



MARKETING COMMUNICATION

Candriam Launches Global Metaverse Fund

- Global equity fund will invest in companies operating anywhere in the world which have a clear link with the metaverse.
- Market opportunity expected to surpass USD \$5 trillion by 2025 as digital economy moves into the metaverse (source McKinsey).
- Fund will apply in-depth focus on potential controversies linked to the deployment of the metaverse, such as gambling, poor protection of users' data and privacy or highly energy intensive applications.

London, 24 October 2022: Candriam, a global multi-specialist asset manager, has launched the Candriam Equities L Meta Globe Fund¹ “the Meta Globe Fund”, which invests in companies that are involved in developing and enhancing the metaverse. The fund is the latest addition to Candriam’s expanding thematic equity platform, which has over \$9 billion of assets under management across 13 funds, focused on harnessing the growth potential of structural long-term megatrends including health, environment, technology and demographics. The Meta Globe Fund is classified as Article 8 under the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation.

Despite being in its infancy, Candriam believes the metaverse may offers investors a substantial and compelling long-term investment opportunity, with markets estimating the metaverse economy will surpass USD \$5 trillion². There are already signals for what the future may look like, with the virtual and augmented reality market estimated to reach \$73 billion by 2024³, and the market for NFTs and digital certificates of authenticity estimated to reach \$80 billion by 2025⁴.

The fund will be actively managed by a team with a combined 40 years of investment experience: Johan Van Der Biest, Deputy Head of Thematic Global Equity, Felix Demaeght, CFA, Fund Manager, and Nataniel Wejchert, Technology Equity Analyst, with oversight from Rudi Van den Eynde, Head of Thematic Global Equity, with 34 years of investment experience. In addition, the team will have the support of Candriam’s industry leading ESG team, which consists of 21 ESG analysts.

The Candriam Equities L Meta Globe Fund, which is a sub-fund of the SICAV Candriam Equities L, is domiciled in Luxembourg and registered for distribution in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Spain.

Johan Van Der Biest, Deputy Head of Thematic Global Equity at Candriam, said: “In a fast-growing digital world, there is increasing emphasis on making every digital interaction more immersive and attractive. The metaverse is one of the most exciting developments in the technology space. While still young, it’s already clear that its development will take the entire technology sector in tow. This will disrupt and possibly revolutionise the education, health, communications, and entertainment sectors. The potential and opportunities are huge, and we want to make it more accessible for our clients. Drawing on the success of our current thematic equities range, and specifically our robotics and innovative technology fund, we see our Meta Globe fund as a natural extension and next step in our offering.”

Ends

¹ The fund is managed actively and the investment approach implies a reference to a benchmark (MSCI ACWI (Net Return))

² [Value creation in the metaverse | McKinsey](#)

³ [Metaverse Investing: An Investment Opportunity | Morgan Stanley](#)

⁴ GrandViewResearch estimations as at 2021



About Candriam

Candriam stands for "Conviction **AND** Responsibility In Asset **M**anagement" and is a European multi-specialist asset manager. A pioneer and leader in sustainable investments since 1996, Candriam manages around EUR 143 billion of assets under management⁵ with a team of more than 600 professionals. It operates management offices in Luxembourg, Brussels, Paris, and London, and has client representatives in more than 20 countries throughout continental Europe, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Middle East. Candriam offers investment solutions⁶ in several key areas: bonds, equities, absolute performance strategies, and asset allocation, with a broad and innovative range of ESG strategies covering all its asset classes.

Candriam is a New York Life Investments Company⁷. New York Life Investments ranks among the world's largest asset managers⁸. For more information see: www.candriam.com

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Candriam consistently recommends investors to consult via our website www.candriam.com the key information document, prospectus, and all other relevant information prior to investing in one of our funds, including the net asset value ("NAV") of the funds. This information is available either in English or in local languages for each country where the fund's marketing is approved.

To fully understand the fund's risk profile, we advise investors to carefully review the official prospectus and the description of the underlying risks. The value of investment may decline due in particular to the fund's exposure to the risks linked to derivative financial instruments, emerging markets, liquidity and concentration, capital loss, equity risk, sustainability risk and ESG investment risk. The extra financial objectives presented in this document are based on the realisation of assumptions made by Candriam. Implementing Candriam's ESG rating models does require access to various quantitative as well as qualitative data, depending on the sector and the exact activities of a given company. For more information on the sustainability-related aspects of the fund, including sustainable finance disclosures, and the transparency codes, visit the page: <https://www.candriam.com/en/professional/market-insights/sfdr/>

⁵ As of 30 June 2022. Assets under management (AUM) includes assets which do not fall within the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's definition of 'regulatory AUM' in Form ADV, Part 1A.

⁶ Not all products and services are available to all investors or in all regions.

⁷ New York Life Investments is a service mark used by New York Life Investment Management Holdings LLC and its subsidiary New York Life Investment Management LLC. Both are wholly-owned indirect subsidiaries of New York Life Insurance Company.

⁸ Source: New York Life Investments ranked 27th among the world's largest money managers within Pensions & Investments, June 2022. Rankings are based on total worldwide institutional assets under management for the year-end 2021. New York Life Investments assets include assets of affiliated investment advisors