## SLGI ASSET MANAGEMENT INC.

## ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE

for the period ended December 31, 2024

Sun Life Acadian International Equity Fund





This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete financial statements of the investment fund. You can request a free copy of the annual financial statements by calling 1-877-344-1434, by sending an email to us at info@sunlifeglobalinvestments.com or by writing to us at SLGI Asset Management Inc., 1 York Street, Suite 3300, Toronto, Ontario, M5J OB6. The financial statements are available on our website at www.sunlifeglobalinvestments.com and on SEDAR at www.sedarplus.ca.

Securityholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the investment fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

SLGI Asset Management Inc. (the "Manager") is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Sun Life Financial Inc.

## MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE

## **Investment Objectives and Strategies**

The fundamental objectives of the Sun Life Acadian International Equity Fund (the "Fund") are to seek long term capital appreciation by investing primarily in equity securities of issuers located outside of Canada and the U.S. that are considered to be undervalued compared to their perceived worth, or by investing in securities of other investment funds (including mutual funds and exchange traded funds) that invest in such securities. The Fund seeks to reduce its carbon exposure in a manner that is consistent with achieving global net zero greenhouse gas emissions and carbon emissions by 2050.

The Fund's sub-advisor is Acadian Asset Management LLC (the "Sub-Advisor"). In pursuing the Fund's investment objectives, the Sub-Advisor utilizes a bottom-up approach to selecting investments primarily based on quantitative models. Investments are evaluated based on value compared to perceived worth, quality, and momentum characteristics. The Fund may also consider top-down macro analysis of market, economic, political, and regulatory conditions.

The Fund seeks to reduce the Fund's 2030 carbon exposure relative to the Fund's baseline levels by at least 50%, and achieve further reductions in a manner that is consistent with achieving global net zero greenhouse gas emissions and carbon emissions by 2050, by investing in issuers that have lower carbon intensity than their peers, or are expected to reduce carbon intensity over time.

#### Risk

There were no changes in the Fund's investment objectives or strategies during the period which materially impacted the overall level of risk in the Fund. The risks associated with investing in the Fund remain as outlined in the Fund's Simplified Prospectus.

As at December 31, 2024, the majority of the Fund's investments are considered readily realizable and highly liquid; therefore, the Fund's liquidity risk is considered minimal.

## **Results of Operations**

During the period, the net asset value of the Fund increased from \$747.9 million to \$1.1 billion due to positive net sales, as well as positive performance.

During the period, the Fund returned 26.2% for Series I securities, this result surpassed the Fund's benchmark, MSCI AC World ex USA Value Index C\$, which returned 15.7%. The broad-based index, MSCI AC World Index C\$, returned 28.1%. We have included the returns of the broad-based index to help you understand how the Fund performed compared to the general market. Please refer to the 'Past Performance' section of this report for performance of each series of securities of the Fund.

The Fund lagged the broad-based index during the period due to lower exposure to U.S. equity securities. U.S. equity securities outperformed other equity markets during the period.

During the reporting period, global stock markets recorded robust returns in the backdrop of macro-economic fragility, an escalation of geopolitical tensions and uncertainty with major elections in many parts of the world. Global stock markets have been supported by major global central banks pivoting to cutting interest rates amid signs of slower economic growth and easing inflation. The U.S. economy has been the primary driver of global stock market performance propelled by well-received and broadening corporate earnings growth and the ongoing enthusiasm around generative Artificial Intelligence (AI). Japan was also one of the better-performing markets over the period with Japanese equity markets surged to multi-decade highs. Corporate governance reforms and a weak yen attracted foreign investment while accommodative monetary policy from the Bank of Japan provided liquidity support. In this environment, Growth stocks outperformed Value stocks. Against this backdrop, returns were concentrated in larger companies, specifically those in the Information Technology sector, driven by optimism in AI-related innovation.

An allocation to Pop Mart International Group Ltd. from China contributed to performance. The stock price went up during the period due to strong domestic product demand leading to higher revenues and net income. An allocation to Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. GDR from South Korea contributed to performance. The company saw growth in sales across various segments during the period. The company benefitted from strong growth in hardware products related to AI infrastructure. An allocation to Spotify Technology SA from Sweden contributed to performance. The music streaming company saw growth in revenue due to increase in monthly active users during the year.

