

## STRUCTURED INVESTMENTS

Opportunities in U.S. Equities

### Buffered Income Securities with Upside Participation Based on the Level of the S&P 500® Index due July 20, 2021

#### Principal at Risk Securities

The Buffered Income Securities with Upside Participation (the "securities") offered are senior unsecured debt securities of HSBC USA Inc. ("HSBC"). We will make annual coupon payments on the securities at a rate of 1% per annum, regardless of the performance of the underlying index. At maturity, if the level of the underlying index has appreciated from the initial level, investors will receive the stated principal amount of their investment plus a payment reflecting the leveraged upside performance of the underlying index, subject to the maximum payment at maturity. At maturity, if the level of the underlying index has depreciated from the initial level but not by more than the buffer amount, then investors will receive the stated principal amount of their investment. However, at maturity, if the level of the underlying index has depreciated from the initial level by more than the buffer amount, then investors will lose 1% for every 1% decline in the level of the underlying index beyond the buffer amount. The securities are for investors who seek fixed annual coupon payments at a rate of 1% per annum and an equity index-based return, and who are willing to risk their principal and forgo market interest rates and dividend payments and upside above the maximum payment at maturity in exchange for the leverage feature, which applies to a limited range of positive performance of the underlying index, and the limited protection against loss but only if the level of the underlying index does not decline by more than the buffer amount. **Investors may lose up to 85% of the stated principal amount of the securities. Even with the annual coupon payments, you may lose a significant portion of your investment. All payments on the securities are subject to the credit risk of HSBC.** The securities will have the terms described in the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus, as supplemented or modified by this free writing prospectus. All references to "Reference Asset" in the prospectus supplement and the Equity Index Underlying Supplement shall refer to the "underlying index" herein.

INDICATIVE TERMS			
Issuer:	HSBC USA Inc. ("HSBC")		
Maturity date*:	July 20, 2021, subject to adjustment as described under "Additional Terms of the Notes—Coupon Payment Dates, Call Payment Dates and Maturity Date" in the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement		
Underlying index:	S&P 500® Index (Bloomberg symbol: "SPX")		
Aggregate principal amount:	\$		
Annual coupon payments:	On each annual coupon payment date, you will receive a coupon payment at the fixed coupon rate of 1% per annum.		
Coupon payment dates:	July 20 of each year beginning on July 20, 2017 and ending on the maturity date, subject to adjustment as described under "Additional Terms of the Notes—Coupon Payment Dates, Call Payment Dates and Maturity Date" in the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement		
Payment at maturity:	<p>In addition to the final annual coupon payment, for each \$10 stated principal amount security you hold at maturity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the final level is <b>greater than</b> the initial level: \$10 + the leveraged upside payment, subject to the maximum payment at maturity</li> <li>If the final level is <b>equal to or less than</b> the initial level by an amount <b>equal to or less than</b> the buffer amount: \$10</li> <li>If the final level is <b>less than</b> the initial level by an amount <b>greater than</b> the buffer amount: (\$10 x the index performance factor) + \$1.50</li> </ul> <p><b>If the final level is less than the initial level by more than the buffer amount, your payment at maturity will be less than, and possibly significantly less than, the \$10 principal amount per security. You should not invest in the securities unless you are willing and able to bear the risk of losing a significant portion of your investment. All payments on the securities are subject to the credit risk of HSBC.</b></p>		
Leveraged upside payment:	\$10 x leverage factor x index percent increase		
Leverage factor:	150%		
Index percent increase:	(final level – initial level) / initial level		
Index performance factor:	final level / initial level		
Maximum payment at maturity:	At least \$14.90 per security (at least 149% of the stated principal amount). The actual maximum payment at maturity will be determined on the pricing date.		
Initial level:	The official closing level of the underlying index on the pricing date		
Final level:	The official closing level of the underlying index on the valuation date		
Official closing level:	The official closing level of the underlying index on any scheduled trading day as determined by the calculation agent based upon the value displayed on Bloomberg Professional® service page "SPX <INDEX>" or any successor page on the Bloomberg Professional® service or any successor service, as applicable		
Buffer amount:	15%		
Valuation date*:	July 15, 2021, subject to adjustment as described in "Additional Terms of the Notes—Valuation Dates" in the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement		
Principal amount:	\$10 per security		
Issue price:	\$10 per security		
Pricing date*:	On or about July 15, 2016		
Original issue date*:	On or about July 20, 2016 (3 business days after the pricing date)		
Estimated initial value:	The estimated initial value of the securities will be less than the price you pay to purchase the securities. The estimated initial value does not represent a minimum price at which we or any of our affiliates would be willing to purchase your securities in the secondary market, if any, at any time. The estimated initial value will be calculated on the pricing date and will be set forth in the pricing supplement to which this free writing prospectus relates. See "Risk Factors" — The estimated initial value of the securities, which will be determined by us on the pricing date, will be less than the price to public and may differ from the market value of the securities in the secondary market, if any."		
CUSIP:	40434V525		
ISIN:	US40434V5259		
Listing:	The securities will not be listed on any securities exchange.		
Agent:	HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., an affiliate of HSBC. See "Supplemental plan of distribution (conflicts of interest)."		
Commissions and issue price:	Price to public	Fees and commissions	Proceeds to issuer
Per security	\$10.00	\$0.30 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$9.65
		\$0.05 <sup>(2)</sup>	
Total	\$	\$	\$

(1) HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., acting as agent for HSBC, will receive a fee of \$0.35 per \$10 stated principal amount and will pay Morgan Stanley Wealth Management a fixed sales commission of \$0.30 for each security they sell. See "Supplemental plan of distribution (conflicts of interest)."

(2) Of the amount per \$10 stated principal amount received by HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., acting as agent for HSBC, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. will pay Morgan Stanley Wealth Management a structuring fee of \$0.05 for each security.

\* The pricing date, original issue date and the other dates set forth above are subject to change, and will be set forth in the pricing supplement relating to the securities.

