	Subject to Completion Preliminary Term Sheet dated March 5, 2025	Filed Pursuant to Rule 433 Registration Statement No. 333-277211 (To Prospectus dated February 21, 2024, Prospectus Supplement dated February 21, 2024 and Product Supplement STEPS-1 dated March 26, 2024)

Units
$10 principal amount per unit
CUSIP No.

Pricing Date* March , 2025
Settlement Date* April , 2025
Maturity Date* April , 2026

* Subject to change based on the actual date the notes are priced for initial sale to the public (the "pricing date")

STEP Income Securities® Linked to the Common Stock of Barrick Gold Corporation

- Maturity of approximately one year and one week
- Interest payable quarterly at the rate of 11.00% per year
- A payment of [$0.10 to $0.50] per unit if the Underlying Stock increases to or above 111.00% of the Starting Value
- 1-to-1 downside exposure to decreases in the Underlying Stock, with up to 100% of the principal amount at risk
- All payments are subject to the credit risk of HSBC USA Inc.
- In addition to the underwriting discount set forth below, the notes include a hedging-related charge of $0.05 per unit. See "Supplement to the Plan of Distribution—Role of MLPF&S and BofAS"
- No listing on any securities exchange

The notes are being issued by HSBC USA Inc. ("HSBC"). Investing in the notes involves a number of risks. There are important differences between the notes and a conventional debt security, including different investment risks and costs. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page TS-6 of this term sheet and beginning on page PS-7 of product supplement STEPS-1.

The estimated initial value of the notes on the pricing date is expected to be between $9.25 and $9.75 per unit, which will be less than the public offering price listed below. The market value of the notes at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted with accuracy. See "Summary" on page TS-2 and "Risk Factors" beginning on page TS-6 of this term sheet for additional information.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of the notes or passed upon the accuracy or the adequacy of this document, the accompanying product supplement, prospectus or prospectus supplement. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Per Unit	Total
Public offering price[1][2]	$ 10.00	$
Underwriting discount[2]	$ 0.15	$
Proceeds, before expenses, to HSBC	$ 9.85	$

(1) Plus accrued interest from the scheduled settlement date, if settlement occurs after that date.

(2) For any purchase of 300,000 units or more in a single transaction by an individual investor or in combined transactions with the investor's household in this offering, the public offering price and the underwriting discount will be $9.95 per unit and $0.10 per unit, respectively. See "Supplement to the Plan of Distribution" below.

The notes:

Are Not FDIC Insured	Are Not Bank Guaranteed	May Lose Value

BofA Securities

March , 2025

Summary

The **STEP Income Securities®** Linked to the Common Stock of Barrick Gold Corporation, due April , 2026 (the "notes") are our senior unsecured debt securities and are not a direct or indirect obligation of any third party. The notes are not deposit liabilities or other obligations of a bank and are not guaranteed or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency of the United States or any other jurisdiction. **The notes will rank equally with all of our other senior unsecured debt. Any payments due on the notes, including any repayment of principal, depend on the credit risk of HSBC and its ability to satisfy its obligations as they come due.** The notes provide quarterly interest payments. Additionally, if the Ending Value of the Market Measure, which is the common stock of Barrick Gold Corporation (the "Underlying Stock"), is at or above the Step Level, the notes will also provide a payment of [$0.10 to $0.50] per unit at maturity. If the Ending Value is less than the Step Level, the Redemption Amount will not be greater than your principal amount. If the Ending Value is less than the Starting Value, the Redemption Amount will be less than the principal amount of your notes, and may be as low as zero. All payments on the notes will be calculated based on the $10 principal amount per unit and will depend on the performance of the Underlying Stock, subject to our credit risk. See "Terms of the Notes" below.

