



# ESG Engagement Report

Second quarter 2019

## Nordea 1 – Nordic Stars Equity Fund

The aim of this document is to describe some of the activities that the Responsible Investment (RI) team has done over the last quarter for this specific fund. This tool, therefore, is not meant to be fully comprehensive, but to allow investors to follow-up on the fund's relevant ESG-related issues (Environmental, Social and Governance) and the main activities that the RI team has been involved in.

### Introduction to the STARS concept

Nordea's STARS funds proactively select high-quality ESG companies with the objective to identify tomorrow's winners, which, we believe, will have sustainable business models and the ability to conduct their businesses responsibly in relation to their stakeholders – employees, suppliers, customers, investors and society at large. Nordea's RI team works together with the fund's financial analysts and portfolio managers in order to deliver a solution that is able to:

- **Outperform the benchmark:** creating added value by enhanced long-term returns.<sup>1</sup>
- **Meet Nordea's ESG standards:** analysing each individual stock to ensure that the fund invests only in companies that respect certain ESG criteria. The idea is to invest in leading companies (rated A<sup>2</sup>) or companies with a sufficient rising ESG profile (e.g. rated B+<sup>2</sup> in the case of the Nordea 1 – Nordic Stars Equity Fund), thus avoiding the laggards (lower rated companies).
- **Active ownership:** proactively engaging companies and encouraging them to improve their management systems, their ESG performance or their reporting, as well as exercising formal rights in the voting resolutions.

### Engagement is key for active ownership

Being part of Nordea's responsible investment policy, the fund excludes companies involved in the production of nuclear weapons and cluster munitions as well as companies

with large exposure to coal mining (>30% revenues). However, excluding a company from our portfolios is always a last resort: the **STARS concept aims for positive selection** with the objective to influence companies to improve their ESG profiles. **Engagement therefore takes a new dimension with the STARS.** It does not only consist of the traditional forms of engagement, like the exercise of voting rights or entering into a dialogue to encourage companies to improve their management systems, their ESG performance or their reporting. When assessing a company's ESG risk profile we also focus on specific themes utilising UN Sustainable Development Goals. Thus, we distinguish two types of engagement:

- **Risk Engagement:** if a company is not managing its material ESG risks well, the RI team engages with the company on the issue. The ESG risks can be company specific or stem from the country in which the company operates or its industry. Violations of international norms and conventions are also addressed under Risk Engagement.
- **SDG Engagement:** conducted with a specific focus on companies' exposure to certain themes, which might represent a significant material risk for the company. **Nordea believes that companies that align their strategies with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be successful** in the long-term, because they are adjusting to global society's future needs.

The **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** cover a broad range of social and economic development issues as part of the 2030 Agenda. In this edition of the quarterly report we have highlighted 3 UN goals; those goals have been the focus of the engagement activities described in the coming pages.



These are the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) our ESG analysts focused on – during the period covered – when engaging with the companies. The complete list of SDGs can be seen on page 3.

1) There can be no guarantee that this strategy and process will produce the intended results and no guarantee that the strategy will achieve its investment objective. The value of your investment can go up and down, and you could lose some or all of your invested money. 2) ESG rating scale

## Top ESG activities over the quarter

Holding	Current Rating	Proxy Voting <sup>3</sup>	SDG Engagement	Risk Engagement	Activity
Millicom	A	✓	16	Freedom of expression and privacy	Meeting
Rejlers	B+	✓	5 8	Human capital	Meeting
Vaisala	A	✓	16	Anti-corruption	Meeting

<sup>3</sup> Proxy voting refers to the last 12 month-period. Generally we vote in annual reports and most of the Annual General Meetings (AGM) which occurs once a year. If there is no vote, it is generally because the fund was not invested at the time when the AGM happened. Please find out more on [nordea.com/sustainability](https://nordea.com/sustainability) or access directly the [voting portal](#).

ESG rating distribution (from best to worst) applicable to this fund:



Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) utilised in this report:



## Rating changes

There were no rating changes during the quarter.

## Main highlights of the ESG activities over the quarter

The following activities have been selected to share with investors some of the highlights of the period. Please note that when engaging with companies, the processes might last for multiple quarters, as such we might not necessarily report on the final decisions.

