriate, assist Board oversight of the Fund's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements (primarily as they relate to the Fund's accounting and financial reporting, internal control over financial reporting and independent audits);
- (d) To approve prior to appointment the engagement of the Fund's auditors and, in connection therewith, to review and evaluate the auditors' qualifications, independence and performance, taking into account the opinions of management;
- (e) To act as a liaison between the Fund's auditors and the Board;
- (f) to prepare, or authorize the preparation of, the disclosure required by Item 407(d)(3)(i) of Regulation S-K (the "Audit Committee Report") for inclusion in the Fund's annual proxy statement (NYSE- and NYSE American-listed Funds only); and
- (g) To consider such other matters as it deems appropriate in carrying out its purpose and any other matters that may be assigned to it by the Board.

In addition, the Committee shall serve as the Fund's Qualified Legal Compliance Committee ("QLCC") pursuant to Section 205 of the SEC's Standards of Professional Conduct for Attorneys Appearing and Practicing before the Commission in the Representation of an Issuer (the "Standards"). In this capacity, the Committee is required to adopt and maintain written procedures for the confidential receipt, retention and consideration of any report of evidence of a material violation. "Evidence of a material violation" means credible evidence, based upon which it would be unreasonable, under the circumstances, for a prudent and competent attorney not to conclude that it is reasonably likely that a material violation of an applicable U.S. federal or state securities law, a material breach of fiduciary (or similar) duty to the Fund arising under U.S. federal or state law, or a similar material violation of any U.S. federal or state law has occurred, is ongoing, or is about to occur.

### **III. Powers and Duties.**

The Committee shall have the following powers and duties to carry out its purposes:

- (a) To select the auditors, subject to approval both by the Board and by a separate vote of the Disinterested Board members, and, in connection therewith, to evaluate the independence and qualifications of the auditors in accordance with applicable federal securities laws and regulations and the rules and standards of the PCAOB.
- (b) To be directly responsible for approving the services to be provided by, and the compensation of, the auditors, including:
  - (i) pre-approval of all audit and audit related services;
  - (ii) pre-approval of all non-audit related services to be provided to the Fund by the auditors;

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(iii) pre-approval of all non-audit related services to be provided by the auditors to the Fund's investment adviser or to any entity that controls, is controlled by or is under common control with the Fund's investment adviser and that provides ongoing services to the Fund where the non-audit services relate directly to the operations or financial reporting of the Fund; and

(iv) if deemed necessary or appropriate, as an alternative to Committee pre-approval of services to be provided by the auditors, as required by paragraphs (ii) and (iii) above:

(A) establishment by the Committee of policies and procedures to pre-approve such services, provided the policies and procedures are detailed as to the particular service and the Committee is informed of each service and such policies and procedures do not include delegation of audit committee responsibilities, as contemplated under the 1934 Act), to management; or

(B) delegation by the Committee to one or more designated members of the Committee who are Disinterested Board members of authority to pre-approve such services, provided the Committee is informed of the decisions of any member pursuant to such delegated authority no later than its next scheduled meeting;

subject, in the case of (ii) through (iv), to any waivers, exceptions or exemptions that may be available under applicable law or rules.

(c) To meet with the auditors, including private meetings, as necessary to (i) review the arrangements for and scope of the annual audit and any special audits; (ii) discuss any matters or concerns relating to the Fund's financial statements, including any recorded and/or unrecorded adjustments to such statements recommended by the auditors, or other results of audits; (iii) consider the auditors' comments with respect to the Fund's financial, accounting and reporting policies, procedures and internal controls and management's responses thereto; and (iv) to review the form of opinion the auditors propose to render.

(d) To meet to review and discuss the Fund's annual audited financial statements with management and the auditors, including reviewing the Fund's disclosures under "Management's Discussion of Fund Performance" ("MDFP") in its annual shareholder report (*All Funds*). To meet to review and discuss the Fund's semi-annual financial statements with management, including reviewing the Fund's MDFP disclosures in its semi-annual shareholder report, as applicable (*NYSE-listed Funds and New Jersey/Alternative Strategies Funds only*). Such meetings may be telephonic.

(e) To consider the effect upon the Fund of any changes in accounting principles or practices proposed by management or the auditors.

