

Filed Pursuant to Rule 433
Registration No. 333-202524
December 11, 2017

FREE WRITING PROSPECTUS
(To Prospectus dated March 5, 2015,
Prospectus Supplement dated March 5, 2015,
Equity Index Underlying Supplement dated March 5, 2015 and
ETF Underlying Supplement dated March 5, 2015)

HSBC USA Inc.

Barrier Digital Return Notes

Linked to the Least Performing of the
S&P 500[®] Index and the SPDR[®] S&P[®]
Oil & Gas Exploration & Production ETF

- ▶ Barrier Digital Return Notes Linked to the Least Performing of the S&P 500[®] Index and the SPDR[®] S&P[®] Oil & Gas Exploration & Production ETF
- ▶ 5-year maturity
- ▶ Digital return of at least 37.00% (to be determined on the pricing date) at maturity if the final value of the least performing underlying is greater than or equal to its barrier value (60% of its initial value)
- ▶ If the final value of either underlying is less than its barrier value, you will lose 1% of the principal amount for each 1% that the reference return of the least performing underlying is less than zero, with up to 100% of your principal amount at risk
- ▶ No payments on the Notes prior to maturity
- ▶ All payments on the Notes are subject to the credit risk of HSBC USA Inc.

The Barrier Digital Return Notes (each a "Note" and collectively the "Notes") offered hereunder will not be listed on any U.S. securities exchange or automated quotation system.

Neither the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of the Notes or passed upon the accuracy or the adequacy of this document, the accompanying prospectus, prospectus supplement, Equity Index Underlying Supplement or ETF Underlying Supplement. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

We have appointed HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., an affiliate of ours, as the agent for the sale of the Notes. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. will purchase the Notes from us for distribution to other registered broker-dealers or will offer the Notes directly to investors. 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 in any Notes after their initial sale. Unless we or our agent informs you otherwise in the confirmation of sale, the pricing supplement to which this free writing prospectus relates is being used in a market-making transaction. See "Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)" on page FWP-17 of this free writing prospectus.

Investment in the Notes involves certain risks. You should refer to "Risk Factors" beginning on page FWP-7 of this document, page S-1 of the accompanying prospectus supplement, page S-2 of the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement and page S-1 of the accompanying ETF Underlying Supplement.

The Estimated Initial Value of the Notes on the Pricing Date is expected to be between \$910 and \$965 per Note, which will be less than the price to public. The market value of the Notes at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted with accuracy. See "Estimated Initial Value" on page FWP-3 and "Risk Factors" beginning on page FWP-7 of this document for additional information.

	Price to Public	Underwriting Discount ¹	Proceeds to Issuer
Per Note	\$1,000		
Total			

¹ HSBC USA Inc. or one of our affiliates may pay varying underwriting discounts of up to 3.625% per \$1,000 Principal Amount in connection with the distribution of the Notes to other registered broker-dealers. See "Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)" on page FWP-17 of this free writing prospectus.

The Notes:

Are Not FDIC Insured	Are Not Bank Guaranteed	May Lose Value
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HSBC USA Inc.

Barrier Digital Return Notes

Linked to the Least Performing of the S&P 500[®] Index and the SPDR[®] S&P[®] Oil & Gas Exploration & Production ETF

The Notes will have the terms described in this free writing prospectus and the accompanying prospectus, prospectus supplement, Equity Index Underlying Supplement and ETF Underlying Supplement. If the terms of the Notes offered hereby are inconsistent with those described in the accompanying prospectus, prospectus supplement, Equity Index Underlying Supplement or ETF Underlying Supplement, the terms described in this free writing prospectus shall control. **You should be willing to forgo interest and dividend payments during the term of the Notes and, if the Final Value of either Underlying is less than its Barrier Value, lose some or all (up to 100%) of your principal at maturity.**

Issuer:	HSBC USA Inc.
Principal Amount:	\$1,000 per Note
Reference Asset:	The S&P 500 [®] Index ("SPX") and the SPDR [®] S&P [®] Oil & Gas Exploration & Production ETF ("XOP") (each, an "Underlying," and together the "Underlyings").
Trade Date:	December 26, 2017
Pricing Date:	December 26, 2017
Original Issue Date:	December 29, 2017
Final Valuation Date:	December 23, 2022. The Final Valuation Date is subject to postponement as described under "Additional Terms of the Notes—Valuation Dates" in the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement and ETF Underlying Supplement.
Maturity Date:	3 business days after the Final Valuation Date, and is expected to be December 29, 2022. The Maturity Date is subject to postponement as described under "Additional Terms of the Notes—Coupon Payment Dates, Call Payment Dates and Maturity Date" in the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement and ETF Underlying Supplement.
Interest Payments:	None
Payment at Maturity:	On the Maturity Date, for each \$1,000 in Principal Amount, we will pay you the Final Settlement Value.
Final Settlement Value:	<p>If the Final Value of the Least Performing Underlying is greater than or equal to its applicable Barrier Value, you will receive a cash payment on the Maturity Date, per \$1,000 in Principal Amount, calculated as follows:</p> $\$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times \text{Digital Return})$ <p>If the Final Value of either Underlying is less than its Barrier Value, you will receive a cash payment on the Maturity Date, per \$1,000 in Principal Amount, calculated as follows:</p> $\$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times \text{Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying})$ <p>In this case, you will lose 1% of the Principal Amount for each 1% decline in the Least Performing Underlying. If the Final Value of the Least Performing Underlying is less than its Barrier Value, you will lose some or all of your investment, regardless of the performance of the other Underlying.</p> <p>For example, if the Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying is -50%, you will suffer a 50% loss and receive 50% of the Principal Amount, subject to the credit risk of the Issuer.</p>
Barrier Value:	With respect to each Underlying, 60% of its Initial Value.
Digital Return:	At least 37.00%, to be determined on the Pricing Date.
Least Performing Underlying:	The Underlying with the lowest Reference Return.