### Rejlers

Rejlers is a Swedish holding company engaged in the provision of engineering consultancy services in the fields of electrical engineering, energy, mechanical engineering, automation, electronics, IT and telecommunications. Customers exist in the following markets: industry, infrastructure, energy, and construction and property.

We discussed with Rejlers on what they should prioritize in their sustainability ambitions. We have highlighted that the average age of consultants is high. Since they have been planning to move further into digitalization solutions they will need to be better in attracting and retaining young talent and at the same time improve gender diversity. Rejlers has done some progress already and has been more active in reaching out to recent graduates and using employee branding ambassadors. In addition, the company has introduced a position of Head of Learning who will also work with learning culture, mentorship programs and internal communication. They measure employee satisfaction and conduct exit interviews.

### Millicom

Millicom is an international telecommunications and media company which is engaged in providing digital lifestyle services to more than 51 million customers primarily under the Tigo brand in eleven markets in Africa and Latin America.

In April, a Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet published an article criticizing Millicom's blocking access to social media in Chad upon governmental requests. After the call with the company we concluded that the article did not take into consideration the broader context both of Chad as a country with high security threats (such as Boko Haram) and Millicom's processes to manage governmental requests. Chad is a challenging market but even there Millicom managed to live up to their standards and pushed back government requests where possible. They have been fully engaged with the UN special rapporteur on freedom of expression. In addition, Chad has been used as a best practice example in the GNI Assessment on Freedom of Expression and Privacy practices which Millicom has successfully completed. Millicom has advanced guidelines, escalation and approval processes as well as transparency on how they deal with government requests.

In terms of process there are three different managers within legal, regulatory affairs, ethics & compliance which always have to approve requests before the country management can implement them. The board and the CEO have been aware and involved in decisions on shutdowns.

### Vaisala Oyj

Vaisala Oyj is a Finnish company engaged in the development, manufacture and marketing of observation and measurement products and services for meteorology, weather critical operations and controlled environments. The major customer groups and markets are national meteorological and hydrological services, aviation authorities, defense forces, road authorities, the weather critical energy sector, life science and high-technology industries and building automation.

From a sustainability point of view, Vaisala's strongest contribution comes from its products which improve the decision-making process, leading to better resource efficiency, people safety and product quality. We see considerable growth potential for their offerings due to superior quality and uniqueness as well as megatrends such as climate change, circular economy, energy efficiency and people well-being & health.

However, the largest ESG risk remains business ethics due to their high exposure to public sector and we expect the company to not use corruption to enter new markets or increase sales. Vaisala did not experience any such incidents in

the past and has appropriate systems to manage the risk. We requested more transparency on anti-corruption risks and risk management efforts.

## Complete list of SDGs:



Source: [un.org/development/desa/en/news/sustainable/sustainable-development-goals.html](https://un.org/development/desa/en/news/sustainable/sustainable-development-goals.html)