The estimated initial value of the securities on the pricing date is expected to be between \$9.30 and \$9.60 per security, which will be less than the price to public. The market value of the securities at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted with accuracy. See "Estimated initial value" above and "Risk Factors" beginning on page 5 of this document for additional information.

An investment in the securities involves certain risks. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 5 of this free writing prospectus, page S-2 of the Equity Index Underlying Supplement and page S-1 of the prospectus supplement.

Neither the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved the securities, or determined that this free writing prospectus or the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement, prospectus supplement or prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

HSBC has filed a registration statement (including a prospectus, a prospectus supplement and Equity Index Underlying Supplement) with the SEC for the offering to which this free writing prospectus relates. Before you invest, you should read the prospectus, prospectus supplement, and Equity Index Underlying Supplement in that registration statement and other documents HSBC has filed with the SEC for more complete information about HSBC and this offering. You may get these documents for free by visiting EDGAR on the SEC's web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Alternatively, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. or any dealer participating in this offering will arrange to send you the prospectus, prospectus supplement and Equity Index Underlying Supplement if you request them by calling toll-free 1-866-811-8049.

You should read this document together with the related Equity Index Underlying Supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus, each of which can be accessed via the hyperlinks below.

The Equity Index Underlying Supplement dated March 5, 2015 at: [http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420415014327/v403626\\_424b2.htm](http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420415014327/v403626_424b2.htm)

The prospectus supplement dated March 5, 2015 at: [http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420415014311/v403645\\_424b2.htm](http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420415014311/v403645_424b2.htm)

The prospectus dated March 5, 2015 at: <http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000119312515078931/d884345d424b3.htm>

The securities are not deposit liabilities or other obligations of a bank and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency of the United States or any other jurisdiction, and involve investment risks including possible loss of the stated principal amount invested due to the credit risk of HSBC.

## Investment Summary

### Buffered Income Securities with Upside Participation

#### Principal at Risk Securities

The Buffered Income Securities with Upside Participation Based on the Level of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index due July 20, 2021 (the "securities") can be used:

- To obtain fixed annual coupon payments at a rate of 1% per annum
- As an alternative to direct exposure to the underlying index that enhances returns for a certain range of positive performance of the underlying index, subject to the maximum payment at maturity
- To enhance positive returns and potentially outperform the underlying index in a moderately bullish scenario
- To achieve similar levels of upside exposure to the underlying index as a direct investment in the securities included in the underlying index, subject to the maximum payment at maturity, while using fewer dollars by taking advantage of the leverage factor
- To obtain a buffer against a specified level of negative performance in the underlying index

<b>Maturity:</b>	5 years
<b>Coupon rate:</b>	1% per annum
<b>Leverage factor:</b>	150%
<b>Maximum payment at maturity:</b>	At least \$14.90 per security (at least 149% of the stated principal amount, to be determined on the pricing date)
<b>Buffer amount:</b>	15%

## Key Investment Rationale

In addition to the annual coupon payments at a rate of 1% per annum, the securities offer 150% leveraged upside on the positive performance of the underlying index, subject to a maximum payment at maturity of at least \$14.90 per security (at least 149% of the stated principal amount). The actual maximum payment at maturity will be determined on the pricing date. However, if the level of the underlying index has declined from the initial level by more than the buffer amount as of the valuation date, investors will lose 1% for every 1% decrease in the level of the underlying index by more than the buffer amount. **Investors may lose up to 85% of the stated principal amount of the securities. Even with the annual coupon payments, you may lose a significant portion of your investment.** All payments on the securities are subject to the credit risk of HSBC.

<b>Annual Coupon Payments</b>	On each annual coupon payment date, you will receive a coupon payment at the fixed coupon rate of 1% per annum.
<b>Leveraged Upside Performance</b>	The securities offer investors an opportunity to capture enhanced returns for a certain range of positive performance relative to a direct investment in the securities included in the underlying index.
<b>Buffer Feature</b>	At maturity, even if the level of the underlying index has declined over the term of the securities, you will receive your stated principal amount, but only if the level of the underlying index has declined by no more than the buffer amount from the initial level.
<b>Upside Scenario</b>	The level of the underlying index appreciates from the initial level and, at maturity for each security, we will pay the stated principal amount of \$10 plus 150% of the index percent increase, subject to a maximum payment at maturity of at least \$14.90 per security (at least 149% of the stated principal amount).
<b>Par Scenario</b>	The level of the underlying index depreciates from the initial level but by no more than 15%, and, at maturity for each security, we will pay the stated principal amount of \$10.
<b>Downside Scenario</b>	The level of the underlying index depreciates from the initial level by more than 15%, and, at maturity for each security, you will lose 1% for every 1% that the level of the underlying index has decreased by more than 15%.

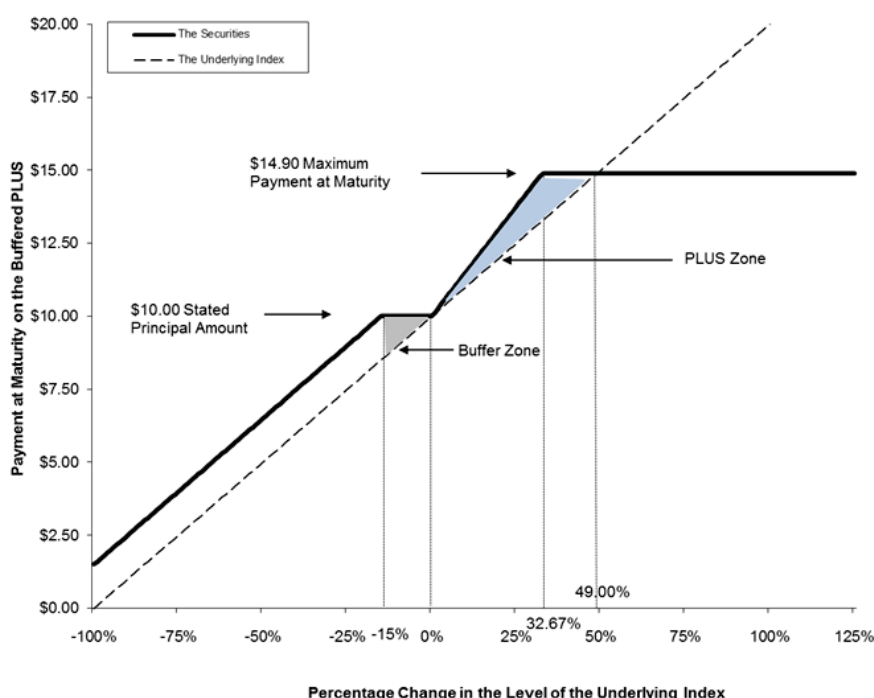
## How the Securities Work

### Payoff Diagram (Excluding the Annual Coupon Payments)

The payoff diagram below illustrates the payment at maturity on the securities (excluding the final annual coupon payment) assuming the following terms:

<b>Stated principal amount:</b>	\$10 per security
<b>Leverage factor:</b>	150%
<b>Hypothetical maximum payment at maturity:</b>	\$14.90 per security (149% of the stated principal amount). The actual maximum payment at maturity will be at least \$14.90 per security and will be determined on the pricing date.
<b>Buffer amount:</b>	15%

Payoff Diagram for the Securities



### How the payment at maturity works

- Upside Scenario: If the level of the underlying index appreciates from the initial level, investors would receive the \$10 stated principal amount plus 150% of the appreciation of the underlying index over the term of the securities, subject to a hypothetical maximum payment at maturity of \$14.90 per security. Under the hypothetical terms of the securities, an investor would realize the hypothetical maximum payment at maturity at a final level of approximately 132.67% of the initial level.
  - For example, if the level of the underlying index appreciates 3%, investors would receive a 4.50% return, or \$10.45 per security.
  - For example, if the level of the underlying index appreciates 70%, investors would receive only the hypothetical maximum payment at maturity of \$14.90 per security, or 149% of the stated principal amount.
- Par Scenario: If the level of the underlying index depreciates from the initial level but by no more than 15%, investors would receive the stated principal amount of \$10 per security.
  - For example, if the level of the underlying index depreciates 5%, investors would receive the \$10 stated principal amount.
- Downside Scenario: If the level of the underlying index depreciates from the initial level by more than 15%, the payment at maturity would be less than the stated principal amount of \$10 by an amount that is proportionate to the decrease in the level of the underlying index beyond the buffer amount.
  - For example, if the underlying index depreciates 45%, investors would lose 30% of their principal and receive only \$7 per security at maturity, or 70% of the stated principal amount.

In each case, you will also receive the final annual coupon payment on the securities.

## Investor Suitability

### The securities may be suitable for you if:

- You seek an investment with fixed annual coupon payments at a rate of 1% per annum and an enhanced return linked to the potential positive performance of the underlying index and you believe the level of the underlying index will increase over the term of the securities.
- You are willing to invest in the securities based on the coupon rate and the maximum payment at maturity of at least 149% of the stated principal amount (to be determined on the pricing date), which may limit your return at maturity. The actual maximum payment at maturity will be determined on the pricing date.
- You are willing to make an investment that is exposed to the potential loss of 1% of the principal amount for each percentage point that the underlying index decreases by more than 15%.
- You are willing to forgo dividends or other distributions paid to holders of the stocks comprising the underlying index.
- You are willing to accept the risk and return profile of the securities versus a conventional debt security with a comparable maturity issued by HSBC or another issuer with a similar credit rating.
- You are willing to forgo market interest rates and invest in a security with an annual coupon payment of only 1% per annum.
- You do not seek an investment for which there is an active secondary market.
- You are willing to hold the securities to maturity.
- You are comfortable with the creditworthiness of HSBC, as Issuer of the securities.

### The securities may not be suitable for you if:

- You believe the level of the underlying index will decrease, or that it will not increase sufficiently to provide you with your desired return.
- You are unwilling to invest in the securities based on the coupon rate and the maximum payment at maturity of at least 149% of the stated principal amount (to be determined on the pricing date), which may limit your return at maturity. The actual maximum payment at maturity will be determined on the pricing date.
- You are unwilling to make an investment that is exposed to the potential loss of 1% of the principal amount for each percentage point that the underlying index decreases by more than 15%.
- You prefer the lower risk, and therefore accept the potentially lower returns, of conventional debt securities with comparable maturities issued by HSBC or another issuer with a similar credit rating.
- You prefer to receive the dividends or other distributions paid on the stocks comprising the underlying index.
- You are not willing to forgo market interest rates and invest in a security with an annual coupon payment of only 1% per annum.
- You seek an investment for which there will be an active secondary market.
- You are unable or unwilling to hold the securities to maturity.
- You are not willing or are unable to assume the credit risk associated with HSBC, as Issuer of the securities.

## Risk Factors

*We urge you to read the section “Risk Factors” on page S-2 of the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement and page S-1 of the accompanying prospectus supplement. Investing in the securities is not equivalent to investing directly in the any of the stocks included in the underlying index. You should understand the risks of investing in the securities and should reach an investment decision only after careful consideration, with your advisors, of the suitability of the securities in light of your particular financial circumstances and the information set forth in this free writing prospectus and the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus.*

In addition to the risks discussed below, you should review “Risk Factors” in the accompanying prospectus supplement and Equity Index Underlying Supplement, including the explanation of risks relating to the securities described in the following sections:

- “— Risks relating to all note issuances” in the prospectus supplement; and
- “— General risks related to indices” in the Equity Index Underlying Supplement.

You will be subject to significant risks not associated with conventional fixed-rate or floating-rate debt securities.