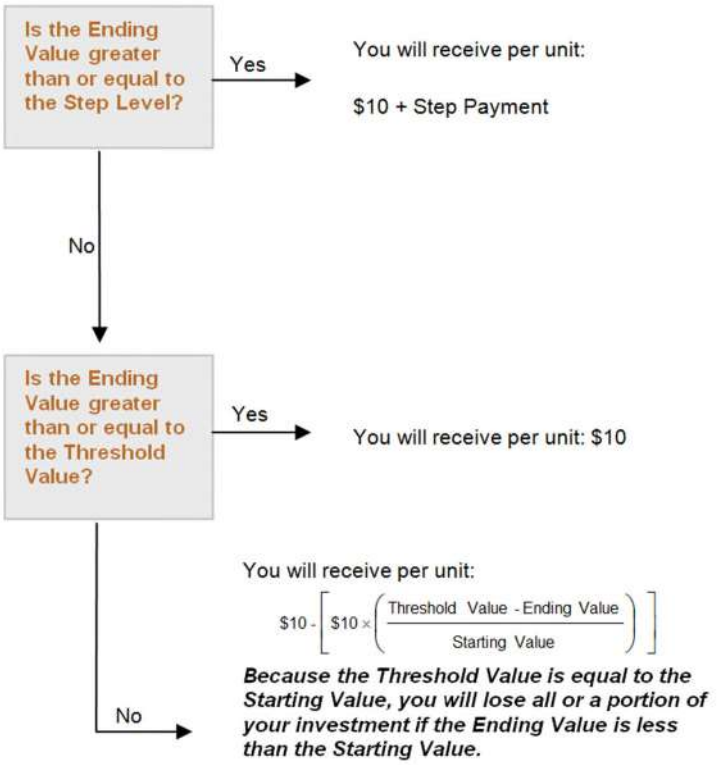
The estimated initial value of the notes will be less than the price you pay to purchase the notes. The estimated initial value is determined by reference to our or our affiliates' internal pricing models and reflects our internal funding rate, which is the borrowing rate we pay to issue market-linked notes, and the market prices for hedging arrangements related to the notes (which may include call options, put options or other derivatives). This internal funding rate is typically lower than the rate we would use when we issue conventional fixed or floating rate debt securities. The difference in the borrowing rate, as well as the underwriting discount and the costs associated with hedging the notes, including the hedging-related charge described below, will reduce the economic terms of the notes (including the Step Payment). The estimated initial value will be calculated on the pricing date and will be set forth in the pricing supplement to which this term sheet relates.

Terms of the Notes

Issuer:	HSBC USA Inc. ("HSBC")
Principal Amount:	$10.00 per unit
Term:	Approximately one year and one week
Market Measure:	The common stock of Barrick Gold Corporation (the "Underlying Company") (NYSE symbol: GOLD)
Starting Value:	The Closing Market Price of the Underlying Stock on the pricing date.
Ending Value:	The Closing Market Price of the Underlying Stock on the valuation date, multiplied by the Price Multiplier on that day. The scheduled valuation date is subject to postponement in the event of Market Disruption Events, as described beginning on page PS-19 of product supplement STEPS-1.
Valuation Date:	Approximately the fifth scheduled trading day immediately prior to the maturity date.
Interest Rate:	11.00% per year
Interest Payment Dates:	On or about July , 2025, October , 2025, January , 2026 and the maturity date
Step Payment:	[$0.10 to $0.50] per unit, which represents a return of [1.00% to 5.00%] of the principal amount. The actual Step Payment will be determined on the pricing date.
Step Level:	111.00% of the Starting Value, rounded to two decimal places.
Threshold Value:	100% of the Starting Value.
Price Multiplier:	1, subject to adjustment for certain corporate events relating to the Underlying Stock described beginning on page PS-21 of product supplement STEPS-1.
Fees Charged:	The public offering price of the notes includes the underwriting discount of $0.15 per unit as listed on the cover page and an additional charge of $0.05 per unit more fully described on page TS-10.
Calculation Agent:	BofA Securities, Inc. ("BofAS") and HSBC, acting jointly.