Reference Return: With respect to each Underlying, the quotient, expressed as a percentage, calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Final Value} - \text{Initial Value}}{\text{Initial Value}}$$

Initial Value: The Official Closing Value of the relevant Underlying on the Pricing Date.

Final Value: The Official Closing Value of the relevant Underlying on the Final Valuation Date.

Official Closing Value: The closing level or closing price, as applicable, of the relevant Underlying on any scheduled trading day as determined by the calculation agent based upon the value displayed on the relevant Bloomberg Professional[®] service page (with respect to the SPX, "SPX <INDEX>" and with respect to the XOP, "XOP UP <EQUITY>") or, for each Underlying, any successor page on the Bloomberg Professional[®] service or any successor service, as applicable. The Official Closing Value of the XOP is subject to adjustment as described under "Additional Terms of the Notes—Antidilution and Reorganization Adjustments" in the accompanying ETF Underlying Supplement.

Form of Notes: Book-Entry

Listing: The Notes will not be listed on any U.S. securities exchange or quotation system.

CUSIP / ISIN: 40435FNZ6 / US 40435FNZ61

Estimated Initial Value: The Estimated Initial Value of the Notes will be less than the price you pay to purchase the Notes. The Estimated Initial Value does not represent a minimum price at which we or any of our affiliates would be willing to purchase your Notes 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 Notes, 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 Notes in the secondary market, if any."

The Trade Date, the Pricing Date and the other dates set forth above are subject to change, and will be set forth in the final pricing supplement relating to the Notes.

GENERAL

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

You should read this document together with the prospectus dated March 5, 2015, the prospectus supplement dated March 5, 2015, the Equity Index Underlying Supplement dated March 5, 2015 and the ETF Underlying Supplement dated March 5, 2015. If the terms of the Notes offered hereby are inconsistent with those described in the accompanying prospectus, prospectus supplement, Equity Index Underlying Supplement or ETF 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" beginning on page FWP-7 of this free writing prospectus, beginning on page S-1 of the prospectus supplement, page S-2 of the Equity Index Underlying Supplement and page S-1 of the ETF Underlying Supplement, as the Notes 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 Notes. As used herein, references to the "Issuer", "HSBC", "we", "us" and "our" are to HSBC USA Inc.

HSBC has filed a registration statement (including a prospectus, prospectus supplement, Equity Index Underlying Supplement and ETF 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, Equity Index Underlying Supplement and ETF 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. Alternatively, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. or any dealer participating in this offering will arrange to send you the prospectus, prospectus supplement, Equity Index Underlying Supplement and ETF Underlying Supplement if you request them by calling toll-free 1-866-811-8049.

You may also obtain:

- ▶ The Equity Index Underlying Supplement at: http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420415014327/v403626_424b2.htm
- ▶ The ETF Underlying Supplement at: http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420415014329/v403640_424b2.htm
- ▶ The prospectus supplement at: 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>

We are using this free writing prospectus to solicit from you an offer to purchase the Notes. You may revoke your offer to purchase the Notes at any time prior to the time at which we accept your offer by notifying HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. We reserve the right to change the terms of, or reject any offer to purchase, the Notes prior to their issuance. In the event of any material changes to the terms of the Notes, we will notify you.

PAYMENT ON THE NOTES

Payment at Maturity

On the Maturity Date, for each Note you hold, we will pay you the Final Settlement Value. The Final Settlement Value, which is an amount in cash, will be determined as follows:

- ▶ **If the Final Value of the Least Performing Underlying is greater than or equal to its applicable Barrier Value**, you will receive a cash payment on the Maturity Date, per \$1,000 in Principal Amount, calculated as follows:

$$\$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times \text{Digital Return})$$

- ▶ **If the Final Value of either Underlying is less than its Barrier Value**, you will receive a cash payment on the Maturity Date, per \$1,000 in Principal Amount, calculated as follows:

$$\$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times \text{Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying}).$$

In this case, you will lose 1% of the Principal Amount for each 1% decline in the Least Performing Underlying. **If the Final Value of the Least Performing Underlying is less than its Barrier Value, you will lose some or all of your investment, regardless of the performance of the other Underlying.**

For example, if the Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying is -50%, you will suffer a 50% loss and receive 50% of the Principal Amount, subject to the credit risk of the Issuer.

Interest

The Notes will not pay interest.

Calculation Agent

We or one of our affiliates will act as calculation agent with respect to the Notes.

Reference Sponsor and Reference Issuer

With respect to the SPX, S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, a division of S&P Global, is the reference sponsor. With respect to the XOP, SSgA Funds Management, Inc. is the reference issuer.

INVESTOR SUITABILITY

The Notes may be suitable for you if:

- ▶ You believe that the Final Value of each Underlying will be greater than or equal to its Barrier Value.
- ▶ You are willing to make an investment that is exposed to the negative Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying on a 1-to-1 basis if the Final Value of either Underlying is less than its Barrier Value.
- ▶ You are willing to invest in the Notes based on the fact that your maximum potential return is the Digital Return.
- ▶ You are willing to forgo dividends or other distributions paid on the XOP or the securities included in or held by the Underlyings.
- ▶ You are willing to accept the risk and return profile of the Notes versus conventional debt securities with comparable maturities issued by HSBC or another issuer with a similar credit rating.
- ▶ You do not seek current income from this investment.
- ▶ You do not seek an investment for which there is an active secondary market.
- ▶ You are willing to hold the Notes to maturity.
- ▶ You are comfortable with the creditworthiness of HSBC, as Issuer of the Notes.

