

**Subject to Completion**  
**Preliminary Term Sheet dated May 24, 2012**

Units  
\$10 principal amount per unit  
CUSIP No.

Pricing Date\*  
Settlement Date\*  
Maturity Date\*

June , 2012  
July , 2012  
August , 2013



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

## Accelerated Return Notes<sup>®</sup> Linked to the Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index

- Maturity of approximately 14 months
- 3-to-1 upside exposure to increases in the Index, subject to a capped return of [18% to 22%]
- 1-to-1 downside exposure to decreases in the Index, with 100% of your investment at risk
- All payments at maturity subject to the credit risk of HSBC USA Inc.
- No interest payments
- No listing on any securities exchange



**Enhanced Return**

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. See "Risk Factors" on page TS-5 of this term sheet and beginning on page S-9 of product supplement ARN-2.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission ("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.

	<u>Per Unit</u>	<u>Total</u>
Public offering price <sup>(1)(2)</sup> .....	\$ 10.00	\$
Underwriting discount <sup>(1)(2)</sup> .....	\$ 0.20	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to HSBC	\$ 9.80	\$

- (1) For any purchase of 500,000 units or more in a single transaction by an individual investor, the public offering price and the underwriting discount will be \$9.95 per unit and \$0.15 per unit, respectively.
- (2) For any purchase by certain fee-based trusts and discretionary accounts managed by U.S. Trust operating through Bank of America, N.A., the public offering price and underwriting discount will be \$9.80 per unit and \$0.00 per unit, respectively. See as well "Supplement to the Plan of Distribution."

**The notes:**

<b>Are Not FDIC Insured</b>	<b>Are Not Bank Guaranteed</b>	<b>May Lose Value</b>
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**Merrill Lynch & Co.**

June , 2012

## Summary

The Accelerated Return Notes<sup>®</sup> Linked to the Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index due August , 2013 (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, depends on the credit risk of HSBC and its ability to satisfy its obligations as they come due.** The notes provide you a leveraged return, subject to a cap, if the Ending Value (as determined below) of the Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index (the “Index”) is greater than the Starting Value. If the Ending Value is less than the Starting Value, you will lose all or a portion of the principal amount of your notes.

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 MLPF&S by calling 1-866-500-5408:

- Product supplement ARN-2 dated March 27, 2012:  
[http://sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420412017418/v307213\\_424b2.htm](http://sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420412017418/v307213_424b2.htm)
- Prospectus supplement dated March 22, 2012:  
<http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000104746912003151/a2208335z424b2.htm>
- Prospectus dated March 22, 2012:  
<http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000104746912003148/a2208395z424b2.htm>

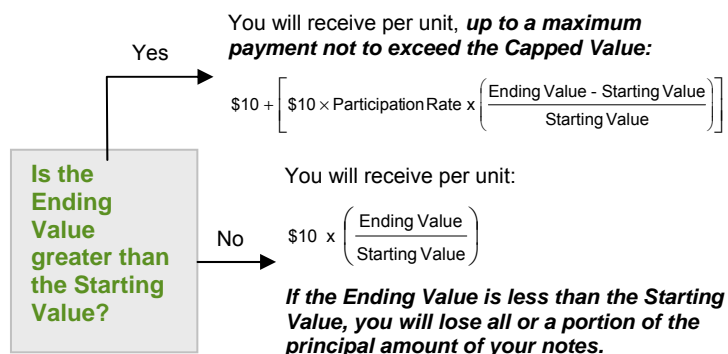
Our Central Index Key, or CIK, on the SEC Website is 83246. Before you invest, you should read the Note Prospectus, including this term sheet, for information about us and this offering. Any prior or contemporaneous oral statements and any other written materials you may have received are superseded 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 ARN-2. Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this document to “we,” “us,” “our,” or similar references are to HSBC.