The sub-funds mentioned are part of Nordea 1, SICAV, an open-ended Luxembourg-based investment company (Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable), validly formed and existing in accordance with the laws of Luxembourg and with European Council Directive 2009/65/EC of 13 July 2009. **This document is advertising material** and does not disclose all relevant information concerning the presented sub-funds. Any investment decision in the sub-funds should be made on the basis of the current prospectus and the Key Investor Information Document (KIID), which are available, along with the current annual and semi-annual reports, electronically in English and in the local language of the market where the mentioned SICAV is authorised for distribution, without charge upon request from Nordea Investment Funds S.A., 562, rue de Neudorf, P.O. Box 782, L-2017 Luxembourg, from the local representatives or information agents, or from our distributors. Investments in derivative and foreign exchange transactions may be subject to significant fluctuations which may affect the value of an investment. **Investments in Emerging Markets involve a higher element of risk. The value of shares can greatly fluctuate as a result of the sub-fund's investment policy and cannot be ensured. Investments in equity and debt instruments issued by banks could bear the risk of being subject to the bail-in mechanism (meaning that equity and debt instruments could be written down in order to ensure that most unsecured creditors of an institution bear appropriate losses) as foreseen in EU Directive 2014/59/EU. For further details of investment risks associated with these sub-funds, please refer to the relevant Key Investor Information Document (KIID), available as described above.** Nordea Investment Funds S.A. has decided to bear the cost for research, i.e. such cost is covered by existing fee arrangements (Management-/Administration-Fee). Nordea Investment Funds S.A. only publishes product-related information and does not make any investment recommendations. Published by Nordea Investment Funds S.A., 562, rue de Neudorf, P.O. Box 782, L-2017 Luxembourg, which is authorized by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier in Luxembourg. Further information can be obtained from your financial advisor. He/she can advise you independently of Nordea Investment Funds S.A. **Please note that all sub funds and share classes might not be available in your country of jurisdiction. Additional information for investors in Switzerland:** The Swiss Representative and Paying Agent is BNP Paribas Securities Services, Paris, succursale de Zurich, Seinaustrasse 16, CH-8002 Zurich, Switzerland. **Additional information for investors in Germany:** The Information Agent in Germany is Société Générale S.A. Frankfurt Branch, Neue Mainzer Straße 46-50, D-60311 Frankfurt am Main, Germany. A hard copy of the above-mentioned fund documentation is also available from here. **Additional information for investors in Austria:** The Information and Paying Agent in Austria is Erste Bank der österreichischen Sparkassen AG, Am Belvedere 1, A-1100 Vienna, Austria. **Additional information for investors in the Netherlands:** Nordea 1, SICAV is a Luxembourg Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS) registered in the Netherlands in the register kept by the AFM, and as such is allowed to offer its shares in the Netherlands. The AFM register can be consulted via [www.afm.nl/register](http://www.afm.nl/register). **Additional information for investors in France:** With the authorisation of the AMF the shares of the sub-funds of Nordea 1, SICAV may be distributed in France. Centralising Correspondent in France is CACEIS Bank, located at 1-3, place Valhubert, FR-75206 Paris cedex, France. **Investors are advised to conduct thorough research before making any investment decision. Additional information for investors in Belgium:** The Financial Service Agent in Belgium is BNP Paribas Securities Services S.C.A., Brussels Branch, Rue de Loxum 25, BE-1000-Brussels, Belgium. A hard copy of the above-mentioned fund documentation is available upon demand free of charge. **Additional information for investors in Spain:** Nordea 1, SICAV is duly registered in the CNMV official registry of foreign collective investment institutions (entry no. 340) as authorised to be marketed to the public in Spain. The Depositary of the SICAV's assets is, J.P. Morgan Bank Luxembourg S.A. In Spain, any investment must be made through the authorised distributors and on the basis of the information contained in the mandatory documentation that must be received from the SICAV's authorised distributor prior to any subscription. The Representative Agent is Allfunds Bank S.A.U., C/ de los Padres Dominicos, 7, ES- 28050 Madrid, Spain. A complete list of the authorised distributors is available in the CNMV's webpage ([www.cnmv.es](http://www.cnmv.es)). **Additional information for investors in Portugal:** The Management Company of the SICAV, Nordea Investment Funds, S.A., and the Depositary of the SICAV's assets, J.P. Morgan Bank Luxembourg S.A., are validly formed and existing in accordance with the laws of Portugal and registered with the CMVM as a financial intermediary. **Additional information for investors in Italy:** Fund documentation as listed above is also available in Italy from the distributors and on the website [www.nordea.it](http://www.nordea.it). The updated list of distribution agents in Italy, grouped by homogenous category, is available from the distributors themselves or from the Paying Agents: State Street Bank International GmbH – Succursale Italia, branches (located in the main towns of each region), BNP Paribas Securities Services – Succursale di Milano, Banca Sella Holding S.p.A., Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena S.p.A., Allfunds Bank S.A.U., Succursale di Milano, Società Générale Securities Services S.p.A., CACEIS Bank S.A. – Succursale Italia and on the website [www.nordea.it](http://www.nordea.it). Any requests for additional information should be sent to the distributors. **Before investing, please read the prospectus and the KIID carefully.