The Notes may not be suitable for you if:

- ▶ You believe that the Final Value of each Underlying will be less than its Barrier Value.
- ▶ You are unwilling to make an investment that is exposed to the negative Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying on a 1-to-1 basis if the Final Value of either Underlying is less than its Barrier Value.
- ▶ You are unwilling to invest in the Notes based on the fact that your maximum potential return is the Digital Return.
- ▶ You seek an investment that provides a full return of principal.
- ▶ You prefer a product that provides upside participation in one or both Underlyings, as opposed to the Digital Return.
- ▶ You seek an investment with current income.
- ▶ You prefer to receive the dividends or other distributions paid on the XOP or the securities included in or held by the Underlyings.
- ▶ 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 seek an investment for which there will be an active secondary market.
- ▶ You are unable or unwilling to hold the Notes to maturity.
- ▶ You are not willing or are unable to assume the credit risk associated with HSBC, as Issuer of the Notes.

RISK FACTORS

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

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

- ▶ “— Risks Relating to All Note Issuances” in the prospectus supplement;
- ▶ “— General Risks Related to Indices” in the Equity Index Underlying Supplement;
- ▶ “— General Risks Related to Index Funds” in the ETF Underlying Supplement;
- ▶ “— Securities Prices Generally Are Subject to Political, Economic, Financial, and Social Factors that Apply to the Markets in which They Trade and, to a Lesser Extent, Foreign Markets” in the ETF Underlying Supplement; and
- ▶ “— Time Differences Between the Domestic and Foreign Markets and New York City May Create Discrepancies in the Trading Level or Price of the Notes” in the ETF Underlying Supplement.

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

Your investment in the Notes may result in a loss.

You will be exposed on a 1-to-1 basis to any decline in the Final Value of the Least Performing Underlying from its Initial Value if the Final Value of either Underlying is less than its Barrier Value. Accordingly, if the Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying is less than -40%, you will lose some or all of your Principal Amount at maturity.

You will not participate in any appreciation in the value of either Underlying and your return on the Notes is limited to the Digital Return.

The Notes will not pay a return more than the Digital Return. Even if the value of each Underlying appreciates over the term of the Notes, you will not participate in that appreciation. Assuming the Notes are held to maturity, the maximum return on the Notes will not exceed the Digital Return. Under no circumstances, regardless of the extent to which the value of either Underlying increases, will your return exceed the Digital Return. In some cases, you may earn significantly less by investing in the Notes than you would have earned by investing in an instrument directly linked to the performance of either Underlying, or by investing directly in the securities included in or held by either Underlying.

The Notes are subject to the credit risk of HSBC USA Inc.

The Notes 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 Notes 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. Any payment to be made on the Notes, including any return of principal at maturity, depends 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 Notes 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 Notes.

The Notes will not bear interest.

As a holder of the Notes, you will not receive interest payments.

Your return on the Notes will be based on the Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying.

Your return on the Notes will be based on the Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying without regard to the performance of the other Underlying. As a result, you could lose some or all of the Principal Amount if the Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying is less than zero, even if there is an increase in the value of the other Underlying. This could be the case even if the other Underlying increased, or decreased to a lesser extent than the Least Performing Underlying.

Since the Notes are linked to the Least Performing Underlying, you will be fully exposed to the risk of fluctuations in the value of each Underlying.

Since the Notes are linked to the Least Performing Underlying, the Notes will be linked to the individual performance of each Underlying. Because the Notes are not linked to a weighted basket, in which the risk is mitigated and diversified among all of the components of a basket, you will be exposed to the risk of fluctuations in the values of the Underlyings to the same degree for each Underlying. For example, in the case of Notes linked to a weighted basket, the return would depend on the weighted aggregate performance of the basket components reflected as the basket return. Thus, the depreciation of any basket component could be mitigated by the appreciation of another basket component, as scaled by the weightings of such basket components. However, in the case of these Notes, the individual performance of each of the Underlyings would not be combined to calculate your return and the depreciation of either Underlying would not be mitigated by the appreciation of the other Underlying. Instead, your return would depend on the Least Performing Underlying.

Changes that affect an Underlying may affect the market value of the Notes and the amount you will receive at maturity.

The policies of the reference sponsor or reference issuer of the relevant Underlying concerning additions, deletions and substitutions of the constituents comprising such Underlying and the manner in which the reference sponsor or reference issuer takes account of certain changes affecting those constituents included in such Underlying may affect the value of such Underlying. The policies of the reference sponsor or reference issuer with respect to the calculation of the relevant Underlying could also affect the value of such Underlying. The reference sponsor or reference issuer may discontinue or suspend calculation or dissemination of its relevant Underlying. Any such actions could affect the value of the Notes and the Final Settlement Value.

The Notes are not insured or guaranteed by any governmental agency of the United States or any other jurisdiction.

The Notes 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 Notes 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 payments due on the Notes.

The Estimated Initial Value of the Notes, 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 Notes in the secondary market, if any.

The Estimated Initial Value of the Notes 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 Notes. 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 Notes may be lower if it were based on the prices at which our fixed or floating rate debt securities trade in the secondary market. In addition, if we were to use the rate we use for our conventional fixed or floating rate debt issuances, we would expect the economic terms of the Notes to be more favorable to you. We will determine the value of the embedded derivatives in the Notes 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 Notes 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 Notes in the secondary market (if any exists) at any time.