## Terms of the Notes

<b>Issuer:</b>	HSBC USA Inc. (“HSBC”)
<b>Original Offering Price:</b>	\$10.00 per unit
<b>Term:</b>	Approximately 14 months
<b>Market Measure:</b>	The Russell 2000 <sup>®</sup> Index (Bloomberg symbol: “RTY”), a price return index.
<b>Starting Value:</b>	The closing level of the Market Measure on the pricing date
<b>Ending Value:</b>	The average of the closing levels of the Market Measure on each scheduled calculation day occurring during the Maturity Valuation Period. The calculation days are subject to postponement in the event of Market Disruption Events, as described on page S-22 of product supplement ARN-2.
<b>Capped Value:</b>	[\$11.80 to \$12.20] per unit of the notes, which represents a return of [18% to 22%] over the Original Offering Price. The actual Capped Value will be determined on the pricing date.
<b>Maturity Valuation Period:</b>	Five scheduled calculation days shortly before the maturity date.
<b>Participation Rate:</b>	300%
<b>Calculation Agent:</b>	Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (“MLPF&S”) and HSBC, acting jointly.
<b>Fees Charged:</b>	The public offering price of the notes includes the underwriting discount of \$0.20 per unit as listed on the cover page and an additional charge of \$0.075 per unit more fully described on page TS-4.

## Redemption Amount Determination

On the maturity date, you will receive a cash payment per unit determined as follows:



## Investor Considerations

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

- You anticipate that the level of the Index will increase moderately from the Starting Value to the Ending Value.
- You accept that your investment will result in a loss, which could be significant, if the level of the Index decreases from the Starting Value to the Ending Value.
- You accept that the return on the notes, if any, will be capped.
- You are willing to forgo the interest payments that are paid on traditional interest bearing debt securities.
- You are willing to forgo dividends or other benefits of owning the stocks included in the Index.
- 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 Original Offering Price and will be affected by various factors, including our actual and perceived creditworthiness, 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.

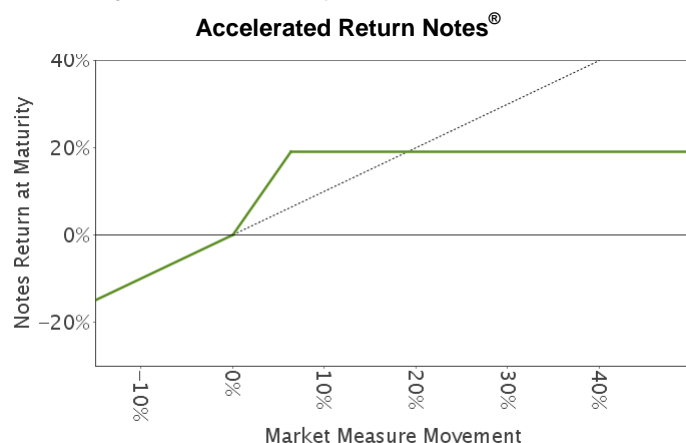
The notes may not be an appropriate investment for you if:

- You believe that the level of the Index will decrease from the Starting Value or that it will not increase sufficiently over the term of the notes to provide you with your desired return.
- You seek 100% return of principal at maturity.
- You seek an uncapped return on your investment.
- You seek interest payments or other current income on your investment.
- You want to receive dividends or other distributions paid on the stocks included in the Index.
- 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 Payout Profile

The below graph is based on **hypothetical** numbers and values.



This graph reflects the returns on the notes, based on the Participation Rate of 300% and a Capped Value of \$12.00, the midpoint of the Capped Value range of [\$11.80 to \$12.20] per unit. The green line reflects the returns on the notes, while the dotted gray line reflects the returns of a direct investment in the stocks included in the Index, excluding dividends.

This graph has been prepared for purposes of illustration only.