- **Investment in the securities may result in a loss.** The terms of the securities differ from those of ordinary debt securities in that the annual rate of interest is less than what we would pay on a conventional debt security of comparable maturity. In addition, the securities will provide for the return of only 15% of the principal amount at maturity. If the level of the underlying index depreciates from the initial level by more than 15%, you will receive for each security that you hold a payment at maturity that is less than the stated principal amount by an amount proportionate to the decline in the level of the underlying index beyond the buffer amount, subject to the credit risk of HSBC. **You may lose up to 85% of the stated principal amount of the securities. Even with the annual coupon payments, you may lose a significant portion of your investment.**
- **The return on the securities is limited by the coupon rate and the maximum payment at maturity.** The return on the securities is limited by the coupon rate and the maximum payment at maturity of at least \$14.90 per security (at least 149% of the stated principal amount). The actual maximum payment at maturity will be determined on the pricing date. Although the leverage factor provides 150% exposure to any amount by which the final level is greater than the initial level, because the payment at maturity will be limited to 149% of the stated principal amount for the securities (based on the maximum payment at maturity of \$14.90), any increase in the final level over the initial level by more than approximately 32.67% of the initial level will not further increase the return on the securities.
- **Credit risk of HSBC USA Inc.** The securities are senior unsecured debt obligations of the issuer, HSBC, and are not, either directly or indirectly, an obligation of any third party. As further described in the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus, the securities will rank on par with all of the other unsecured and unsubordinated debt obligations of HSBC, except such obligations as may be preferred by operation of law. All payments to be made on the securities depend on the ability of HSBC to satisfy its obligations as they come due. As a result, the actual and perceived creditworthiness of HSBC may affect the market value of the securities and, in the event HSBC were to default on its obligations, you may not receive the amounts owed to you under the terms of the securities.
- **The market price will be influenced by many unpredictable factors.** Several factors will influence the value of the securities in the secondary market and the price at which HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. may be willing to purchase or sell the securities in the secondary market, including: the value, volatility and dividend yield, as applicable, of the underlying index and the securities comprising the underlying index, interest and yield rates, time remaining to maturity, geopolitical conditions and economic, financial, political and regulatory or judicial events and any actual or anticipated changes in our credit ratings or credit spreads. The level of the underlying index may be, and has recently been, volatile, and we can give you no assurance that the volatility will lessen. See “Information about the S&P 500® Index” below. You may receive less, and possibly significantly less, than the stated principal amount per security if you try to sell your securities prior to maturity.
- **Investing in the securities is not equivalent to investing in the stocks included in the underlying index.** Investing in the securities is not equivalent to investing in the component securities of the underlying index. Investors in the securities will not have voting rights or rights to receive dividends or other distributions or any other rights with respect to the securities included in the underlying index.
- **Adjustments to the underlying index could adversely affect the value of the securities.** S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, the sponsor of the underlying index, may add, delete or substitute the stocks comprising the underlying index. In addition, the publisher of the underlying index may make other methodological changes that could change the level of the underlying index. Further, the publisher of the underlying index may discontinue or suspend calculation or publication of the underlying index at any time. Any such actions could affect the value of and the return on the securities.



- **The estimated initial value of the securities, which will be determined by us on the pricing date, will be less than the price to public and may differ from the market value of the securities in the secondary market, if any.** The estimated initial value of the securities will be calculated by us on the pricing date and will be less than the price to public. The estimated initial value will reflect our internal funding rate, which is the borrowing rate we pay to issue market-linked securities, as well as the mid-market value of the embedded derivatives in the securities. This internal funding rate is typically lower than the rate we would use when we issue conventional fixed or floating rate debt securities. 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 securities 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 securities to be more favorable to you. We will determine the value of the embedded derivatives in the securities 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. Different pricing models and assumptions could provide valuations for the securities that are different from our estimated initial value. These pricing models rely in part on certain forecasts about future events, which may prove to be incorrect. The estimated initial value does not represent a minimum price at which we or any of our affiliates would be willing to purchase your securities in the secondary market (if any exists) at any time.
- **The price of your securities in the secondary market, if any, immediately after the pricing date will be less than the price to public.** The price to public takes into account certain costs. These costs include the underwriting discount, our affiliates' projected hedging profits (which may or may not be realized) for assuming risks inherent in hedging our obligations under the securities and the costs associated with structuring and hedging our obligations under the securities. These costs, except for the underwriting discount, will be used or retained by us or one of our affiliates. If you were to sell your securities in the secondary market, if any, the price you would receive for your securities may be less than the price you paid for them because secondary market prices will not take into account these costs. The price of your securities in the secondary market, if any, at any time after issuance will vary based on many factors, including the level of the underlying index and changes in market conditions, and cannot be predicted with accuracy. The securities are not designed to be short-term trading instruments, and you should, therefore, be able and willing to hold the securities to maturity. Any sale of the securities prior to maturity could result in a loss to you.
- **If HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. were to repurchase your securities immediately after the original issue date, the price you receive may be higher than the estimated initial value of the securities.** Assuming that all relevant factors remain constant after the original issue date, the price at which HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. may initially buy or sell the securities in the secondary market, if any, and the value that we may initially use for customer account statements, if we provide any customer account statements at all, may exceed the estimated initial value on the pricing date for a temporary period expected to be approximately 12 months after the original issue date. This temporary price difference may exist because, in our discretion, we may elect to effectively reimburse to investors a portion of the estimated cost of hedging our obligations under the securities and other costs in connection with the securities that we will no longer expect to incur over the term of the securities. We will make such discretionary election and determine this temporary reimbursement period on the basis of a number of factors, including the tenor of the securities and any agreement we may have with the distributors of the securities. The amount of our estimated costs which we effectively reimburse to investors in this way may not be allocated ratably throughout the reimbursement period, and we may discontinue such reimbursement at any time or revise the duration of the reimbursement period after the original issue date of the securities based on changes in market conditions and other factors that cannot be predicted.
- **The amount payable on the securities at maturity is not linked to the level of the underlying index at any time other than the valuation date.** The final level will be based on the official closing level of the underlying index on the valuation date, subject to postponement for non-trading days and certain market disruption events. Even if the level of the underlying index appreciates prior to the valuation date but then decreases by the valuation date, the payment at maturity will be less, and may be significantly less, than it would have been had the payment at maturity been linked to the level of the underlying index prior to that decrease. Although the actual level of the underlying index on the stated maturity date or at other times during the term of the securities may be higher than the final level, the payment at maturity will be based solely on the official closing level of the underlying index on the valuation date.
- **The securities will not be listed on any securities exchange and secondary trading may be limited.** The securities will not be listed on any securities exchange. Therefore, there may be little or no secondary market for the securities. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. may, but is not obligated to, make a market in the securities. Even if there is a secondary market, it may not provide enough liquidity to allow you to trade or sell the securities easily. Because we do not expect that other broker-dealers will participate significantly in the secondary market for the securities, the price at which you may be able to trade your securities is likely to depend on the price, if any, at which HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. is willing to transact. If, at any time, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. were to cease making a

market in the securities, it is likely that there would be no secondary market for the securities. Accordingly, you should be willing to hold your securities to maturity.