(f) To receive and consider reports from the auditors:

(i) as required by generally accepted accounting standards, including Auditing Standard ("AS") No. 1301 (Communications with Audit Committees);

(ii) annually and by update as required by SEC Regulation S-X, regarding:

(A) all critical accounting policies and practices of the Fund to be used;

(B) all alternative treatments within GAAP for policies and practices related to material items that have been discussed with management of the Fund, including ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments, and the treatment preferred by the auditors;



- (C) other material written communications between the auditors and management of the Fund, such as any management letter or schedule of unadjusted differences; and
- (D) all non-audit services provided to any entity in an investment company complex, as defined in SEC Regulation S-X, that were not pre-approved by the Committee pursuant to SEC Regulation S-X;
- (iii) at least annually regarding the auditors' internal quality-control procedures; and
- (iv) at least annually regarding any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the auditors, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the preceding five years, respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the auditors, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues.
- (g) To review (i) major issues regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentations, including any significant changes in the Fund's selection or application of accounting principles, and major issues as to the adequacy of the Fund's internal controls and any special audit steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies; and (ii) analyses prepared by management and/or the auditors setting forth significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the financial statements, including analyses of the effects of alternative GAAP methods on the financial statements.
- (h) In considering the independence of the auditors:
  - (i) at least annually to receive from the auditors a formal written statement, and other reports as necessary, describing all relationships between the auditors and the Fund, the Fund's investment adviser and service providers, and other entities advised or serviced by, including any entities controlling, controlled by or under common control with, the investment adviser or any other service providers to the Fund that, in the auditors' judgment, could be thought to bear upon the auditors' independence;
  - (ii) to receive and consider, if applicable, periodic reports from the auditors regarding whether the provision of non-audit services (including tax services) is compatible with maintaining the auditors' independence;
  - (iii) to request from the auditors a written affirmation that they are independent auditors under the federal securities laws and standards adopted by the PCAOB; and
  - (iv) to discuss with the auditors any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity, impartial judgment, and independence of the auditors and for taking, or recommending that the Board take, appropriate action to oversee the independence of the auditors.
- (i) To require that the auditors regularly provide timely information to the Committee with respect to new rules and pronouncements by applicable regulatory and accounting standards agencies, along with an explanation of how such developments may affect the Fund's financial statements and accounting principles and practices.
- (j) To review the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives, as well as off-balance sheet structures, on the financial statements of the Fund.

(k) To consider any reports of audit problems or difficulties that may have arisen during the course of the audit, including any limitations of the scope of the audit, and management's response thereto.

(l) To review communications from the Fund's Chief Executive Officer – Finance and Administration, and Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer concerning (i) all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal controls over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Fund's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and (ii) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Fund's internal controls over financial reporting, and to review requested communications from management for any other purposes the Committee deems appropriate.

(m) In connection with the preparation of the Audit Committee Report (*NYSE and NYSE American-listed Funds only*):

(i) to review and discuss the audited financial statements of the Fund with management;

(ii) to discuss with the auditors the matters required to be discussed by the statement on AS No. 1301, as amended;

(iii) to receive the written disclosures and the letter(s) from the auditors required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB regarding the auditor's communications with the Committee concerning independence (referred to in paragraph (h) above), and discuss with the auditors the auditor's independence; and

(iv) based on the review and discussions referred to in paragraphs (i) through (iii) above, to recommend to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in the Fund's annual report on Form N-CSR for the last fiscal year for filing with the SEC.

(n) To review and discuss, as appropriate, the Fund's earnings press releases (including the type and presentation of information to be included therein, paying particular attention to any use of "pro forma," or "adjusted" non-GAAP, information), as well as any financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies. (*NYSE-listed Funds only*)

(o) To review and discuss the Fund's processes with respect to risk assessment and risk management.

(p) To set clear policies relating to the hiring by entities within Franklin Templeton Investments of employees or former employees of the auditors.

(q) To evaluate, as either part of the full Board or as a Committee, its performance at least annually.

(r) To review potential conflict of interest situations where appropriate in connection with the Fund's ongoing review of all related party transactions.

(s) To inform the chief legal officer ("CLO") and chief executive officer ("CEO") of the Fund (or the equivalents thereof) of any report of evidence of a material violation by the Fund, its officers, directors/trustees, employees (if any), or agents (collectively, "affiliates"). In connection therewith, the Committee shall:

(i) determine whether an investigation is necessary regarding any report of evidence of a material violation by the Fund or its affiliates;



(ii) if the Committee determines such an investigation is necessary or appropriate, (A) notify the Board; (B) initiate an investigation, which may be conducted by either the CLO or by outside attorneys; and (C) retain such additional expert personnel as the Committee deems necessary to assist in the investigation;

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- (iii) at the conclusion of any such investigation, (A) recommend by a majority vote, that the Fund implement an appropriate response (as defined in Section 205.2(b) of the Standards) to evidence of a material violation, and (B) inform the CLO and the CEO and the Board of the results of such investigation and the appropriate remedial measures to be adopted;
- (iv) acting by majority vote, take all other appropriate action, including the authority to notify the SEC in the event the Fund fails in any material respect to implement an appropriate response that the Committee has recommended the Fund to take; and
- (v) otherwise respond to evidence of a material violation.