Redemption Amount Determination

In addition to interest payable, on the maturity date, you will receive a cash payment per unit determined as follows:



The terms and risks of the notes are contained in this term sheet and the documents listed below (together, the "Note Prospectus"). The documents have been filed as part of a registration statement with the SEC, which may, without cost, be accessed on the SEC website as indicated below or obtained from Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("MLPF&S") or BofAS by calling 1-800-294-1322:

- Product supplement STEPS-1 dated March 26, 2024:
  https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000110465924039045/tm249697d8_424b5.htm
- Prospectus supplement dated February 21, 2024:
  https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000110465924025878/tm244959d1_424b2.htm
- Prospectus dated February 21, 2024:
  https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000110465924025864/tm244959d13_424b3.htm

Our Central Index Key, or CIK, on the SEC website is 83246. Before you invest, you should read the Note Prospectus, including this term sheet, for information about us and this offering. Any prior or contemporaneous oral statements and any other written materials you may have received are superseded by the Note Prospectus. You should carefully consider, among other things, the matters set forth under "Risk Factors" in the section indicated on the cover of this term sheet. The notes involve risks not associated with conventional debt securities. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this term sheet have the meanings set forth in product supplement STEPS-1. Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this document to "we," "us," "our," or similar references are to HSBC.

Investor Considerations

You may wish to consider an investment in the notes if:

- You anticipate that the Ending Value will be greater than or equal to the Starting Value.
- You seek periodic interest payments on your investment.
- You accept that the maximum return on the notes is limited to the sum of the quarterly interest payments and the Step Payment, if any.
- You accept that you will lose some or all of the principal amount if the Ending Value is below the Starting Value.
- You are willing to forgo dividends or other benefits of owning shares of the Underlying Stock.
- You are willing to accept that a secondary market is not expected to develop for the notes, and understand that the market prices for the notes, if any, may be less than the principal amount and will be affected by various factors, including our actual and perceived creditworthiness, our internal funding rate and the fees charged, as described on page TS-2.
- You are willing to assume our credit risk, as issuer of the notes, for all payments under the notes, including the Redemption Amount.

The notes may not be an appropriate investment for you if:

- You anticipate that the Ending Value will be less than the Starting Value.
- You anticipate that the price of the Underlying Stock will increase substantially and do not want a payment at maturity that is limited to the Step Payment.
- You seek principal repayment or preservation of capital.
- In addition to periodic interest payments, you seek an additional guaranteed return above the principal amount.
- You seek to receive dividends or other distributions paid on the Underlying Stock.
- You seek an investment for which there will be a liquid secondary market.
- You are unwilling or are unable to take market risk on the notes or to take our credit risk as issuer of the notes.

We urge you to consult your investment, legal, tax, accounting, and other advisors before you invest in the notes.

Hypothetical Payments at Maturity

The following examples are for purposes of illustration only. They are based on **hypothetical** values and show **hypothetical** payments on the notes. **The actual amount you receive and the resulting return will depend on the actual Starting Value, Threshold Value, Ending Value, Step Level, Step Payment and term of your investment.** The following examples do not take into account any tax consequences from investing in the notes. These examples are based on:

1) a hypothetical Starting Value of 100.00;
2) a hypothetical Threshold Value of 100.00 (100.00% of the hypothetical Starting Value);
3) a hypothetical Step Level of 111.00 (111.00% of the hypothetical Starting Value);
4) a hypothetical Step Payment of $0.30 per unit (the midpoint of the Step Payment range of [$0.10 to $0.50] per unit);
5) an expected term of the notes of approximately one year and one week; and
6) the interest rate of 11.00% per year.

The **hypothetical** Starting Value of 100.00 used in these examples has been chosen for illustrative purposes only, and does not represent a likely actual Starting Value of the Underlying Stock. For recent actual prices of the Underlying Stock, see "The Underlying Stock" section below. In addition, all payments on the notes are subject to issuer credit risk.