## Hypothetical Payments at Maturity

The following table and examples are for purposes of illustration only. They are based on **hypothetical** values and show **hypothetical** returns on the notes. **The actual amount you receive and the resulting total rate of return will depend on the actual Starting Value, Ending Value, Capped Value, and the term of your investment.**

The following table is based on a Starting Value of 100, the Participation Rate of 300% and a Capped Value of \$12.00 per unit. It illustrates the effect of a range of Ending Values on the Redemption Amount per unit of the notes and the total rate of return to holders of notes. The following examples do not take into account any tax consequences from investing in the notes.

Ending Value	Percentage Change from the Starting Value to the Ending Value	Redemption Amount per Unit	Total Rate of Return on the Notes
50.00	-50.00%	\$5.00	-50.00%
60.00	-40.00%	\$6.00	-40.00%
70.00	-30.00%	\$7.00	-30.00%
80.00	-20.00%	\$8.00	-20.00%
90.00	-10.00%	\$9.00	-10.00%
92.00	-8.00%	\$9.20	-8.00%
94.00	-6.00%	\$9.40	-6.00%
96.00	-4.00%	\$9.60	-4.00%
98.00	-2.00%	\$9.80	-2.00%
100.00 <sup>(1)</sup>	0.00%	\$10.00	0.00%
102.00	2.00%	\$10.60	6.00%
104.00	4.00%	\$11.20	12.00%
106.00	6.00%	\$11.80	18.00%
108.00	8.00%	\$12.00 <sup>(2)</sup>	20.00%
110.00	10.00%	\$12.00	20.00%
119.00	19.00%	\$12.00	20.00%
120.00	20.00%	\$12.00	20.00%
130.00	30.00%	\$12.00	20.00%
140.00	40.00%	\$12.00	20.00%
150.00	50.00%	\$12.00	20.00%

(1) The **hypothetical** Starting Value of 100 used in these examples has been chosen for illustrative purposes only, and does not represent a likely actual Starting Value for the Market Measure.

(2) The Redemption Amount per unit cannot exceed the **hypothetical** Capped Value.

For recent actual levels of the Market Measure, see "The Index" section below. The Index is a price return index and as such the Ending Value will not include any income generated by dividends paid on the stocks included in the Index, which you would otherwise be entitled to receive if you invested in those stocks directly. In addition, all payments on the notes are subject to issuer credit risk.

### Redemption Amount Calculation Examples

#### Example 1

The Ending Value is 80.00, or 80.00% of the Starting Value:

Starting Value: 100.00

Ending Value: 80.00

$$\$10 \times \left( \frac{80}{100} \right) = \$8.00 \text{ Redemption Amount per unit}$$

#### Example 2

The Ending Value is 103.00, or 103.00% of the Starting Value:

Starting Value: 100.00

Ending Value: 103.00

$$\$10 + \left[ \$10 \times 300\% \times \left( \frac{103 - 100}{100} \right) \right] = \$10.90 \text{ Redemption Amount per unit}$$

#### Example 3

The Ending Value is 130.00, or 130.00% of the Starting Value:

Starting Value: 100.00

Ending Value: 130.00

$$\$10 + \left[ \$10 \times 300\% \times \left( \frac{130 - 100}{100} \right) \right] = \$19.00, \text{ however, because the Redemption Amount for the notes cannot exceed the Capped Value, the Redemption Amount will be } \$12.00 \text{ per unit}$$

## 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 Index. 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 free writing prospectus 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.”*