**IV. Other Functions and Procedures of the Committee.**

- (a) The Committee shall meet at least twice each year or more frequently, in open or executive sessions, as may be necessary to fulfill its responsibilities. The Committee shall meet as frequently as circumstances require with (i) the auditors as provided in III(c), above; and (ii) management's internal audit department to review and discuss internal audit functions and reports. The Committee may invite members of management, the auditors, counsel, advisers and others to attend its meetings as it deems appropriate. The Committee shall meet separately, periodically, with management and with the auditors.
- (b) The Committee shall establish procedures for (i) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Fund or the Fund's adviser regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or accounting matters relating to the Fund; and (ii) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Fund or Franklin Resources, Inc. and its subsidiaries of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
- (c) The Committee shall have the authority to engage special or independent counsel, experts and other advisers as and when it determines necessary to carry out its duties.
- (d) The Fund must provide for appropriate funding, as determined by the Committee in its capacity as a Committee of the Board, for payment of (i) compensation to any auditors engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Fund; (ii) compensation to any advisers employed by the Committee (under paragraph (c) above); and (iii) ordinary administrative expenses of the Committee that are necessary or appropriate in carrying out its duties.
- (e) The Committee shall have unrestricted access to the Fund's management and management of the Fund's adviser, including, but not limited to, their chief executive officer(s), chief financial officer(s), internal auditors and any other executives and financial officers.
- (f) The Committee shall report its activities to the Board, including any issues that arise with respect to the quality or integrity of the Fund's financial statements, the Fund's compliance with legal or regulatory requirements, or the qualifications, performance and independence of the Fund's auditors, and make such recommendations as the Committee may deem necessary or appropriate.
- (g) The Committee shall review and assess the adequacy of this Charter annually, or more frequently if it chooses, and recommend any changes to the Board. The Board shall adopt and approve this Charter and may amend it on its own motion.

(h) The Committee shall meet jointly with the Audit Committees of the other Funds within the Franklin Templeton Investments Fund complex as may be appropriate, including to attend presentations and review proposals and other matters of common concern to all such Audit Committees.

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(i) Pursuant to delegated authority from the Board, and at the request of the applicable investment manager of the Fund (the “Investment Manager”), the Committee, or an appointed delegate of the Committee as applicable, shall provide proxy voting instructions as a representative of the Fund to the Investment Manager in certain situations where the Investment Manager has identified a material conflict of interest between the Investment Manager or one of its affiliates and an issuer (*i.e.*, the Committee or its appointed delegate will approve or disapprove the Investment Manager’s voting recommendation).

(j) To the extent applicable to the Fund, the Committee shall comply with such other rules of the applicable national securities exchanges and the SEC applicable to exchange-listed funds, as such may be adopted and amended from time to time. (*Exchange-listed Funds only*)

*Amended as of October 4, 2017*

**EXCHANGE-LISTED FUNDS**

Funds listed on New York Stock Exchange LLC (“NYSE-listed Funds”)

Franklin Universal Trust

Templeton Dragon Fund, Inc.

Templeton Emerging Markets Fund

Templeton Emerging Markets Income Fund

Templeton Global Income Fund

Fund listed on NYSE American LLC (“NYSE American-listed Fund”)

Franklin Limited Duration Income Trust

Funds listed on NYSE Arca, Inc.

Franklin ETF Trust

Franklin Liberty Short Duration U.S. Government ETF

Franklin Templeton ETF Trust

Franklin FTSE Asia ex Japan ETF

Franklin FTSE Australia ETF

Franklin FTSE Brazil ETF

Franklin FTSE Canada ETF

Franklin FTSE China ETF

Franklin FTSE Europe ETF

Franklin FTSE Europe Hedged ETF

Franklin FTSE France ETF

Franklin FTSE Germany ETF

Franklin FTSE Hong Kong ETF

Franklin FTSE India ETF

Franklin FTSE Italy ETF

Franklin FTSE Japan ETF

Franklin FTSE Japan Hedged ETF

Franklin FTSE Mexico ETF

Franklin FTSE Russia ETF

Franklin FTSE South Korea ETF

Franklin FTSE Switzerland ETF

Franklin FTSE Taiwan ETF

Franklin FTSE United Kingdom ETF

Franklin Liberty Intermediate Municipal Opportunities ETF

Franklin Liberty International Opportunities ETF

Franklin Liberty Investment Grade Corporate ETF

Franklin Liberty Municipal Bond ETF

Franklin Liberty U.S. Low Volatility ETF

Franklin LibertyQ Emerging Markets ETF

Franklin LibertyQ Global Dividend ETF

Franklin LibertyQ Global Equity ETF

Franklin LibertyQ International Equity Hedged ETF

Funds listed on Bats BZX Exchange, Inc.

Franklin Templeton ETF Trust

Franklin LibertyQ U.S. Equity ETF

Franklin LibertyQ U.S. Mid Cap Equity ETF

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