An allocation to Ultrapar Participacoes SA ADR from Brazil detracted from performance. The oil and gas refining and marketing company reported lower net profits for the period. An allocation to PTT Exploration & Production PCL from Thailand detracted from performance. The company reported lower sales volume and net profit. The company also reported loss due to currency impact. An allocation to Logitech International SA from Switzerland detracted from performance. The computer peripherals company saw lower revenue growth during the period. The demand for computer peripherals like mice, keyboard and webcam had gone up during the pandemic, as more users worked from home.

#### ESG Impact

The Fund follows an active investment approach which takes into consideration Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") factors. The Fund invests in equity securities seeking to reduce the carbon exposure in a manner that is consistent with achieving global net zero greenhouse gas emissions and carbon emissions by 2050. The Fund incorporates a customised carbon glidepath to ensure that it meets the specified carbon reduction target. The Fund glidepath uses the benchmark Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (WACI) as at 2020 year-end as the baseline value. During the period, the Fund has achieved the target WACI glidepath by consistently remaining below the maximum target level. The Fund started the year with the portfolio-level carbon intensity of about 80% of the maximum threshold allowable by the glidepath and at year-end, the portfolio carbon intensity stood at 46% of the maximum level allowed by the glidepath.

The Fund continued to apply its strategy of ESG research. Within the period, the Fund exited the position in Dharma Satya Nusantara Tbk PT, an Indonesian Consumer Staples firm engaged in the manufacturing of processed wood products, palm plantation, palm oil products, etc. The company had a below-average ESG-related investment score, particularly on the various measures of Quality related to management behavior, including those that are related to the climate goals for the portfolio. The Fund initiated a new position in JS Global Lifestyle Co Ltd, a Hong Kong Consumer Discretionary company primarily engaged in the design and manufacture of electrical appliances. The company scores well on ESG signals, especially those in the management behavior composite, including gender equality. Overall, the net impact resulted in a decrease in the portfolio's weighted average carbon intensity.

## **Recent Developments**

Global tensions and conflicts within some geographic regions have continued to impact global markets and economies. In addition, there continue to be tensions between larger nations over a number of issues, including trade, technology, human rights, and sovereignty. These issues have, in some cases, resulted in government sanctions and trade restrictions. These global tensions and regional conflicts, documented in the media, create a more challenging operating environment. The longer-term impact to geopolitical norms, supply chains and investment valuations is uncertain. The Manager continues to watch for developments and assess the impact to investment strategies.

## **Related Party Transactions**

SLGI Asset Management Inc. is the manager, trustee and portfolio manager of the Fund. For its services, the Manager receives a management fee that is calculated as a percentage of the average net asset value of the Fund. This fee is calculated daily and payable monthly.

The Manager is responsible for the provision of all general management and administrative services required by the Fund in its day-to-day operations, including providing or arranging for the provision of investment advice, bookkeeping, recordkeeping and other administrative services for the Fund.

As trustee, the Manager holds legal title to the Fund's investments in trust for securityholders.

As portfolio manager, the Manager is responsible for managing the investment portfolio of the Fund directly or through sub-advisors. The Manager has retained Acadian Asset Management LLC to act as a sub-advisor for the Fund.

The Fund may have direct or indirect holdings in Sun Life Financial Inc. or its affiliates or other funds managed by the Manager or its affiliates. Funds managed by the Manager, or its affiliates, may invest in securities of the Fund.

The Manager has a distribution agreement with Sun Life Financial Investment Services (Canada) Inc. (the "Dealer"), a company under common control, under which the Dealer may distribute securities of the funds offered by the Manager in the jurisdictions in which the Dealer is so authorized.

## **Fund Administrative Expenses**

The Manager pays certain operating expenses of the Fund (the "Administration Expenses") in return for a fixed administration fee paid to the Manager by the Fund ("Administration Fee"). The Administration Fee is based on the net asset value of each series of securities of the Fund. The Administration Expenses include, but are not limited to, record keeper fees, accounting, audit and legal fees, bank and interest charges, safekeeping and custodial fees, taxes, administrative and systems costs, costs of reports to investors, prospectuses and other disclosure documents, regulatory filing fees (including any regulatory fees and expenses payable by the Manager) and trustee fees for registered plans. The amount of this charge is disclosed as Fixed annual administration fees in the Fund's Statements of Comprehensive Income found in the annual financial statements.