The price of your Notes 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, which will be used or retained by us or one of our affiliates, 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 Notes and the costs associated with structuring and hedging our obligations under the Notes. If you were to sell your Notes in the secondary market, if any, the price you would receive for your Notes may be less than the price you paid for them because secondary market prices will not take into account these costs. The price of your Notes in the secondary market, if any, at any time after issuance will vary based on many factors, including the values of the Underlyings and changes in market conditions, and cannot be predicted with accuracy. The Notes are not designed to be short-term trading instruments, and you should, therefore, be able and willing to hold the Notes to maturity. Any sale of the Notes prior to maturity could result in a loss to you.

If we were to repurchase your Notes immediately after the Original Issue Date, the price you receive may be higher than the Estimated Initial Value of the Notes.

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 Notes 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 Notes and other costs in connection with the Notes that we will no longer expect to incur over the term of the Notes. 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 Notes and any agreement we may have with the distributors of the Notes. 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 Notes based on changes in market conditions and other factors that cannot be predicted.

The Notes lack liquidity.

The Notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. is not required to offer to purchase the Notes in the secondary market, if any exists. Even if there is a secondary market, it may not provide enough liquidity to allow you to trade or sell the Notes easily. Because other dealers are not likely to make a secondary market for the Notes, the price at which you may be able to trade your Notes is likely to depend on the price, if any, at which HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. is willing to buy the Notes.

Potential conflicts of interest may exist.

HSBC and its affiliates play a variety of roles in connection with the issuance of the Notes, including acting as calculation agent and hedging our obligations under the Notes. In performing these duties, the economic interests of the calculation agent and other affiliates of ours are potentially adverse to your interests as an investor in the Notes. We will not have any obligation to consider your interests as a holder of the Notes in taking any action that might affect the value of your Notes.

The amount payable on the Notes is not linked to the values of the Underlyings at any time other than on the Final Valuation Date.

The Final Values of the Underlyings will be based on the Official Closing Values of the Underlyings on the Final Valuation Date, subject to postponement for non-trading days and certain market disruption events. Even if the value of the Least Performing Underlying appreciates during the term of the Notes other than on the Final Valuation Date but then decreases on the Final Valuation Date, the Payment at Maturity may be less, and may be significantly less, than it would have been had the Payment at Maturity been linked to the value of the Least Performing Underlying prior to such decrease. Although the actual values of the Underlyings on the Maturity Date or at other times during the term of the Notes may be higher than their respective Final Values, the Payment at Maturity will be based solely on the Official Closing Values of the Underlyings on the Final Valuation Date.

Higher Digital Returns or lower Barrier Values are generally associated with Underlyings with greater expected volatility and therefore can indicate a greater risk of loss.

"Volatility" refers to the frequency and magnitude of changes in the value of an Underlying. The greater the expected volatility with respect to an Underlying on the Pricing Date, the higher the expectation as of the Pricing Date that the value of that Underlying could close below its Barrier Value on the Final Valuation Date, indicating a higher expected risk of loss on the Notes. This greater expected risk will generally be reflected in a higher Digital Return than the yield payable on our conventional debt securities with a similar maturity, or in more favorable terms (such as a lower Barrier Value or a higher Digital Return) than for similar securities linked to the performance of an Underlying with a lower expected volatility as of the Pricing Date. You should therefore understand that a relatively higher Digital Return may indicate an increased risk of loss. Further, a relatively lower Barrier Value may not necessarily indicate that the Notes have a greater likelihood of a repayment of principal at maturity. The volatility of an Underlying can change significantly over the term of the Notes. The value of an Underlying for your Notes could fall sharply, which could result in a significant loss of principal. You should be willing to accept the downside market risk of the Least Performing Underlying and the potential to lose some or all of your principal at maturity.

Risks associated with the oil and gas exploration and production sector.

All of the stocks held by the XOP are issued by companies in the oil and gas exploration and production sector. As a result, the stocks that will determine the performance of the XOP are concentrated in one sector. Although an investment in the Notes will not give holders any ownership or other direct interests in the stocks held by the XOP, the return on the Notes will be subject to certain risks associated with a direct equity investment in companies in the oil and gas exploration and production sector.

In addition, the stocks of companies in the oil and gas sector are subject to swift price fluctuations. The issuers of the stocks held by the XOP develop and produce, among other things, crude oil and natural gas, and provide, among other things, drilling services and other services related to oil and gas production and distribution. Stock prices for these types of companies are affected by supply and demand both for their specific product or service and for oil and gas products in general. The price of oil and gas, exploration and production

spending, government regulation, world events and economic conditions will likewise affect the performance of these companies. Correspondingly, the stocks of companies in this sector are subject to swift price fluctuations caused by events relating to international politics, energy conservation, the success of exploration projects and tax and other governmental regulatory policies. Weak demand for the companies' products or services or for oil and gas products and services in general, as well as negative developments in these other areas, would adversely impact the prices of the stocks held by the XOP, the market price of the XOP, and the value of the Notes.

Uncertain tax treatment.

For a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in a Note, please see the discussion under "U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations" herein and the discussion under "U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations" in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES

The following table and examples are provided for illustrative purposes only and are hypothetical. They do not purport to be representative of every possible scenario concerning increases or decreases in the value of either Underlying relative to its Initial Value. We cannot predict the Official Closing Value of either Underlying, including on the Final Valuation Date. The assumptions we have made in connection with the illustrations set forth below may not reflect actual events. You should not take this illustration or these examples as an indication or assurance of the expected performance of the Underlyings or the return on your Notes. The return on the Notes may be less than the return that you would have received from a conventional debt security with the same stated maturity, including those issued by HSBC. The numbers appearing in the table below and following examples have been rounded for ease of analysis.