- Your investment may result in a loss; there is no guaranteed return of principal.
- Your yield may be less than the yield on a conventional debt security of comparable maturity.
- Payments on the notes are subject to our credit risk.
- Your return, if any, is limited to the return represented by the Capped Value.
- Your investment return may be less than a comparable investment directly in the Market Measure, or the components included in the Market Measure.
- You must rely on your own evaluation of the merits of an investment linked to the Market Measure.
- Commissions, fees and hedging costs as described on page TS-4 may affect the price at which you will be able to sell the notes in secondary market transactions.
- We cannot assure you that a trading market for your notes will ever develop or be maintained. MLPF&S is not obligated to make a market for, or to repurchase, the notes.
- The Redemption Amount will not reflect changes in the value of the Market Measure prior to the Maturity Valuation Period.
- The publisher of the Market Measure may adjust the Market Measure in a way that affects its value, and the Market Measure publisher has no obligation to consider your interests.
- If you attempt to sell the notes prior to maturity, their market value, if any, will be affected by various factors that interrelate in complex ways and their market value may be less than their Original Offering Price.
- Purchases and sales by us, MLPF&S and our respective affiliates of the securities represented by the Index may affect your return.
- Our trading and hedging activities, and those of MLPF&S, may create conflicts of interest with you.
- Our hedging activities, and those of MLPF&S, may affect your return on the notes and their market value.
- There may be potential conflicts of interest involving the calculation agent. We may appoint and remove the calculation agent.
- The notes are not insured by any governmental agency of the United States or any other jurisdiction.
- You will have no rights as a security holder, you will have no rights to receive any of the securities represented by the Market Measure and you will not be entitled to dividends or other distributions by issuers of these securities.
- We and MLPF&S do not control any company included in the Market Measure and are not responsible for any disclosure made by any other company.
- Our business activities and those of MLPF&S relating to the companies represented by the Market Measure may create conflicts of interest with you.
- 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 S-34 of product supplement ARN-2.

## The Index

All disclosures in this term sheet regarding the Index have been derived from publicly available sources, which we have not independently verified. The information summarizes the current index methodology as published by Russell Investment Group (“Russell,” or the “Index Sponsor”) and may be changed by Russell at any time. Additional information on the Index is available at the following website: <http://www.russell.com>. No information on that website is deemed to be included or incorporated by reference in this term sheet.

“Russell 2000<sup>®</sup>” and “Russell 3000<sup>®</sup>” are trademarks of Russell and have been licensed for use by us. The notes are not sponsored, endorsed, sold, or promoted by Russell, and Russell makes no representation regarding the advisability of investing in the notes.

### **Russell Investment Group Publishes the Index**

The Index is calculated, published, and disseminated by the Index Sponsor, and measures the composite price performance of stocks of 2,000 companies determined by Russell to be part of the U.S. equity market. All 2,000 stocks are traded on a major U.S. exchange, and form a part of the Russell 3000<sup>®</sup> Index. The Russell 3000<sup>®</sup> Index is composed of the 3,000 largest United States companies as determined by market capitalization and represents approximately 98.00% of the United States equity market.

The Index consists of the smallest 2,000 companies included in the Russell 3000<sup>®</sup> Index. The Index is designed to track the performance of the small capitalization segment of the United States equity market. Real-time dissemination of the Index began on January 1, 1987. The top five industry groups by market capitalization as of April 30, 2012 were: Financial Services, Consumer Discretionary, Producer Durables, Technology and Health Care.

Only stocks belonging to companies domiciled in the U.S. are allowed into the Index. This is determined by examining the country of incorporation, country of headquarters and country of most liquid exchange. Preferred and convertible preferred stock, redeemable shares, warrants, participating preferred stock, trust receipts, rights, pink sheets, OTC Bulletin Board companies and closed-end mutual funds are excluded from the Index. Real Estate Investment Trusts and Beneficial Trusts however, are eligible for inclusion.

In general, only one class of securities of a company is allowed in the Index, although exceptions to this general rule have been made where the Russell has determined that each class of securities acts independently of the other. Stocks must trade at or above \$1.00 on the last trading day in May of each year to be eligible for inclusion in the Index. However, if a stock falls below \$1.00 on the last day of May, it will be considered eligible if the daily closing during the month of May is equal to or greater than \$1.00.

