

## **M&G BROADENS EMERGING MARKETS RANGE WITH TWO FUND LAUNCHES**

**London, 10 July 2017** – M&G Investments, one of the leading international asset managers, announces the launch of two new emerging markets funds focusing on hard currency debt and income opportunities respectively.

The **M&G (Lux) Emerging Markets Hard Currency Fund** will be managed by the same team behind the M&G Emerging Markets Bond Fund, a top quartile performer since fund manager tenure\*. Fund manager Claudia Calich and deputy fund manager Charles de Quinsonas will blend high-conviction macro calls with fundamental credit analysis to build a ‘best ideas’ portfolio from the fund’s investment universe. The fund will aim to provide a higher total return\*\* than that of the hard currency emerging markets bond market over any three-year period. At least 80% of the portfolio will be invested in emerging market bonds issued by governments or quasi-sovereigns agencies denominated in hard currency.

The **M&G (Lux) Emerging Markets Income Opportunities Fund** will aim to deliver income (4-6% p.a.) and long-term capital growth by investing in emerging market equities and corporate debt. Michael Bourke, member of the Emerging Markets Equity team, will be the fund manager and Charles de Quinsonas, member of the Retail Fixed Interest team, will be deputy fund manager. Emerging market corporate bonds and equities are complementary asset classes and combining them in a portfolio provides diversification benefits, as well as a considerable scope to select the optimal combination of income-generating assets at any particular time. The fund managers will follow a bottom-up approach; the equities held by the fund will all be dividend-paying stocks, with a focus on potential long-term total return. The corporate bonds will be selected through fundamental analysis, assessing corporates’ business and financial risk, and incorporating views on sovereign risk.

**Graham Mason, CIO for M&G equity, multi-asset and retail fixed interest comments:** “Emerging markets and developing economies account for 60% of the world’s GDP\*\*\*, presenting those investors who can navigate the higher uncertainty with better-yielding opportunities compared to developed markets. The funds we are launching leverage the proven track-record of our emerging markets equity and fixed income teams, who have over 100 years of combined investment experience.”

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\*Source: Morningstar, 30 June 2017 / GBP I Acc / Sector: IA Global Emerging Markets Bond Sector / Fund Manager Tenure: December 2013

\*\*The combination of income and capital growth

\*\*\*Source: IMF calculation based on PPP, Bloomberg, 31 March 2017

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**Notes to Editors**

**Claudia Calich**

Claudia joined M&G in October 2013 as a specialist in emerging markets debt and was appointed fund manager of the M&G Emerging Markets Bond Fund in December 2013. She was also appointed fund manager of the M&G Global Government Bond Fund and deputy manager of the M&G Global Macro Bond Fund in July 2015. Claudia has over 20 years of experience in emerging markets, most recently as a senior portfolio manager at Invesco in New York, with previous positions at Oppenheimer Funds, Fuji Bank, Standard & Poor's and Reuters.

**Michael Bourke**

Michael joined M&G in March 2015 as an analyst providing analytical support to the emerging markets team. He was appointed fund manager of the M&G Emerging Markets Income Opportunities Fund on its launch in May 2017. Michael has 18 years of investment experience. Prior to joining M&G, he spent 10 years working as an emerging markets equities analyst and portfolio manager for Legg Mason and FPP Asset Management. Before that, he worked at Deutsche Bank in a number of roles; firstly as an equity derivatives trader and latterly as a senior analyst/co-portfolio manager in their equity derivatives proprietary trading department. Michael graduated from University of Manchester with a BSC in computer science and accounting. He also has a MSC in International Banking and Finance from Heriot-Watt University.

**Charles De Quinsonas**

Charles was appointed deputy fund manager of the M&G Emerging Markets Bond Fund in September 2015, having joined the M&G Retail Fixed Interest team in May 2014 as a junior fund manager supporting the fund. Charles's focus is on emerging market corporates, helping to shape the fund's strategy and uncover additional opportunities on this ever-expanding universe. He has a solid background in corporate credit research and joined M&G from Spread Research (in Lyon, France, and New York) where he spent four years analysing a variety of high yield and emerging market industrial credits.

**About M&G**

M&G is an international active asset manager, investing on behalf of individuals and institutions for over 80 years. As of 31 March 2017 the firm managed £275 billion of assets through a wide range of investment strategies across equities, fixed income, real estate and multi asset.

Headquartered in London, M&G employs over 1,900 people worldwide operating from offices across Europe and Asia.

M&G's history is a story of investment firsts, from the UK's first mutual fund in 1931 to the M&G Global Floating Rate High Yield fund in 2014.

M&G is the investment arm of Prudential Plc in the UK and Europe.

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