The table below illustrates the hypothetical Final Settlement Value on a \$1,000 investment in the Notes for a hypothetical range of performance for the Least Performing Underlying from -100% to +100%. The following results are based solely on the assumptions outlined below. The "Hypothetical Return on the Notes" as used below is the number, expressed as a percentage, that results from comparing the Final Settlement Value to \$1,000. The potential returns described here assume that your Notes are held to maturity. You should consider carefully whether the Notes are suitable to your investment goals. The following table and examples assume the following:

- ▶ Principal Amount: \$1,000
- ▶ Hypothetical Digital Return: 37% (The actual Digital Return will be determined on the Pricing Date and will be at least 37%.)
- ▶ Barrier Value: With respect to each Underlying, 60% of its Initial Value

Hypothetical Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying	Hypothetical Final Settlement Value	Hypothetical Return on the Notes
100.00%	\$1,370.00	37.00%
80.00%	\$1,370.00	37.00%
60.00%	\$1,370.00	37.00%
40.00%	\$1,370.00	37.00%
20.00%	\$1,370.00	37.00%
0.00%	\$1,370.00	37.00%
-10.00%	\$1,370.00	37.00%
-20.00%	\$1,370.00	37.00%
-30.00%	\$1,370.00	37.00%
-40.00%	\$1,370.00	37.00%
-50.00%	\$500.00	-50.00%
-60.00%	\$400.00	-60.00%
-70.00%	\$300.00	-70.00%
-80.00%	\$200.00	-80.00%
-90.00%	\$100.00	-90.00%
-100.00%	\$0.00	-100.00%

The following examples indicate how the Final Settlement Value would be calculated with respect to a hypothetical \$1,000 investment in the Notes.

Example 1: The Final Value of the Least Performing Underlying is greater than its Barrier Value, but less than or equal to the value represented by the Digital Return.

Underlying	Initial Value	Final Value
SPX	2,000.00	1,800.00 (90% of its Initial Value)
XOP	40.00	40.00 (100% of its Initial Value)

SPX is the Least Performing Underlying. Because the Initial Value of SPX is 2,000.00 and the Final Value of SPX is 1,800.00, the Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying is -10.00%, calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Final Value of SPX} - \text{Initial Value of SPX}}{\text{Initial Value of SPX}}$$

$$(1,800.00 - 2,000.00) / 2,000.00 = -10.00\%$$

Because the Final Value of the Least Performing Underlying is above its Barrier Value, and is less than the value represented by the hypothetical Digital Return, the investor receives the Digital Return, and the Final Settlement Value would be \$1,370.00 per \$1,000 in Principal Amount, calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times \text{Digital Return}) \\ &= \$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times 37.00\%) \\ &= \$1,370.00 \end{aligned}$$

Example 1 shows that you will benefit from the Digital Return at maturity when the Final Value of the Least Performing Underlying is above its Barrier Value but less than the value represented by the Digital Return.

Example 2: The Final Value of the Least Performing Underlying is greater than the value represented by the Digital Return.

Underlying	Initial Value	Final Value
SPX	2,000.00	3,000.00 (150% of its Initial Value)
XOP	40.00	58.00 (145% of its Initial Value)

XOP is the Least Performing Underlying. Because the Initial Value of XOP is 1,000.00 and the Final Value of XOP is 58.00, the Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying is 45.00%, calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Final Value of XOP} - \text{Initial Value of XOP}}{\text{Initial Value of XOP}}$$

$$(1,450.00 - 1,000.00) / 1,000.00 = 45.00\%$$

Because the Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying is greater than its Barrier Value, the Final Settlement Value would be \$1,370.00 per \$1,000 in Principal Amount, calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times \text{Digital Return}) \\ &= \$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times 37.00\%) \\ &= \$1,370.00 \end{aligned}$$

Example 2 shows that although the Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying is greater than the value represented by the Digital Return, you will only receive the Digital Return at maturity.

Example 3: The Final Value of the Least Performing Underlying is less than its Barrier Value.

Underlying	Initial Value	Final Value
SPX	2,000.00	800.00 (40% of its Initial Value)
XOP	40.00	20.00 (50% of its Initial Value)

SPX is the Least Performing Underlying. Because the Initial Value of SPX is 2,000.00 and the Final Value of SPX is 800.00, the Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying is -60.00%, calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Final Value of SPX} - \text{Initial Value of SPX}}{\text{Initial Value of SPX}}$$

$$(800.00 - 2,000.00) / 2,000.00 = -60.00\%$$

Because the Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying is less than -60.00%, the Final Settlement Value would be \$400.00 per \$1,000 in Principal Amount, calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times \text{Reference Return of the Least Performing Underlying}) \\ &= \$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times -60.00\%) \\ &= \$400.00 \end{aligned}$$

Example 3 shows that you will lose 1% of the Principal Amount for each 1% decline in the Least Performing Underlying if the Final Value of either Underlying is less than its Barrier Value. **YOU MAY LOSE UP TO 100% OF THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT AT MATURITY.**

INFORMATION RELATING TO THE UNDERLYINGS

Description of the SPX

The SPX is a capitalization-weighted index of 500 U.S. stocks. It is designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

As of July 31, 2017, companies with multiple share class lines are no longer eligible for inclusion in the SPX. Constituents of the SPX prior to July 31, 2017 with multiple share class lines have been grandfathered in and will continue to be included in the SPX. If a constituent company of the SPX reorganizes into a multiple share class line structure, that company will remain in the SPX at the discretion of the S&P Index Committee in order to minimize turnover.

The top 5 industry groups by market capitalization as of November 30, 2017 were: Information Technology, Financials, Health Care, Consumer Discretionary and Industrials.

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

Historical Performance of the SPX

The following graph sets forth the historical performance of the SPX based on the daily historical closing levels from January 1, 2008 through December 8, 2017. We obtained the closing levels below from the Bloomberg Professional® service. We have not undertaken any independent review of, or made any due diligence inquiry with respect to, the information obtained from the Bloomberg Professional® service.