- **The calculation agent, which is HSBC or one of its affiliates, will make determinations with respect to the securities.** As calculation agent, HSBC or one of its affiliates will determine the initial level and the final level, and will calculate the amount of cash, if any, that you will receive at maturity. Moreover, certain determinations made by HSBC or one of its affiliates in its capacity as calculation agent, may require it to exercise discretion and make subjective judgments, such as with respect to the occurrence or non-occurrence of market disruption events and the selection of a successor index or the calculation of the final level in the event of a discontinuance of the underlying index. These determinations, which may be subjective, may adversely affect the payout to you at maturity. Although the calculation agent will make all determinations and take all action in relation to the securities in good faith, it should be noted that such discretion could have an impact (positive or negative) on the value of your securities. The calculation agent is under no obligation to consider your interests as a holder of the securities in taking any actions, including the determination of the initial level, that might affect the value of your securities. See “Additional Terms of the Notes—Discontinuance or Modification of an Index” and “—Market Disruption Event” in the Equity Index Underlying Supplement.
- **Hedging and trading activity by our affiliates could potentially adversely affect the value of the securities.** One or more of our affiliates and/or third-party dealers expect to carry out hedging activities related to the securities (and possibly to other instruments linked to the underlying index or the securities comprising the underlying index), including trading in the securities comprising the underlying index as well as in other instruments related to the underlying index. As a result, these entities may be unwinding or adjusting hedge positions during the term of the securities, and the hedging strategy may involve greater and more frequent dynamic adjustments to the hedge as the valuation date approaches. Some of our affiliates also trade those securities and other financial instruments related to the underlying index on a regular basis as part of their general broker-dealer and other businesses. Any of these hedging or trading activities on or prior to the pricing date could potentially increase the initial level and, therefore, could increase the level at which the underlying index must close so that an investor does not suffer a loss on the investor's initial investment in the securities. Additionally, hedging or trading activities during the term of the securities, including on the valuation date, could adversely affect the level of the underlying index on the valuation date and, accordingly, the amount of cash, if any, an investor will receive at maturity.
- **The securities are not insured or guaranteed by any governmental agency of the United States or any other jurisdiction.** The securities are not deposit liabilities or other obligations of a bank and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency or program of the United States or any other jurisdiction. An investment in the securities is subject to the credit risk of HSBC, and in the event that HSBC is unable to pay its obligations as they become due, you may not receive the full payment at maturity of the securities.
- **The U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the securities are uncertain.** There is no direct legal authority as to the proper treatment of the securities for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Please read the discussion under “Additional Information About the securities – Additional Provisions – Tax considerations” in this document concerning the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the securities. Pursuant to the terms of the securities, you agree to treat a security for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a single financial contract that provides for a fixed annual payment that will be treated as ordinary income to you at the time received or accrued in accordance with your regular method of tax accounting. If the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) were successful in asserting an alternative treatment for the securities, the timing and character of income or loss on the securities might differ significantly from the tax treatment described herein. **Non-U.S. Holders should note that the entire amount of the fixed annual payments will be subject to U.S. federal income tax withholding at a 30% rate (or at a lower rate under an applicable income tax treaty), and we will not be required to pay any additional amounts with respect to amounts withheld.** We do not plan to request a ruling from the IRS regarding the tax treatment of the securities, and the IRS or a court may not agree with the tax treatment described herein.

- In 2007, the U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS released a notice requesting comments on the U.S. federal income tax treatment of “prepaid forward contracts” and similar instruments. While it is not clear whether the securities would be viewed as similar to the prepaid forward contracts described in the notice, it is possible that any U.S. Treasury Department regulations or other guidance issued after consideration of these issues could materially and adversely affect the tax consequences of an investment in the securities, possibly with retroactive effect. The notice focuses on a number of issues, the most relevant of which for holders of the securities are the character and timing of income or loss and the degree, if any, to which income realized by non-U.S. investors should be subject to withholding tax. Both U.S. and Non-U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the securities, including possible alternative treatments, the issues presented by this notice and any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdictions.

## Information About the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index

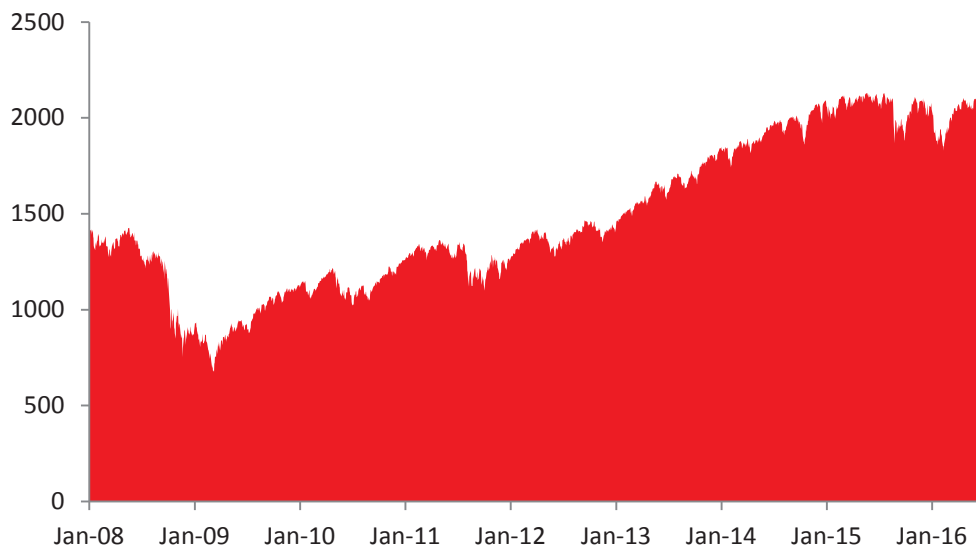
The S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index is a capitalization-weighted index of stocks of 500 component companies. It is designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of stocks of 500 component companies representing all major industries in the U.S. The top 5 industry groups by market capitalization as of May 31, 2016 were: Information Technology, Financials, Health Care, Consumer Discretionary and Consumer Staples.