Example 1

The Ending Value is 130.00 (130.00% of the Starting Value)

The Ending Value is greater than the Step Level. Consequently, in addition to the quarterly interest payments, you will receive on the maturity date the principal amount plus the Step Payment of $0.30 per unit. The Redemption Amount will therefore be equal to $10.30 per unit ($10.00 plus the Step Payment of $0.30 per unit).

Example 2

The Ending Value is 105.00 (105.00% of the Starting Value)

The Ending Value is greater than the Starting Value and the Threshold Value but less than the Step Level. Consequently, you will receive the quarterly interest payments, but you will not receive the Step Payment on the maturity date. The Redemption Amount will therefore be equal to $10.00 per unit.

Example 3

The Ending Value is 70.00 (70.00% of the Starting Value)

The Ending Value is less than the Starting Value and the Threshold Value. Consequently, you will receive the quarterly interest payments, but you will not receive the Step Payment on the maturity date, and you will participate on a 1-for-1 basis in the decrease in the price of the Underlying Stock. The Redemption Amount per unit will equal:

$$\$10 - \left[\$10 \times \left(\frac{100.00 - 70.00}{100.00}\right)\right] = \$7.00$$

On the maturity date, you will receive the Redemption Amount equal to $7.00 per unit.

Summary of the Hypothetical Examples

	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
	The Ending Value is greater than or equal to the Step Level	**The Ending Value is less than the Step Level but greater than or equal to the Starting Value**	**The Ending Value is less than the Starting Value and the Threshold Value**
Starting Value	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ending Value	130.00	105.00	70.00
Step Level	111.00	111.00	111.00
Threshold Value	100.00	100.00	100.00
Interest Rate (per year)	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%
Step Payment	$0.30	$0.00	$0.00
Redemption Amount per Unit	$10.30	$10.00	$7.00
Total Return of the Underlying Stock(1)	32.21%	7.21%	-27.79%
Total Return on the Notes(2)	14.21%	11.21%	-18.79%

(1) The total return of the Underlying Stock assumes:

(a) the percentage change in the price of the Underlying Stock from the Starting Value to the Ending Value;

(b) a constant dividend yield of 2.17% per year; and

(c) no transaction fees or expenses.

(2) The total return on the notes includes interest paid on the notes and assumes an expected term of the notes of approximately one year and one week.

Risk Factors

We urge you to read the section "Risk Factors" in the product supplement and in the accompanying prospectus supplement. Investing in the notes is not equivalent to investing directly in the Underlying Stock. You should understand the risks of investing in the notes and should reach an investment decision only after careful consideration, with your advisers, with respect to the notes in light of your particular financial and other circumstances and the information set forth in this term sheet and the accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus.

In addition to the risks in the product supplement identified below, you should review "Risk Factors" in the accompanying prospectus supplement, including the explanation of risks relating to the notes described in the section "—Risks Relating to All Note Issuances."

Structure-related Risks

- Depending on the performance of the Underlying Stock as measured shortly before the maturity date, you may lose up to 100% of the principal amount.
- You will not receive a Step Payment at maturity unless the Ending Value is greater than or equal to the Step Level.
- Your investment return is limited to the return represented by the periodic interest payments over the term of the notes and the Step Payment, if any, and may be less than a comparable investment directly in the Underlying Stock.
- Your return on the notes may be less than the yield you could earn by owning a conventional fixed or floating rate debt security of comparable maturity.
- Payments on the notes are subject to our credit risk, and actual or perceived changes in our creditworthiness are expected to affect the value of the notes. If we become insolvent or are unable to pay our obligations, you may lose your entire investment.