The historical levels of the SPX should not be taken as an indication of future performance, and no assurance can be given as to the Official Closing Level of the SPX on the Final Valuation Date.

Description of the XOP

The SPDR® S&P® Oil & Gas Exploration & Production ETF (the “XOP”) is an investment portfolio maintained and managed by SSgA Funds Management, Inc. (“SSFM”). The XOP trades on the NYSE Arca under the ticker symbol “XOP.” The inception date of the SPDR® S&P Oil & Gas Exploration and Production ETF is June 19, 2006. Prior to January 8, 2007, the XOP was known as the SPDR® Oil & Gas Exploration & Production ETF.

Information provided to or filed with the SEC by the SPDR® Series Trust under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 can be located by reference to its Central Index Key, or CIK, 1064642 through the SEC’s website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Additional information about SSFM and the XOP may be obtained from other sources including, but not limited to, press releases, newspaper articles and other publicly disseminated documents. We have not made any independent investigation as to the accuracy or completeness of such information.

The XOP seeks to provide investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the S&P® Oil & Gas Exploration & Production Select Industry® Index. The underlying index represents the oil and gas exploration and production sub-industry portion of the S&P Total Market Index (“S&P TMI”), an index that measures the performance of the U.S. equity market. The XOP is composed of companies that are in the oil and gas sector exploration and production. As of May 11, 2017, there were 64 oil and gas exploration and production sector companies included in the XOP. As of March 31, 2017, no single company represented more than 2.10% of the XOP’s holdings. The returns of the XOP may be affected by certain management fees and other expenses, which are detailed in its prospectus.

The XOP utilizes a “replication” investment approach in attempting to track the performance of the underlying index. The XOP typically invests in substantially all of the securities which comprise the underlying index in approximately the same proportions as the underlying index. XOP will normally invest at least 80% of its total assets in common stocks that comprise the underlying index.

The information above was compiled from the SPDR® website. We have not independently investigated the accuracy of that information. Information contained in the SPDR® website is not incorporated by reference in, and should not be considered a part of, this document.

The Underlying Index

We have derived all information contained in this document regarding the underlying index, including, without limitation, its make-up, method of calculation and changes in its components, from publicly available information. Such information reflects the policies of, and is subject to change by, SSFM.

The underlying index is an equal-weighted index that is designed to measure the performance of the oil and gas exploration and production sub-industry portion of the S&P TMI. The S&P TMI includes all U.S. common equities listed on the NYSE (including NYSE

Arca), the NYSE MKT, the Nasdaq Global Select Market, and the Nasdaq Capital Market. Each of the component stocks in the underlying index is a constituent company within the oil and gas exploration and production sub-industry portion of the S&P TMI.

To be eligible for inclusion in the underlying index, companies must be in the S&P TMI, must be included in the relevant Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) sub-industry. The GICS was developed to establish a global standard for categorizing companies into sectors and industries. In addition to the above, companies must satisfy one of the two following combined size and liquidity criteria:

1. float-adjusted market capitalization above US\$500 million and float-adjusted liquidity ratio above 90%; or
2. float-adjusted market capitalization above US\$400 million and float-adjusted liquidity ratio above 150%.

All U.S. companies satisfying these requirements are included in the underlying index. The total number of companies in the underlying index should be at least 35. If there are fewer than 35 stocks, stocks from a supplementary list of highly correlated sub-industries that meet the market capitalization and liquidity thresholds above are included in order of their float-adjusted market capitalization to reach 35 constituents. Minimum market capitalization requirements may be relaxed to ensure there are at least 22 companies in the underlying index as of each rebalancing effective date.

Eligibility factors include:

Market Capitalization: Float-adjusted market capitalization should be at least US\$400 million for inclusion in the underlying index. Existing index components must have a float-adjusted market capitalization of US\$300 million to remain in the underlying index at each rebalancing.

Liquidity: The liquidity measurement used is a liquidity ratio, defined as dollar value traded over the previous 12-months divided by the float-adjusted market capitalization as of the underlying index rebalancing reference date. Stocks having a float-adjusted market capitalization above US\$500 million must have a liquidity ratio greater than 90% to be eligible for addition to the underlying index. Stocks having a float-adjusted market capitalization between US\$400 and US\$500 million must have a liquidity ratio greater than 150% to be eligible for addition to the underlying index. Existing index constituents must have a liquidity ratio greater than 50% to remain in the underlying index at the quarterly rebalancing. The length of time to evaluate liquidity is reduced to the available trading period for IPOs or spin-offs that do not have 12 months of trading history.

Takeover Restrictions: At the discretion of S&P, constituents with shareholder ownership restrictions defined in company bylaws may be deemed ineligible for inclusion in the underlying index. Ownership restrictions preventing entities from replicating the index weight of a company may be excluded from the eligible universe or removed from the underlying index.

Turnover: S&P believes turnover in index membership should be avoided when possible. At times, a company may appear to temporarily violate one or more of the addition criteria. However, the addition criteria are for addition to the underlying index, not for continued membership. As a result, an index constituent that appears to violate the criteria for addition to the underlying index will not be deleted unless ongoing conditions warrant a change in the composition of the underlying index.