The primary criterion used to determine the initial list of securities eligible for the Russell 3000<sup>®</sup> Index is total market capitalization, which is defined as the price of a company’s shares times the total number of available shares, as described below. Based on closing values on the last trading day of May of each year, the Russell reconstitutes the composition of the Russell 3000<sup>®</sup> Index using the then existing market capitalizations of eligible companies. As of the last Friday in June of each year, the Russell Index is adjusted to reflect the reconstitution of the Russell 3000<sup>®</sup> Index for that year. If, however, the last Friday is the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>, reconstitution will occur on the preceding Friday.

### **Computation of the Index**

The Index is a capitalization-weighted index. The Index reflects changes in the market value (i.e. capitalization) of the component stocks relevant to their market value on a base date. The Index is determined by adding the market values of the component stocks, which are determined by multiplying the price of each stock as of the last trading day in May by the number of total outstanding shares, to obtain the total market capitalization of the 2,000 stocks. The total market capitalization is then divided by a divisor, which gives the adjusted capitalization of the Index on the base date of December 31, 1978 (when calculated by Russell). For each security, the most recently traded price on the last trading day in May will be used in determining the Index. If a component security is not open for trading on its primary market, the lowest price from another market will be used.

### **Capitalization Adjustments**

Available shares are assumed to be shares available for trading. Exclusion of capitalization held by other listed companies and large holdings of private investors (10% or more) is based on information recorded in SEC filings. Other sources are used in cases of missing or questionable data.

The following types of shares are considered unavailable for the purposes of capitalization determinations:

Initial Public Offering lock-ups – shares that are locked up during an initial public offering (“IPO”) will be considered unavailable at the time the IPO enters the index;



Government holdings – shares held directly by government holders will be considered unavailable and removed completely; shares held by government investment boards and/or investment arms will be removed if the holding is 10% or more; and, shares held by government pension plans will be considered institutional holdings and will not be removed;

ESOP or LESOP shares – shares of corporations that have Employee Stock Ownership Plans (“ESOP”) or Leveraged Employee Stock Ownership Plans (“LESOP”) that comprise 10% or more of the shares outstanding are adjusted;

Corporate cross-owned shares – when shares of a company in the Index are held by another company also in the Index, this is considered corporate cross-ownership. Any percentage held in this class will be adjusted;

Large private and corporate shares – when an individual, a group of individuals acting together, or a corporation not in the index owns more than 10% of the shares outstanding. However, institutional holdings (investment companies, partnerships, insurance companies, mutual funds, banks, or venture capital companies) are not included in this class; and

Unlisted share classes – classes of common stock that are not traded on a United States securities exchange or NASDAQ will be adjusted.

### Corporate Action Adjustments

Annual reconstitution is the process by which the Index is completely rebuilt. Reconstitution is a vital part of the creation of a benchmark which accurately represents a particular market segment. Companies may get larger or smaller over time, or change in their characteristics. When a stock is acquired, delisted, or moves to the pink sheets or bulletin boards, the stock is deleted from the Index at either the current day at the stock’s last traded price or, the following day at the closing over-the-counter (“OTC”) Bulletin Board price. The following summarizes the types of the Index maintenance adjustments and indicates whether or not an index adjustment is required:

“No Replacement” Rule – Securities that leave the Index for any reason (e.g. mergers, acquisitions, or other similar corporate activity) are not replaced. Therefore, the number of securities in the Index will fluctuate according to corporate activity.

Mergers and Acquisitions – When acquisitions or mergers take place between constituent companies, the stock’s capitalization moves to the acquiring stock; as a result, mergers have no effect on the total capitalization of the Index. Shares are updated for the acquiring stock at the time the transaction is final. If the action is determined to be final after 1:00 p.m. Eastern time, the action will be delayed and applied on the following day. If the acquiring company is a member but the acquired company is not, the acquiring company’s shares will be adjusted at the month end. If, however, the acquiring company is not a member, the target will be deleted from the Index after the action is final.