***For more information about the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index, see “The S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index” beginning on page S-44 of the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement.***

### Historical Information

The following graph sets forth the historical performance of the underlying index based on the daily historical official closing level from January 2, 2008 through June 29, 2016. We obtained the official closing levels below from the Bloomberg Professional<sup>®</sup> service. We have not independently verified the accuracy or completeness of the information obtained from the Bloomberg Professional<sup>®</sup> service. The historical levels of the underlying index should not be taken as an indication of future performance, and no assurance can be given as to the level of the underlying index on the valuation date.

**Historical Performance of the Underlying Index – Daily Official Closing Levels**  
January 2, 2008 to June 29, 2016





## Additional Information About the Securities

Please read this information in conjunction with the summary terms on the front cover of this document.

General Information	
<b>Listing:</b>	The securities will not be listed on any securities exchange.
<b>CUSIP:</b>	40434V525
<b>ISIN:</b>	US40434V5259
<b>Minimum ticketing size:</b>	\$1,000 / 100 securities
<b>Denominations:</b>	\$10 per security and integral multiples thereof
<b>Annual coupon payments:</b>	On each annual coupon payment date, you will receive a coupon payment at the fixed coupon rate of 1% per annum (or \$10 per \$1,000 in principal amount). For information regarding the record dates, see "Description of Notes—Interest and Principal Payments—Recipients of Interest Payments" beginning on page S-12 in the accompanying prospectus supplement.
<b>Tax considerations:</b>	<p><b>Prospective investors should note that the discussion under the section called "U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations" in the accompanying prospectus supplement does not apply to the securities issued under this document and is superseded by the following discussion.</b></p> <p>The following summary is a general discussion of the material U.S. federal tax consequences of ownership and disposition of the securities. This discussion applies only to initial investors in the securities who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• purchase the securities at its "issue price"; and</li> <li>• hold the securities as a capital asset, within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code").</li> </ul> <p>This discussion does not describe all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to a holder in light of the holder's particular circumstances or to holders subject to special rules, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• certain financial institutions;</li> <li>• insurance companies;</li> <li>• certain dealers and traders in securities, commodities or foreign currencies;</li> <li>• investors holding the securities as part of a "straddle," conversion transaction, integrated transaction or constructive sale transaction;</li> <li>• U.S. Holders, as defined below, whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar;</li> <li>• partnerships or other entities classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes;</li> <li>• regulated investment companies;</li> <li>• real estate investment trusts;</li> <li>• tax-exempt entities, including an "individual retirement account" or "Roth IRA", as defined in Section 408 or 408A of the Code, respectively; or</li> <li>• persons subject to the alternative minimum tax.</li> </ul> <p>As the law applicable to the U.S. federal income taxation of instruments such as the securities is technical and complex, the discussion below necessarily represents only a general summary. Moreover, the effect of any applicable state, local or non-U.S. tax laws is not discussed.</p> <p>This discussion is based on the Code, administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions and final, temporary and proposed U.S. Treasury Department regulations, all as of the date hereof, changes to any of which subsequent to the date of this document may affect the tax consequences described herein. Persons considering the purchase of the securities should consult their tax advisors with regard to the application of the U.S. federal income tax laws to their particular situations as well as any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdiction.</p> <p><b>General</b></p> <p>There is no direct legal authority as to the proper tax treatment of the securities, and therefore significant aspects of the tax treatment of the securities are uncertain as to both the timing and character of any inclusion in income in respect of the securities. Under one approach, a security could be treated as a single financial contract that provides for a fixed annual payment. Pursuant to the terms of the securities, you agree to treat a security for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a single financial contract that provides for a fixed annual payment that will be treated as ordinary income to you at the time received or accrued in accordance with your regular method of tax accounting. Subject to the limitations described herein, and based on certain factual representations received from us, in the opinion of our special U.S. tax counsel,</p>

Morrison & Foerster LLP, it is reasonable to treat a security as a single financial contract that provides for a fixed annual payment.

**Due to the absence of statutory, judicial or administrative authorities that directly address the treatment of the securities or instruments that are similar to the securities for U.S. federal income tax purposes, no assurance can be given that the IRS or the courts will agree with the tax treatment described herein. Accordingly, you should consult your tax advisor regarding all aspects of the U.S. federal tax consequences of an investment in the securities (including possible alternative treatments of the securities) and with respect to any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdiction. Unless otherwise stated, the following discussion is based on the treatment of each security as described in the previous paragraph.**

We will not attempt to ascertain whether any of the entities whose stock is included in an underlying index would be treated as a passive foreign investment company ("PFIC") or United States real property holding corporation ("USRPHC"), both as defined for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If one or more of the entities whose stock is included in an underlying index were so treated, certain adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences might apply to a U.S. Holder in the case of a PFIC and to a Non-U.S. Holder, as defined below, in the case of a USRPHC. You should refer to information filed with the SEC and other authorities by the entities whose stock is included in an underlying index, and consult your tax advisor regarding the possible consequences to you if one or more of the entities whose stock is included in an underlying index is or becomes a PFIC or a USRPHC.

#### **Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders**

This section applies to you only if you are a U.S. Holder. As used herein, the term "U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of a security that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States, for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision thereof; or
- an estate or trust, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

The term "U.S. Holder" also includes certain former citizens and residents of the United States.