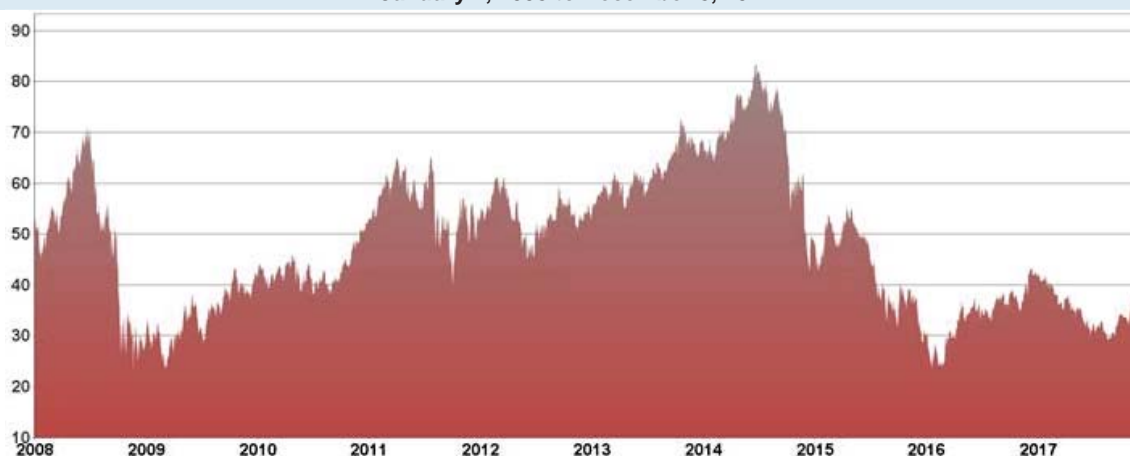
Information as of market close on December 8, 2017:

Bloomberg Ticker Symbol:	XOP
Current Share Closing Price:	\$35.30

Historical Information

The following graph sets forth the historical performance of XOP based on the daily historical closing prices from January 1, 2008 through December 8, 2017. We obtained the closing prices below from the Bloomberg Professional® service. We have not independently verified the accuracy or completeness of the information obtained from the Bloomberg Professional® service. The historical prices of XOP should not be taken as an indication of future performance, and no assurance can be given as to its price on the Final Valuation Date.

Historical Performance of the Underlying Shares – Daily Closing Prices
January 1, 2008 to December 8, 2017



The following table sets forth the quarterly high, low, and closing prices of the underlying shares for each calendar quarter in the period from January 1, 2008 through December 8, 2017. The closing prices listed below were obtained from publicly available information at Bloomberg Financial Markets, rounded to two decimal places. The historical closing prices of underlying shares should not be taken as an indication of future performance.

<u>Quarter Begin</u>	<u>Quarter End</u>	<u>Quarterly High (\$)</u>	<u>Quarterly Low (\$)</u>	<u>Quarterly Close (\$)</u>
1/1/2008	3/31/2008	55.83	44.79	53.73
4/1/2008	6/30/2008	71.31	53.73	70.15
7/1/2008	9/30/2008	70.93	42.68	44.83
10/1/2008	12/31/2008	44.83	22.97	29.64
1/1/2009	3/31/2009	33.48	23.41	26.60
4/1/2009	6/30/2009	38.25	26.60	31.72
7/1/2009	9/30/2009	39.61	28.51	38.62
10/1/2009	12/31/2009	43.36	36.91	41.21
1/1/2010	3/31/2010	44.07	39.22	42.13
4/1/2010	6/30/2010	45.82	38.57	38.99
7/1/2010	9/30/2010	42.85	38.05	42.26
10/1/2010	12/31/2010	52.71	42.18	52.69
1/1/2011	3/31/2011	64.50	52.69	64.50
4/1/2011	6/30/2011	64.97	54.71	58.78
7/1/2011	9/30/2011	65.24	42.80	42.80
10/1/2011	12/31/2011	57.56	39.99	52.69
1/1/2012	3/31/2012	61.34	52.67	56.91
4/1/2012	6/30/2012	57.85	45.20	50.40
7/1/2012	9/30/2012	59.35	48.73	55.69
10/1/2012	12/31/2012	57.38	50.69	54.07
1/1/2013	3/31/2013	62.10	54.07	60.49
4/1/2013	6/30/2013	62.61	54.71	58.18
7/1/2013	9/30/2013	66.47	58.18	65.89
10/1/2013	12/31/2013	72.74	65.02	68.53
1/1/2014	3/31/2014	71.83	64.04	71.83
4/1/2014	6/30/2014	83.45	71.19	82.28
7/1/2014	9/30/2014	82.28	68.83	68.83
10/1/2014	12/31/2014	68.83	42.75	47.86
1/1/2015	3/31/2015	53.94	42.55	51.66
4/1/2015	6/30/2015	55.63	46.43	46.66
7/1/2015	9/30/2015	46.66	31.71	32.84
10/1/2015	12/31/2015	40.53	28.64	30.22
1/1/2016	3/31/2016	30.96	23.60	30.35
4/1/2016	6/30/2016	37.50	29.23	34.81
7/1/2016	9/30/2016	39.12	32.75	38.46
10/1/2016	12/31/2016	43.42	34.73	41.42
1/1/2017	3/31/2017	42.21	35.17	37.44
4/1/2017	6/30/2017	37.89	30.17	31.92
7/1/2017	9/30/2017	34.37	29.09	34.09
10/1/2017	12/8/2017*	36.83	32.25	35.30

* This document includes information for the fourth calendar quarter of 2017 for the period from October 1, 2017 through December 8, 2017. Accordingly, the "Quarterly High," "Quarterly Low" and "Quarterly Close" data indicated are for this shortened period only and do not reflect complete data for the fourth calendar quarter of 2017.