Deleted Stocks – When deleting stocks from the Index as a result of exchange delisting or reconstitution, the price used is the last traded price on the day of deletion, including potentially the OTC Bulletin Board price. Previously, prices used to reflect delisted stocks were the last traded price on their primary exchange. There may be corporate events, like mergers or acquisitions that result in the lack of a current market price for the deleted security and in such an instance the latest primary exchange closing price available will be used.

Additions for Spin-Offs – Spin-off companies are added to the parent company’s index and capitalization tier of membership, if the spin-off is large enough. To be eligible, the spun-off company’s total market capitalization must be greater than the market-adjusted total market capitalization of the smallest security in the Index at the latest reconstitution.

Quarterly IPO Additions – Eligible companies that have recently completed an IPO are added to the Index at the end of each calendar quarter based on total market capitalization ranking within the market-adjusted capitalization breaks established during the most recent reconstitution. Market adjustments will be made using the returns of the Russell 3000® Index. Eligible companies will be added to the Index using their industry’s average style probability established at the latest constitution. In order for a company to be added to the Index in a quarter (outside of reconstitution), the IPO company must meet all Russell U.S. Index eligibility requirements. Also, the IPO company must meet the following criteria on the final trading day of the month prior to quarter-end: (i) priced and traded; (ii) rank larger in total market capitalization than the market-adjusted smallest company in the Index as of the latest June reconstitution; and (iii) meet criteria (i) and (ii) during an initial offering period.

Reincorporations - Members of the Index that are reincorporated to another country are analyzed for country assignment the following year during reconstitution, as long as they continue to trade in the U.S. Companies that reincorporate and no longer trade in the U.S. are immediately deleted from the U.S. indexes and placed in the appropriate country within the Russell Global Index. Those that reincorporate to the U.S. during the year will be assessed during reconstitution for membership.

Rights Offerings – Russell will only adjust the index to account for a right if the subscription price of the right is at a discount from the market price.

**Tender offers** – A company that is acquired through a tender offer will be removed from the Index if (i) the initial tender offer expires; (ii) the shareholders validly tendered; (iii) all regulatory requirements have been fulfilled and (iv) the acquiring company is able to finalize the acquisition.

**Bankruptcy and Voluntary Liquidations** – A company that has filed for Chapter 7 or has filed a liquidation plan will be removed from the Index at the time of filing. If a company files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, it will not be delisted unless it is delisted from the primary exchange.

**Dividends** – Gross dividends are included in the daily total return calculation of the Index on the basis of their ex-dates rather than the pay-date because this is when the marketplace price adjustment occurs.

**Stock Distributions** – When a stated amount of shares are distributed on the ex-date, price adjustment and shares are increased on the ex-date. When an undetermined amount of shares are to be distributed at a future date based on earnings and profits, the price adjustment will occur on the ex-date and the shares will be increased on the pay-date.

**Halted Securities** – When a stock's trading is halted, the Index will hold the security at its most recent closing price until trading resumes or delisting occurs unless the stock is halted for 40 days or more or due to exchange rules or regulatory issues for more than one quarter, in which case Russell will review the situation on a case by case basis.

Each month, the Index is updated for changes to shares outstanding as companies report changes in share capital to the SEC. Only cumulative changes to shares outstanding greater than are reflected in the Index. This does not affect treatment of major corporate events, which are ordinarily effective on the ex-date.



**The following graph shows the monthly historical performance of the Index in the period from January 2007 through April 2012. 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 May 17, 2012, the closing level of the Index was 754.33.**

**Historical Performance of the Index**



**This historical data on the Index is not necessarily indicative of the future performance of the Index or what the value of the notes may be. Any historical upward or downward trend in the level of the Index during any period set forth above is not an indication that the level of the Index 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 levels of the Index.