Valuation and Market-related Risks

- The estimated initial value of the notes will be less than the public offering price and may differ from the market value of the notes in the secondary market, if any. We will determine the estimated initial value by reference to our or our affiliates' internal pricing models. These pricing models consider certain assumptions and variables, which can include volatility and interest rates. These pricing models rely in part on certain forecasts about future events, which may prove to be incorrect. Different pricing models and assumptions could provide valuations for the notes that are different from our estimated initial value. The estimated initial value will reflect our internal funding rate we use to issue market-linked notes, as well as the mid-market value of the hedging arrangements related to the notes (which may include call options, put options or other derivatives).
- Our internal funding rate for the issuance of these notes is lower than the rate we would use when we issue conventional fixed or floating rate debt securities. This is one of the factors that may result in the market value of the notes being less than their estimated initial value. As a result of the difference between our internal funding rate and the rate we would use when we issue conventional fixed or floating rate debt securities, the estimated initial value of the notes may be lower if it were based on the levels at which our fixed or floating rate debt securities trade in the secondary market. In addition, if we were to use the rate we use for our conventional fixed or floating rate debt issuances, we would expect the economic terms of the notes to be more favorable to you.
- The price of your notes in the secondary market, if any, immediately after the pricing date is expected to be less than the public offering price. The public offering price takes into account certain costs, principally the underwriting discount, the hedging costs described on page TS-10 and the costs associated with issuing the notes. The costs associated with issuing the notes will be used or retained by us or one of our affiliates. If you were to sell your notes in the secondary market, if any, the price you would receive for your notes may be less than the price you paid for them.
- The estimated initial value does not represent a minimum price at which we, MLPF&S, BofAS or any of our respective affiliates would be willing to purchase your notes in the secondary market (if any exists) at any time. The price of your notes in the secondary market, if any, at any time after issuance will vary based on many factors, including the price of the Underlying Stock and changes in market conditions, and cannot be predicted with accuracy. The notes are not designed to be short-term trading instruments, and you should, therefore, be able and willing to hold the notes to maturity. Any sale of the notes prior to maturity could result in a loss to you.
- A trading market is not expected to develop for the notes. None of us, MLPF&S or BofAS is obligated to make a market for, or to repurchase, the notes. There is no assurance that any party will be willing to purchase your notes at any price in any secondary market.

Conflict-related Risks

- Our business, hedging and trading activities, and those of MLPF&S, BofAS and our respective affiliates (including trades in shares of the Underlying Stock), and any hedging and trading activities we, MLPF&S, BofAS or our respective affiliates engage in for our clients' accounts may affect the market value and return of the notes and may create conflicts of interest with you.
- There may be potential conflicts of interest involving the calculation agents, one of which is us and one of which is BofAS. We have the right to appoint and remove the calculation agents.

Market Measure-related Risks

- The Underlying Company will not have any obligations relating to the notes, and none of us, MLPF&S or BofAS will perform any due diligence procedures with respect to the Underlying Company in connection with this offering.
- As a note holder, you will have no rights to receive any shares of the Underlying Stock, and you will not be entitled to receive dividends or other distributions by the Underlying Company.
- While we, MLPF&S, BofAS or our respective affiliates may from time to time own securities of the Underlying Company, we, MLPF&S, BofAS and our respective affiliates do not control the Underlying Company, and have not verified any disclosure made by the Underlying Company.
- The Redemption Amount will not be adjusted for all corporate events that could affect the Underlying Stock. See “Description of the Notes—Anti-Dilution Adjustments” beginning on page PS-21 of product supplement STEPS-1.

Tax-related Risks

- The U.S. federal income tax consequences of the notes are uncertain, and may be adverse to a holder of the notes. See “Summary Tax Consequences” below and “U.S. Federal Income Tax Summary” beginning on page PS-31 of product supplement STEPS-1.

The Underlying Stock

We have derived the following information from publicly available documents. We have not independently verified the accuracy or completeness of the following information. Barrick Gold Corporation is an international gold company with operating mines and development projects.

Because the Underlying Stock is registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Underlying Company is required to file periodically certain financial and other information specified by the SEC. Information provided to or filed with the SEC by the Underlying Company can be located through the SEC's website at http://www.sec.gov by reference to SEC CIK number 756894.