The Fund also pays certain operating expenses directly (the "Fund Costs"). Fund Costs include: borrowing costs incurred by the Fund from time to time; costs in connection with portfolio transactions; fees and expenses payable to or in connection with the Independent Review Committee ("IRC"); taxes payable by the Fund; contingent fees for foreign tax reclaim filings; and the costs of complying with any new regulatory or legal requirement imposed on the Fund. The Fund allocates Fund Costs proportionately among each series of securities of the Fund to which they apply. The Fund Costs that are specific to a series of securities are allocated to that series. These amounts are paid out of the assets attributed to each series of securities of the Fund, which reduces the return you may receive. Fees and expenses payable to or in connection with the IRC are allocated to the fund and series to which they apply in a manner that, in the Manager's view, is considered fair and reasonable. For the purpose of allocating IRC costs across the Funds, the Manager distinguishes between two categories of Funds: Funds that are structured as fund of funds and Funds that hold direct investments. The Manager has determined that, based on the complexity of the issues to be reviewed by the IRC for the Funds in each category, it is appropriate for the Funds that are structured as fund of funds to be allocated a lesser proportion of IRC costs than Funds that hold direct investments. The Manager first attributes IRC costs to each such category of Funds, and then allocates such costs equally between the Funds in each category. The amounts of these charges are disclosed in the line item "Independent review committee fees" in the Fund's Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

## **Financial Highlights**

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the previous five years or for the period(s) since inception to December 31, 2024.

## The Fund's Net Asset Value per Security (\$)<sup>(1)</sup>

#### Sun Life Acadian International Equity Fund - Series I

	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
Net asset value, beginning of period	10.41	10.00
Increase (decrease) from operations:		
Total revenue	0.57	0.13
Total expenses	(0.09)	(0.03)
Realized gains (losses) for the period	1.04	(0.21)
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	1.22	0.64
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(2)</sup>	2.74	0.53
Distributions:		
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-
From dividends	(0.46)	(0.10)
From capital gains	(0.83)	-
Return of capital	-	-
Total annual distributions <sup>(3)</sup>	(1.29)	(0.10)
Net asset value, end of period	11.86	10.41

(1) This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

(2) Net Assets and distributions are based on the actual number of securities outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of securities outstanding over the financial period.

(3) Distributions were paid in cash, reinvested in additional securities of the Fund, or both.

## Ratios and Supplemental Data

#### Sun Life Acadian International Equity Fund - Series I

	2024	2023
Total net asset value (\$000s) <sup>(1)</sup>	1,050,045	747,922
Number of securities outstanding (000s) <sup>(1)</sup>	88,560	71,817
Management expense ratio (%)	0.06	0.06
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorption (%) <sup>(2)</sup>	0.06	0.06
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(3)</sup>	0.12	0.27
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(4)</sup>	102.38	44.18
Net asset value per security (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	11.86	10.41

<sup>(1)</sup> This information is provided as at December 31 of the period shown, as applicable.

(2) Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding broker commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) including the Fund's allocated percentage of Fund-on-Funds' expenses for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average Net Asset Value during the period.

- (3) The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average Net Asset Value during the period.
- (4) The Fund's portfolio turnover ratio indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio manager manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover ratio of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a Fund's portfolio turnover ratio in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the Fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high portfolio turnover rate and the performance of the Fund.

## Management Fees

The maximum annual management fee paid by the Fund is a percentage of the average daily net asset value of each series of securities of the Fund exclusive of any applicable taxes and operating expenses, which is accrued daily and is paid to the Manager monthly in arrears. Management fees pay for portfolio and investment advisory services, oversight of any service providers, marketing and promotional activities, arranging for the distribution and sale of securities of the Fund, general administration of Fund operations and sales and trailing commissions paid to dealers.

Series I management fees are not paid by the Fund. Series I investors negotiate management fees and pay directly to the Manager.

## Past Performance

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional securities of the Fund. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution, other optional charges or income tax payable by any securityholder that would have reduced returns or performance. How the Fund has performed in the past does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

#### Year-by-Year Returns

The following bar chart shows the Fund's annual performance for the period shown. The chart shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial year.

## Series I Securities – Annual return for the period ended December 31, 2024



 $^{(\ast)}$  for the period of July 12, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

#### Annual Compound Returns

The table compares the historical annual compound total returns of Series I securities of the Fund with the following benchmark and broad-based index, if applicable:

The benchmark (the "Benchmark") is composed of: MSCI AC World ex USA Value Index C\$

The Series I units outperformed the benchmark since inception, and over the past year.