## License Agreement

The notes are not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by Frank Russell Company ("Frank Russell"). Frank Russell makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, to the owners of the notes or any member of the public regarding the advisability of investing in securities, generally or in the notes particularly or the ability of the Russell 2000® Index to track general stock market performance or a segment of the same. Frank Russell's publication of the Russell 2000® Index in no way suggests or implies an opinion by Frank Russell as to the advisability of investment in any or all of the securities upon which the Russell 2000® Index is based. Frank Russell's only relationship to HSBC is the licensing of certain trademarks and trade names of Frank Russell and of the Russell 2000® Index which is determined, composed and calculated by Frank Russell without regard to the HSBC USA Inc. or the notes. Frank Russell is not responsible for and has not reviewed the notes nor any associated literature or publications and Frank Russell makes no representation or warranty express or implied as to their accuracy or completeness, or otherwise. Frank Russell reserves the right, at any time and without notice, to alter, amend, terminate or in any way change the Notes. Frank Russell has no obligation or liability in connection with the administration, marketing or trading of the Notes:

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## 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 three business days 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 three business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, if the initial settlement of the notes occurs more than three business days from the pricing date, purchasers who wish to trade the notes more than three business days 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.

MLPF&S will not receive an underwriting discount for notes sold to certain fee-based trusts and fee-based discretionary accounts managed by U.S. Trust operating through Bank of America, N.A.

If you place an order to purchase the notes, you are consenting to MLPF&S acting as a principal in effecting the transaction for your account.

MLPF&S may repurchase and resell the notes, with repurchases and resales being made at prices related to then-prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. MLPF&S may act as principal or agent in these market-making transactions; however it is not obligated to engage in any such transactions. 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.

### **Role of MLPF&S**

MLPF&S will participate as selling agent in the distribution of the notes. Under our distribution agreement with MLPF&S, MLPF&S 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. In connection with hedging our obligations under the notes, we will enter into a hedge transaction with an affiliate of MLPF&S, which will include a charge of up to \$0.075 per unit representing an estimated profit credited to MLPF&S through the hedge transaction. The public offering price you pay for the notes includes this charge and the underwriting discount. This charge and fee reduce the economic terms of the notes. In arranging the hedge transaction for the notes, MLPF&S seeks competitive terms from third parties, which could include one of our affiliates. Additional profits and losses may be realized by the hedge providers from these hedging transactions. For further information regarding how these fees and hedging costs may affect the price at which you will be able to sell the notes in secondary market transaction and conflicts of interest, see "Risk Factors—General Risks Relating to ARNs" beginning on page S-9 and "Use of Proceeds" on page S-19 of product supplement ARN-2.

## 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 pre-paid forward contracts or executory contracts with respect to the Index.
- Under this characterization and tax treatment of the notes, a U.S. Holder (as defined in product supplement ARN-2) generally will recognize capital gain or loss upon maturity or upon a sale or exchange of the notes prior to maturity. This capital gain or loss generally will be long-term capital gain or loss if you held the notes for more than one year.
- No assurance can be given that the IRS or any court will agree with this characterization and tax treatment.

**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 S-34 of product supplement ARN-2.**

## 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](http://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 toll-free at 1-866-500-5408.

## Market-Linked Investments Classification



*MLPF&S classifies certain market-linked investments (the “Market-Linked Investments”) into categories, each with different investment characteristics. The following description is meant solely for informational purposes and is not intended to represent any particular Enhanced Return Market-Linked Investment or guarantee any performance.*

Enhanced Return Market-Linked Investments are short- to medium-term investments that offer you a way to enhance exposure to a particular market view without taking on a similarly enhanced level of market downside risk. They can be especially effective in a flat to moderately positive market (or, in the case of bearish investments, a flat to moderately negative market). In exchange for the potential to receive better-than market returns on the linked asset, you must generally accept market downside risk and capped upside potential. As these investments are not market downside protected, and do not assure full repayment of principal at maturity, you need to be prepared for the possibility that you may lose all or part of your investment.

“Accelerated Return Notes®” and “ARNs®” are registered service marks of Bank of America Corporation, the parent corporation of MLPF&S.