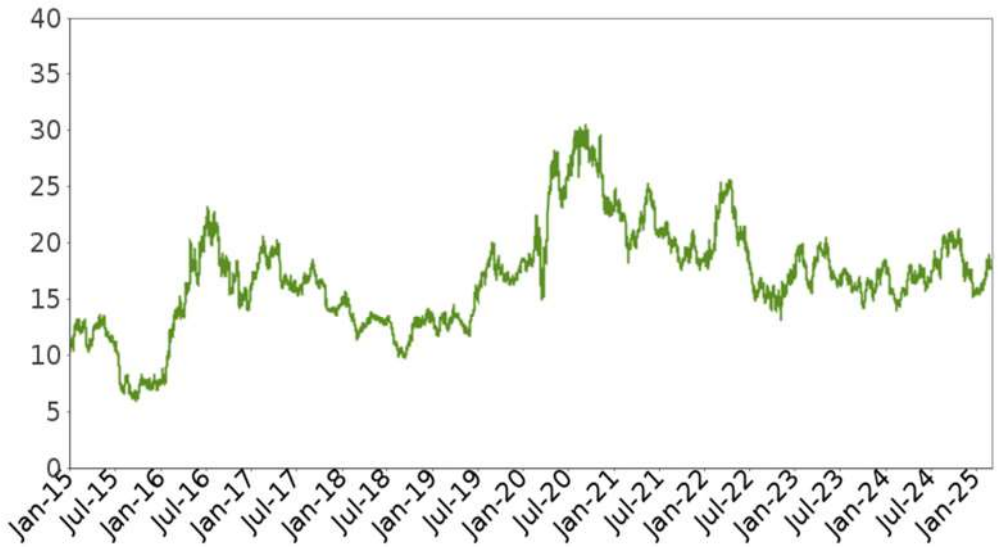
This term sheet relates only to the notes and does not relate to the Underlying Stock or to any other securities of the Underlying Company. None of us, MLPF&S, BofAS or any of our respective affiliates has participated or will participate in the preparation of the Underlying Company's publicly available documents. None of us, MLPF&S, BofAS or any of our respective affiliates has made any due diligence inquiry with respect to the Underlying Company in connection with the offering of the notes. None of us, MLPF&S, BofAS or any of our respective affiliates makes any representation that the publicly available documents or any other publicly available information regarding the Underlying Company are accurate or complete. Furthermore, there can be no assurance that all events occurring prior to the date of this term sheet, including events that would affect the accuracy or completeness of these publicly available documents that would affect the trading price of the Underlying Stock, have been or will be publicly disclosed. Subsequent disclosure of any events or the disclosure of or failure to disclose material future events concerning the Underlying Company could affect the price of the Underlying Stock and therefore could affect your return on the notes. Information from outside sources is not incorporated by reference in, and should not be considered part of, this term sheet or any accompanying prospectus, prospectus supplement or product supplement. The selection of the Underlying Stock is not a recommendation to buy or sell the Underlying Stock.

The Underlying Stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") under the symbol "GOLD."

Historical Data

The following graph shows the daily historical performance of the Underlying Stock on its primary exchange in the period from January 1, 2015 through March 4, 2025. We obtained this historical data from Bloomberg L.P. We have not independently verified the accuracy or completeness of the information obtained from Bloomberg L.P. On March 4, 2025, the Closing Market Price of the Underlying Stock was $17.73. The graph below may have been adjusted to reflect certain corporate actions such as stock splits and reverse stock splits.

Historical Performance of the Underlying Stock



This historical data on the Underlying Stock is not necessarily indicative of the future performance of the Underlying Stock or what the value of the notes may be. Any historical upward or downward trend in the price per share of the Underlying Stock during any period set forth above is not an indication that the price per share of the Underlying Stock is more or less likely to increase or decrease at any time over the term of the notes.

Before investing in the notes, you should consult publicly available sources for the prices and trading pattern of the Underlying Stock.