** We recommend that you read the most recent annual financial statement in order to be better informed about the fund's investment policy. **The prospectus and KIID for the sub-funds have been published with Consob. Additional information for investors in the United Kingdom:** The Facilities Agent is Financial Express Limited 3rd Floor, Hollywood House Church Street East Woking, Surrey GU21 6HJ, United Kingdom. **Additional information for investors in Ireland:** The Facilities Agent is Maples Fund Services (Ireland) Limited, a company incorporated in Ireland whose registered office is 5th Floor, 75 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 (the "Representative"). **Additional information for investors in Sweden:** The Paying Agent is Nordea Bank Abp, filial i Sverige, Smålandsgratan 17, SE-105 71 Stockholm, Sweden. The Representative Agent is Nordea Bank Abp, filial i Danmark, Måster Samuelsgatan 21, M5-41 SE-105 71 Stockholm, Sweden. **Additional information for investors in Denmark:** The Representative Agent and Sub-Paying Agent is Nordea Danmark, filial af Nordea Bank Abp, filial i Norge, Grønlandsvej 10, DK-2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark. A hard copy of the above-mentioned fund documentation is available here. **Additional information for investors in Norway:** The Paying Agent is Nordea Bank Abp, filial i Norge, Essendrogs gate 7, Postboks 1166 Sentrum, NO-0107 Oslo, Norway. The Representative Agent is Nordea Funds Ltd., Norwegian Branch, Essendrogs gate 7, Postboks 1166 Sentrum, Keskuskatu 3a, FI-00020, Helsinki, Finland. **Additional information for investors in Finland:** The Paying Agent is Nordea Bank Abp, Satamaradankatu 5, FI-00020, Helsinki, Finland. The Representative Agent is Nordea Funds Ltd, Centralgratan/Keskuskatu 3a, FI-00020, Helsinki, Finland. **Additional information for investors in Latvia:** The Representative Agent is Luminor Bank AS, Skanstes iela 12, Riga, LV-1013. **Additional information for investors in Estonia:** The Representative Agent in Estonia is Luminor Bank AS, Liivalaia 45, 10145 Tallinn. **Additional information for investors in Lithuania:** The Representative Agent is Luminor Bank AB, Konstitucijos pr. 21A, 03601 Vilnius. Shareholders must evaluate possible investment risks and take this into consideration when making investment decisions. **Information for investors in Brazil:** This is a strictly privileged and confidential document for the purposes of a potential investment in foreign securities on a one-on-one basis with potential investors with a pre-existing relationship with Nordea Investment Funds S.A. This document contains information addressed only to a specific individual and is not intended for distribution to, or use by, any other person. This document (i) is provided for informational purposes only, (ii) should not be construed in any manner as any solicitation or offer to buy or sell any securities or any related financial instruments, (iii) should not be construed in any manner as a public offer of any securities or any related financial instruments, and (iv) will be addressed to a potential investor with restrict access of information. Nordea 1, SICAV have not been, and will not be, registered with the Brazilian Securities Commission (Comissão de Valores Mobiliários - CVM) and must not be offered or sold in Brazil except in circumstances which do not constitute a public offering or distribution under Brazilian laws and regulations. Any public offering, placement or distribution, as defined under Brazilian laws and regulations, of securities in Brazil, is not legal without prior registration under Law No. 6,385 of December 7, 1976, as amended. Documents relating to the offering of the Nordea 1, SICAV, as well as information contained therein, must not be supplied to the general public in Brazil (as the offering of the Nordea 1, SICAV is not a public offering of securities in Brazil) or used in connection with any offer for subscription or sale of the Nordea 1, SICAV to the general public in Brazil. Investors within Brazil should consult with their own counsel as to the applicability of these laws and regulations or any exemption there from. Source (unless otherwise stated): Nordea Investment Funds S.A. Unless otherwise stated, all views expressed are those of Nordea Investment Funds S.A. This document may not be reproduced or circulated without prior permission and must not be passed to private investors. This document contains information only intended for professional investors and financial advisers and is not intended for general publication. Reference to companies or other investments mentioned within this document should not be construed as a recommendation to the investor to buy or sell the same but is included for the purpose of illustration.