#### ***Tax Treatment of the Securities***

Assuming the treatment of the securities as set forth above is respected, the following U.S. federal income tax consequences should result.

***Tax Basis.*** A U.S. Holder's tax basis in the securities should equal the amount paid by the U.S. Holder to acquire the securities.

***Tax Treatment of Fixed Annual Payment.*** Any fixed annual payment on the securities should be taxable as ordinary income to a U.S. Holder at the time received or accrued in accordance with the U.S. Holder's regular method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

***Sale, Exchange, Early Redemption or Settlement of the Securities.*** Upon a sale, exchange, early redemption or settlement of the securities at maturity, a U.S. Holder should recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized (other than with respect to cash attributable to the fixed annual payment, which should be treated as discussed above) on the sale, exchange, early redemption or settlement and the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the securities sold, exchanged, redeemed or settled. Any such gain or loss recognized should be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder has held the securities for more than one year at the time of the sale, exchange, early redemption or settlement, and should be short-term capital gain or loss otherwise. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

#### ***Possible Alternative Tax Treatments of an Investment in the Securities***

Due to the absence of authorities that directly address the proper tax treatment of the securities, no assurance can be given that the IRS will accept, or that a court will uphold, the tax treatment described above. In particular, the IRS could seek to treat a security as a single debt instrument. Such a debt instrument would be subject to the special tax rules governing contingent payment debt instruments. If the securities is so treated, a U.S. Holder would generally be required to accrue interest income over the term of the securities based upon the yield at which we would issue a non-contingent fixed-rate debt instrument with other terms and conditions similar to the securities. In addition, any gain a U.S. Holder might recognize upon the sale, exchange, early redemption or settlement of the securities would be ordinary income and any loss recognized by a U.S. Holder would be ordinary loss to the extent of interest that same holder included in income in the current or previous taxable years in respect of the securities, and thereafter, would be capital loss. Because of the absence of authority regarding the appropriate tax characterization of the securities, it is also possible that the IRS could seek to characterize the securities in a manner that results in other tax consequences that are different from those described above. For example, the IRS could assert that any gain or loss that a U.S. Holder may recognize upon the sale, exchange, early redemption or maturity of the securities should be treated as ordinary gain or loss.

Other alternative federal income tax treatments of the securities are also possible, which if applied could also affect the timing and character of the income or loss with respect to the securities. On December 7, 2007, the U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS released a notice requesting comments on the U.S. federal income tax treatment of “prepaid forward contracts” and similar instruments. The notice focuses on whether to require holders of “prepaid forward contracts” and similar instruments to accrue income over the term of their investment. It also asks for comments on a number of related topics, including the character of income or loss with respect to these instruments; whether short-term instruments should be subject to any such accrual regime; the relevance of factors such as the exchange-traded status of the instruments and the nature of the underlying property to which the instruments are linked; whether these instruments are or should be subject to the “constructive ownership” regime, which very generally can operate to recharacterize certain long-term capital gain as ordinary income and impose an interest charge; and appropriate transition rules and effective dates. While it is not clear whether instruments such as the securities would be viewed as similar to the prepaid forward contracts described in the notice, any U.S. Treasury Department regulations or other guidance promulgated after consideration of these issues could materially and adversely affect the tax consequences of an investment in the securities, possibly with retroactive effect. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the securities, including possible alternative treatments and the issues presented by this notice.

### ***Backup Withholding and Information Reporting***

Backup withholding may apply in respect of the amounts paid to a U.S. Holder, unless such U.S. Holder provides proof of an applicable exemption or a correct taxpayer identification number, or otherwise complies with applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. The amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules are not an additional tax and may be refunded, or credited against the U.S. Holder’s U.S. federal income tax liability, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS. In addition, information returns may be filed with the IRS in connection with payments on the securities and the proceeds from a sale, exchange, early redemption or other disposition of the securities, unless the U.S. Holder provides proof of an applicable exemption from the information reporting rules.

### **Tax Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders**

This section applies to you only if you are a Non-U.S. Holder. As used herein, the term “Non-U.S. Holder” means a beneficial owner of a security that is for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- an individual who is classified as a nonresident alien;
- a foreign corporation; or
- a foreign trust or estate.

The term “Non-U.S. Holder” does not include any of the following holders:

- a holder who is an individual present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of disposition and who is not otherwise a resident of the United States for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- certain former citizens or residents of the United States; or
- a holder for whom income or gain in respect of the securities is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States.

Such holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the securities.

Because the U.S. federal income tax treatment (including the applicability of withholding) of fixed annual payments on the securities is uncertain, the entire amount of the fixed annual

payments will be subject to U.S. federal income tax withholding at a 30% rate (or at a lower rate under an applicable income tax treaty). We will not pay any additional amounts in respect of such withholding. In order to claim an exemption from or a reduction in the 30% withholding tax, a Non-U.S. Holder of the securities must comply with certification requirements to establish that it is not a U.S. person and is eligible for a reduction of, or an exemption from, withholding under an applicable tax treaty. If you are a Non-U.S. Holder, you should consult your tax advisors regarding the tax treatment of the securities, including the possibility of obtaining a refund of any withholding tax and the certification requirement described above.

A “dividend equivalent” payment is treated as a dividend from sources within the U.S. and such payments generally would be subject to a 30% (or a lower rate under an applicable treaty) U.S.

withholding tax if paid to a Non-U.S. Holder. Under U.S. Treasury Department regulations, certain payments (including deemed payments) that are contingent upon or determined by reference to actual or estimated U.S. source dividends with respect to certain equity-linked instruments, whether explicitly stated or implicitly taken into account in computing one or more of the terms of such instrument, may

be treated as dividend equivalents. However, this withholding on “dividend equivalent” payments, if any, will not apply to a security issued before January 1, 2017. If any payments are treated as dividend equivalents subject to withholding, we (or the applicable paying agent) would be entitled to withhold taxes in addition to the withholding tax described above without being required to pay any additional amounts with respect to amounts so withheld.