Supplement to the Plan of Distribution

We may deliver the notes against payment therefor in New York, New York on a date that is greater than one business day following the pricing date. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in one business day, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, if the initial settlement of the notes occurs more than one business day from the pricing date, purchasers who wish to trade the notes more than one business day prior to the original issue date will be required to specify alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. In the original offering of the notes, the notes will be sold in minimum investment amounts of 100 units. If you place an order to purchase the notes, you are consenting to MLPF&S and/or one of its affiliates acting as a principal in effecting the transaction for your account.

MLPF&S will purchase the notes from BofAS for resale, and will receive a selling concession in connection with the sale of the notes in an amount up to the full amount of underwriting discount set forth on the cover of this term sheet.

MLPF&S and BofAS may repurchase and resell the notes, with repurchases and resales being made at prices related to then-prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices, and these will include MLPF&S's and BofAS's trading commissions and mark-ups or mark-downs. MLPF&S and BofAS may act as principal or agent in these market-making transactions; however, neither is obligated to engage in any such transactions. At their discretion, for a short, undetermined initial period after the issuance of the notes, MLPF&S and BofAS may offer to buy the notes in the secondary market at a price that may exceed the estimated initial value of the notes. Any price offered by MLPF&S or BofAS for the notes will be based on then-prevailing market conditions and other considerations, including the performance of the Underlying Stock, the remaining term of the notes, and the issuer's creditworthiness. However, neither we nor any of our affiliates are obligated to purchase your notes at any price, or at any time, and we cannot assure you that we, MLPF&S, BofAS or any of our respective affiliates will purchase your notes at a price that equals or exceeds the estimated initial value of the notes.

The value of the notes shown on your account statement provided by MLPF&S will be based on BofAS's estimate of the value of the notes if BofAS or one of its affiliates were to make a market in the notes, which it is not obligated to do. This estimate will be based upon the price that BofAS may pay for the notes in light of then-prevailing market conditions, and other considerations, as mentioned above, and will include transaction costs. At certain times, this price may be higher than or lower than the estimated initial value of the notes.

The distribution of the Note Prospectus in connection with these offers or sales will be solely for the purpose of providing investors with the description of the terms of the notes that was made available to investors in connection with their initial offering. Secondary market investors should not, and will not be authorized to, rely on the Note Prospectus for information regarding HSBC or for any purpose other than that described in the immediately preceding sentence.

An investor's household, as referenced on the cover of this term sheet, will generally include accounts held by any of the following, as determined by MLPF&S in its discretion and acting in good faith based upon information then available to MLPF&S:

- the investor's spouse (including a domestic partner), siblings, parents, grandparents, spouse's parents, children and grandchildren, but excluding accounts held by aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews or any other family relationship not directly above or below the individual investor;
- a family investment vehicle, including foundations, limited partnerships and personal holding companies, but only if the beneficial owners of the vehicle consist solely of the investor or members of the investor's household as described above; and
- a trust where the grantors and/or beneficiaries of the trust consist solely of the investor or members of the investor's household as described above; provided that, purchases of the notes by a trust generally cannot be aggregated together with any purchases made by a trustee's personal account.

Purchases in retirement accounts will not be considered part of the same household as an individual investor's personal or other non-retirement account, except for individual retirement accounts ("IRAs"), simplified employee pension plans ("SEPs"), savings incentive match plan for employees ("SIMPLEs"), and single-participant or owners only accounts (i.e., retirement accounts held by self-employed individuals, business owners or partners with no employees other than their spouses).

Please contact your Merrill financial advisor if you have any questions about the application of these provisions to your specific circumstances or think you are eligible.

Role of MLPF&S and BofAS

BofAS will participate as selling agent in the distribution of the notes. Under our distribution agreement with BofAS, BofAS will purchase the notes from us as principal at the public offering price indicated on the cover of this term sheet, less the indicated underwriting discount.

