

## PESO GLOBAL EQUITY FUND

As of September 30, 2023 Key Information and Investment Disclosure

**FUND INFORMATION** 

Launch Date **Bloomberg Ticker** 

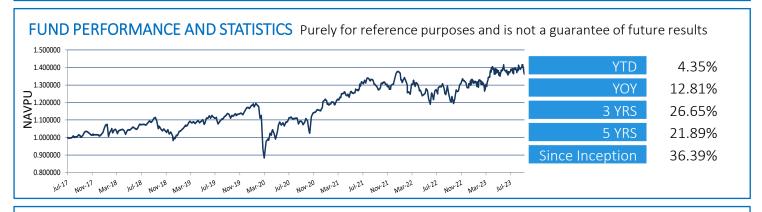
July 18, 2017 **ILPGEQF PM Equity**  Net Asset Value per Unit (NAVPU)

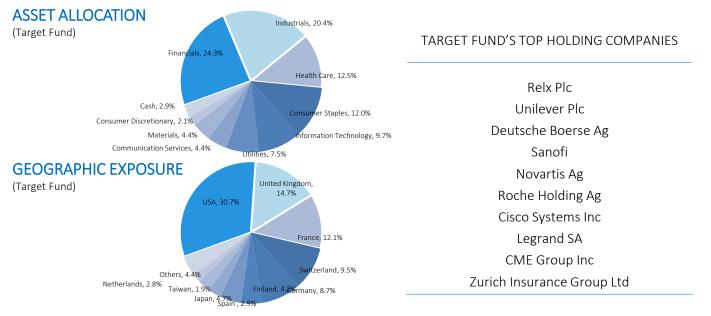
PHP 1.363947

Total Fund NAV (Mn) PHP 1,277.00

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGY The Peso Global Equity Fund seeks to achieve long-term growth and capital appreciation by investing majority of its assets in a Fund with principal exposure in income producing equity securities in markets throughout the world.

RISK PROFILE As an asset class, Equity investments have the highest risk profile in the universe of funds of InLife and is for investors with an aggressive risk tolerance. This is for investors who are already invested in the Philippine market and seeks diversification by having an exposure in global equity markets while investing with Philippine Pesos.





MARKET REVIEW After recording strong gains in the first half of 2023, global equities posted negative returns in the third quarter. At the start of the quarter, investors were optimistic on the prospects of a soft landing for the economy and signs that major developed markets are nearing the end of their current monetary policy tightening cycle. However, optimism faded in August and September, as prospects of a sustained period of higher interest rates sank in. At a regional level, US equities declined as the US Federal Reserve (Fed) signaled that it may keep interest rates near current levels through 2024, until inflation comes down firmly towards its 2.0% target. Shares in the eurozone fell amid worries over the negative effects of interest rate rises on economic growth. The European Central Bank (ECB) raised interest rates by 0.25 percentage points at its September meeting. UK equities rose, as the Bank of England kept its policy interest rates unchanged for the first time in September after 14 consecutive rate hikes, following a surprise slowdown in UK inflation. Japanese



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equities remained resilient over the quarter, as the weak yen remained a tailwind. Emerging market equities ended in negative territory, as renewed concerns over the real estate sector in China weighed on investor sentiment, despite new stimulus measures aimed at stabilizing housing activity. At a sector level, energy was the standout outperformer as oil prices rallied due to persistent supply concerns following the announcement of extended production cuts by Saudi Arabia and Russia until the end of the year. Conversely, utilities and real estate were the notable laggards. From a style perspective, value stocks proved relatively resilient compared to growth stocks.

**FUND PERFORMANCE** During the period, the Target Fund returned -3.1%, while the MSCI AC World Index delivered -3.4%. The Target Fund was able to limit its drawdown in a falling market due to its continued defensive bias and valuation discipline. Strong security selection in materials and the bias towards the insurance sector contributed the most to performance. Not holding Apple enhanced relative gains The Target Fund benefited from the lack of exposure to Apple, as rate-sensitive high growth technology stocks came under pressure on prospects that interest rates would remain higher for longer. The Target Fund Manager continues to avoid the stock on valuation grounds. Strong contribution from insurance holdings Munich Re, Progressive Corp and Admiral Group contributed to performance. The former reported strong results on an underlying basis due to a better combined ratio in property & casualty and higher recurring investment income at the group level. Progressive rose following the release of a strong set of headline results for July, suggesting that pricing and cost actions are beginning to take effect and restoring underlying margins. Admiral gained on robust top-line growth across segments in the first half of the year. Its earnings and dividends fell slightly short of market expectations, but management noted an improved outlook for underwriting results. Omnicom was the key detractor Within communication services, Omnicom gave back some of its year-to-date gains as it delivered lower-than-expected revenue growth in the second quarter for the first time in three years. Nevertheless, the longer-term thesis remains intact.

**FUND POSITONING** The portfolio remains defensively positioned. The Target Fund Manager maintains a strong quality bias and own predominantly defensive business models with robust balance sheets at attractive valuations. Regional and sector weightings are an outcome of the strategy's unconstrained, bottom up-process. They remain well diversified on both counts. They monitor geographical risk from the country of domicile, but more usefully, by underlying revenues. They have key holdings in the consumer staples, non-life insurance, financial exchanges, pharmaceuticals and other sectors with limited correlation to economic growth. In the more cyclical parts of the market, the Target Fund holds a number of mature businesses in the technology space (particularly in the semiconductor and hardware industries) that meet its investment criteria. They also have positions in high quality industrials businesses. The Target Fund currently has limited allocation to commodity stocks, given their exposure to underlying commodity prices – a factor that is outside of their control – and minimal holdings in the consumer discretionary sector.