The following are the broad-based index or indices: Broad-based index - MSCI AC World Index C\$

A discussion of the Fund's performance compared to its benchmark and broad-based index or indices, if applicable, can be found in the Results of Operations section.

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Performance Start Date <sup>(1)</sup>
Series I	26.2%	-	-	-	21.1%
Benchmark	15.7%	-	-	-	16.1%
Broad-based index	28.1%	-	-	-	23.8%

<sup>(1)</sup> The performance start date for Series I securities was July 12, 2023.

#### **INDEX DESCRIPTION(S)**

The MSCI AC World ex USA Value Index C\$ is a market capitalization weighted index that is designed to provide a measure of the performance of large and mid cap value segments throughout the world, with the exception of U.S.-based companies. The MSCI AC World ex USA Value Index includes both developed and emerging markets.

The MSCI AC World Index C\$ is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure equity market performance in global developed and emerging markets.

#### Summary of Investment Portfolio<sup>\*</sup>

as at December 31, 2024

#### **Top 25 Investments**

Holdi	ng Name	centage of Net et Value of the Fund (%)
	Roche Holding AG	3.8
	Infosys Ltd., ADR	2.5
	Euronext NV	2.4
4	China Construction Bank Corp.	2.2
5	Postal Savings Bank of China Co., Ltd.	2.0
	Logitech International SA	2.0
7	Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson, ADR	1.8
8	Wolters Kluwer NV	1.7
9	Recruit Holdings Co., Ltd.	1.6
10	ABB Ltd.	1.5
11	CaixaBank SA	1.5
12	BAWAG Group AG	1.5
13	Spotify Technology SA	1.4
14	ASE Technology Holding Co., Ltd., ADR	1.3
15	Barclays PLC, ADR	1.3
16	iA Financial Corp., Inc.	1.3
17	SK Telecom Co., Ltd., ADR	1.2
18	Agricultural Bank of China Ltd.	1.2
19	Yangzijiang Shipbuilding Holdings Ltd.	1.1
20	Aristocrat Leisure Ltd.	1.1
21	NatWest Group PLC	1.1
22	KT Corp., ADR	1.0
23	Cash and Cash Equivalents	1.0
24	Singapore Exchange Ltd.	0.9
25	NN Group NV	0.9
		39.3
Total	Net Asset Value (000s)	\$ 1,050,045

#### Sector Allocation

	Percentage of Net Asset Value of the Fund (%)
Financials	33.8
Information Technology	14.9
Industrials	14.5
Communication Services	8.9
Health Care	6.4
Energy	6.1
Consumer Discretionary	6.0
Materials	3.4
Consumer Staples	2.3
Utilities	2.1
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1.0
Real Estate	0.5
Other Assets less Liabilities	0.1
	100.0

### **Geographic Allocation**

	Percentage of Net Asset Value of the Fund (%)
Other	49.8
Japan	10.5
Switzerland	10.1
Canada	6.4
Netherlands	5.8
Cayman Islands	5.6
China	5.5
United Kingdom	5.2
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1.0
Other Assets less Liabilities	0.1
	100.0

(\*) All information is as at December 31, 2024. The summary of investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund. Unless otherwise noted positions are long. You may obtain quarterly updates to these holdings free of charge by calling us at 1-877-344-1434, visiting our website at www.sunlifeglobalinvestments.com or by sending an email to us at info@sunlifeglobalinvestments.com.

## Forward-Looking Statements

This management report of fund performance may contain forward-looking statements about the Fund, including its strategies, results of operations, performance and condition. Forward-looking statements include statements that are predictive in nature, or that depend upon or refer to future events or conditions. They are based on current beliefs, expectations and projections about future events and are inherently subject to, among other things, risks, uncertainties and assumptions about the Fund and various economic factors. Many factors could cause the Fund's actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements that may be expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These factors could include, among other things, general economic, political and market factors, including interest and foreign exchange rates, business competition, technological changes, changes in government regulations or in tax laws and pandemics. Although the forward-looking statements contained in this report are based upon what management currently believes to be reasonable assumptions, the Manager cannot assure current or prospective investors that actual results, performance or achievements will be consistent with these forward-looking statements. The words "may", "could", "would", "should", "believe", "plan", "anticipate", "expect", "intend", "forecast", "objective", and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. The Manager does not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this document or to reflect new information or the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as required by law.

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Financial Trust Inc. SLGI Asset Management Inc. is the investment manager of the Sun Life Mutual Funds, Sun Life Granite Managed Solutions and Sun Life Private Investment Pools.