#### **U.S. Federal Estate Tax**

Under current law, while the matter is not entirely clear, individual Non-U.S. Holders, and entities whose property is potentially includible in those individuals' gross estates for U.S. federal estate tax purposes (for example, a trust funded by such an individual and with respect to which the individual has retained certain interests or powers), should note that, absent an applicable treaty benefit, the securities is likely to be treated as U.S. situs property, subject to U.S. federal estate tax. These individuals and entities should consult their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal estate tax consequences of investing in the securities.

#### **Backup Withholding and Information Reporting**

Information returns may be filed with the IRS in connection with payments on the securities and the proceeds from a sale, exchange, early redemption or other disposition. A Non-U.S. Holder may be subject to backup withholding in respect of amounts paid to the Non-U.S. Holder, unless such Non-U.S. Holder complies with certification procedures to establish that it is not a U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes or otherwise establishes an exemption. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a Non-U.S. Holder will be allowed as a credit against the Non-U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle the Non-U.S. Holder to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

#### **Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act**

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act imposes a 30% U.S. withholding tax on certain U.S. source payments, including interest (and original issue discount), dividends, other fixed or determinable annual or periodical gain, profits, and income, and on the gross proceeds from a disposition of property of a type which can produce U.S. source interest or dividends (“Withholdable Payments”), if paid to a foreign financial institution (including amounts paid to a foreign financial institution on behalf of a holder), unless such institution enters into an agreement with the U.S. Treasury Department to collect and provide to the U.S. Treasury Department substantial information regarding U.S. account holders, including certain account holders that are foreign entities with U.S. owners, or otherwise establishes an exemption. The legislation also generally imposes a withholding tax of 30% on Withholdable Payments made to a non-financial foreign entity unless such entity provides the withholding agent with a certification that it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or a certification identifying the direct and indirect substantial U.S. owners of the entity or otherwise establishes an exemption.

The U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS have announced that withholding on payments of gross proceeds from a sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition of the securities will only apply to dispositions after December 31, 2018. Holders are urged to consult with their own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this legislation on their investment in the securities.

**Calculation agent:** HSBC USA Inc., or one of its affiliates.

#### **Supplemental plan of distribution (conflicts of interest):**

Pursuant to the terms of a distribution agreement, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., an affiliate of HSBC, will purchase the securities from HSBC for distribution to Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. will act as agent for the securities and will receive a fee of \$0.35 per \$10 stated principal amount and will pay to Morgan Stanley Wealth Management a fixed sales commission of \$0.30 for each security they sell. Of the amount per \$10 stated principal amount received by HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., acting as agent for HSBC, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. will pay Morgan Stanley Wealth Management a structuring fee of \$0.05 for each security.

In addition, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. or another of its affiliates or agents may use the pricing supplement to which this free writing prospectus relates in market-making transactions after the initial sale of the securities, but is under no obligation to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice.

See “Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)” on page S-59 in the prospectus supplement.

#### **Events of default and acceleration:**

If the securities have become immediately due and payable following an event of default (as defined in the accompanying prospectus) with respect to the securities, the calculation agent will determine the accelerated payment at maturity due and payable in the same general manner as described in “payment at maturity” in this free writing prospectus. In such a case, the third scheduled trading day for the underlying index immediately preceding the date of acceleration will be used as the valuation date for purposes of determining the accelerated final level. If a market disruption event exists on that scheduled trading day, then the accelerated valuation date will be postponed for up to five scheduled trading days (in the same general manner used for postponing the originally scheduled valuation date). The accelerated maturity date will be the fifth business day following such accelerated postponed valuation date.

For more information, see “Description of Debt Securities — Senior Debt Securities — Events of Default” in the accompanying prospectus.

### Where you can find more information:

This free writing prospectus relates to an offering of the securities linked to the underlying index. The purchaser of a security will acquire a senior unsecured debt security of HSBC USA Inc. We reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify any offering and to reject orders in whole or in part. Although the offering of securities relates to the underlying index, you should not construe that fact as a recommendation as to the merits of acquiring an investment linked to the underlying index or any security comprising the underlying index or as to the suitability of an investment in the securities.

HSBC has filed a registration statement (including a prospectus, a prospectus supplement and an Equity Index Underlying Supplement) with the SEC for the offering to which this free writing prospectus relates. Before you invest, you should read the prospectus, prospectus supplement and Equity Index Underlying Supplement in that registration statement and other documents HSBC has filed with the SEC for more complete information about HSBC and this offering. You may get these documents for free by visiting EDGAR on the SEC's web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Alternatively, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. or any dealer participating in this offering will arrange to send you the prospectus, prospectus supplement and Equity Index Underlying Supplement if you request them by calling toll-free 1-866-811-8049.

You should read this document together with the prospectus dated March 5, 2015, the prospectus supplement dated March 5, 2015 and Equity Index Underlying Supplement dated March 5, 2015. If the terms of the securities offered hereby are inconsistent with those described in the accompanying prospectus supplement, prospectus, or Equity Index Underlying Supplement, the terms described in this free writing prospectus shall control. You should carefully consider, among other things, the matters set forth in "Risk Factors" herein, on page S-2 of the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement and page S-1 of the accompanying prospectus supplement, as the securities involve risks not associated with conventional debt securities. We urge you to consult your investment, legal, tax, accounting and other advisors before you invest in the securities. As used herein, references to the "Issuer", "HSBC", "we", "us" and "our" are to HSBC USA Inc.

You may access these documents on the SEC web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) as follows:

The Equity Index Underlying Supplement at:

[http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420415014327/v403626\\_424b2.htm](http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420415014327/v403626_424b2.htm)

The prospectus supplement at:

[http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420415014311/v403645\\_424b2.htm](http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420415014311/v403645_424b2.htm)

The prospectus at:

<http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000119312515078931/d884345d424b3.htm>

*This document provides a summary of the terms and conditions of the securities. We encourage you to read the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus for this offering, which can be accessed via the hyperlinks on the front page of this document.*