Payments on the notes, including the interest payments on the notes and the Redemption Amount, will be calculated based on the $10 principal amount per unit. The Redemption Amount will depend on the performance of the Underlying Stock . We are also required to make the interest payments on the notes. In order to meet these payment obligations, at the time we issue the notes, we may choose to enter into certain hedging arrangements (which may include call options, put options or other derivatives) with BofAS or one of its affiliates. The terms of these hedging arrangements are determined by BofAS seeking bids from market participants, which could include one of our affiliates and MLPF&S, BofAS and their affiliates. These hedging arrangements take into account a number of

factors, including the issuer's creditworthiness, interest rate movements, the volatility of the Underlying Stock, the tenor of the notes and the tenor of the hedging arrangements. The economic terms of the notes depend in part on the terms of the hedging arrangements.

BofAS has advised us that the hedging arrangements will include a hedging-related charge of approximately $0.05 per unit, reflecting an estimated profit to be credited to BofAS from these transactions. Since hedging entails risk and may be influenced by unpredictable market forces, additional profits and losses from these hedging arrangements may be realized by BofAS or any third party hedge providers.

For further information, see "Risk Factors" beginning on page PS-7 of product supplement STEPS-1.

Summary Tax Consequences

You should consider the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the notes, including the following:

- There is no statutory, judicial, or administrative authority directly addressing the characterization of the notes.
- You agree with us (in the absence of an administrative determination, or judicial ruling to the contrary) to characterize and treat the notes for all tax purposes as income-bearing pre-paid executory contracts linked to the Underlying Stock.
- Under this characterization and tax treatment of the notes, we intend to take the position that the stated periodic interest payments constitute taxable ordinary income to a U.S. holder (as defined in the prospectus supplement) at the time received or accrued in accordance with the U.S. holder's regular method of accounting. Upon receipt of a cash payment at maturity or upon a sale or exchange of the notes prior to maturity (other than with respect to amounts representing accrued stated periodic interest payments), a U.S. holder generally will recognize capital gain or loss. This capital gain or loss generally will be long-term capital gain or loss if you hold the notes for more than one year.
- Because the U.S. federal income tax treatment (including the applicability of withholding) of the stated periodic interest payments on the notes is uncertain, we will withhold U.S. federal income tax at a 30% rate (or at a lower rate under an applicable income tax treaty) on the entire amount of stated periodic interest payments made to non-U.S. holders (as defined in the prospectus supplement). We will not pay any additional amounts in respect of such withholding.
- No assurance can be given that the IRS or any court will agree with this characterization and tax treatment.
- Under current IRS guidance, withholding on "dividend equivalent" payments (as discussed in the product supplement), if any, should not apply to the notes unless the notes are "delta-one" instruments. Based on our determination that the notes are not delta-one instruments, non-U.S. holders (as defined in the prospectus supplement) should not generally be subject to withholding on dividend equivalent payments, if any, under the notes.

You should consult your own tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax consequences to you of acquiring, owning, and disposing of the notes, as well as any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local, foreign, or other tax jurisdiction and the possible effects of changes in U.S. federal or other tax laws. You should review carefully the discussion under the section entitled "U.S. Federal Income Tax Summary" beginning on page PS-31 of product supplement STEPS-1.

Where You Can Find More Information

We have filed a registration statement (including a product supplement, a prospectus supplement and a prospectus) with the SEC for the offering to which this term sheet relates. Before you invest, you should read the Note Prospectus, including this term sheet, and the other documents that we have filed with the SEC, for more complete information about us and this offering. You may get these documents without cost by visiting EDGAR on the SEC website at www.sec.gov. Alternatively, we, any agent, or any dealer participating in this offering will arrange to send you these documents if you so request by calling MLPF&S or BofAS toll-free at 1-800-294-1322.

"**STEP** Income **S**ecurities®" and "STEPS®" are registered service marks of Bank of America Corporation, the parent company of MLPF&S and BofAS.