EVENTS OF DEFAULT AND ACCELERATION

If the Notes have become immediately due and payable following an Event of Default (as defined in the accompanying prospectus) with respect to the Notes, the calculation agent will determine the accelerated Final Settlement Value due and payable in the same general manner as described in “Final Settlement Value” in this free writing prospectus. In such a case, the third scheduled trading day immediately preceding the date of acceleration will be used as the Final Valuation Date for purposes of determining the accelerated Reference Return for each Underlying. If a Market Disruption Event exists with respect to an Underlying on that scheduled trading day, then the accelerated Final Valuation Date for that Underlying will be postponed for up to five scheduled trading days (in the same general manner used for postponing the originally scheduled Final Valuation Date). The accelerated Maturity Date will be the third business day following such accelerated postponed Final Valuation Date. For the avoidance of doubt, if no market disruption event exists with respect to an Underlying on the scheduled trading day preceding the date of acceleration, the determination of such Underlying’s Reference Return will be made on such date, irrespective of the existence of a market disruption event with respect to the other Underlying occurring on such date.

If the Notes have become immediately due and payable following an Event of Default, you will not be entitled to any additional payments with respect to the Notes. For more information, see “Description of Debt Securities — Senior Debt Securities — Events of Default” in the accompanying prospectus.

SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

We have appointed HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., an affiliate of HSBC, as the agent for the sale of the Notes. Pursuant to the terms of a distribution agreement, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. will purchase the Notes from HSBC at the price to public less the underwriting discount set forth on the cover page of the pricing supplement to which this free writing prospectus relates, for distribution to other registered broker-dealers or will offer the Notes directly to investors. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. proposes to offer the Notes at the price to public set forth on the cover page of this free writing prospectus. HSBC USA Inc. or one of our affiliates may pay varying underwriting discounts of up to 3.625% per \$1,000 Principal Amount in connection with the distribution of the Notes to other registered broker-dealers.

An affiliate of HSBC has paid or may pay in the future an amount to broker dealers in connection with the costs of the continuing implementation of systems to support the Notes.

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 Notes, but is under no obligation to make a market in the Notes and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice.

We expect that delivery of the Notes will be made against payment for the Notes on or about the Original Issue Date set forth on the inside cover page of this document, which is more than two business days following the Trade Date. Under Rule 15c6-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in two business days, unless the parties to that trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade the Notes more than two business days prior to the Original Issue Date will be required to specify an alternate settlement cycle at the time of any such trade to prevent a failed settlement, and should consult their own advisors.

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

U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

There is no direct legal authority as to the proper tax treatment of the Notes, and therefore significant aspects of the tax treatment of the Notes are uncertain as to both the timing and character of any inclusion in income in respect of the Notes. Under one approach, a Note should be treated as a pre-paid executory contract with respect to the Reference Asset. We intend to treat the Notes consistent with this approach. Pursuant to the terms of the Notes, you agree to treat the Notes under this approach for all U.S. federal income tax purposes. Subject to the limitations described therein, and based on certain factual representations received from us, in the opinion of our special U.S. tax counsel, Morrison & Foerster LLP, it is reasonable to treat a Note as a pre-paid executory contract with respect to the Reference Asset. Pursuant to this approach and subject to the discussion below regarding “constructive ownership transactions,” we do not intend to report any income or gain with respect to the Notes prior to their maturity or an earlier sale, call or exchange and we intend to treat any gain or loss upon maturity or an earlier sale, call or exchange as long-term capital gain or loss, provided you have held the Note for more than one year at such time for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Despite the foregoing, U.S. holders (as defined under “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” in the accompanying prospectus supplement) should be aware that the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), contains a provision, Section 1260 of the Code, which sets forth rules which are applicable to what it refers to as “constructive ownership transactions.” Due to the manner in

which it is drafted, the precise applicability of Section 1260 of the Code to any particular transaction is often uncertain. In general, a “constructive ownership transaction” includes a contract under which an investor will receive payment equal to or credit for the future value of any equity interest in a regulated investment company (such as shares of the XOP (the “Underlying Shares”). Under the “constructive ownership” rules, if an investment in the Notes is treated as a “constructive ownership transaction,” any long-term capital gain recognized by a U.S. holder in respect of a Note will be recharacterized as ordinary income to the extent such gain exceeds the amount of “net underlying long-term capital gain” (as defined in Section 1260 of the Code) (the “Excess Gain”). In addition, an interest charge will also apply to any deemed underpayment of tax in respect of any Excess Gain to the extent such gain would have resulted in gross income inclusion for the U.S. holder in taxable years prior to the taxable year of the sale, call, exchange or maturity of the Note (assuming such income accrued at a constant rate equal to the applicable federal rate as of the date of sale, call, exchange or maturity of the Note). Furthermore, unless otherwise established by clear and convincing evidence, the “net underlying long-term capital gain” is treated as zero.

Although the matter is not clear, there exists a risk that an investment in the Notes will be treated as a “constructive ownership transaction.” If such treatment applies, it is not entirely clear to what extent any long-term capital gain recognized by a U.S. holder in respect of a Note will be recharacterized as ordinary income. It is possible, for example, that the amount of the Excess Gain (if any) that would be recharacterized as ordinary income in respect of each Note will equal the excess of (i) any long-term capital gain recognized by the U.S. holder in respect of such a Note and attributable to the Underlying Shares over (ii) the “net underlying long-term capital gain” such U.S. holder would have had if such U.S. holder had acquired a number of the Underlying Shares at fair market value on the original issue date of such Note for an amount equal to the “issue price” of the Note allocable to the Underlying Shares and, upon the date of sale, call, exchange or maturity of the Note, sold such Underlying Shares at fair market value (which would reflect the percentage increase in the value of the Underlying Shares over the term of the Note). Accordingly, it is possible that all or a portion of any gain on the sale or settlement of a Note after one year could be treated as “Excess Gain” from a “constructive ownership transaction,” which gain would be recharacterized as ordinary income, and subject to an interest charge. U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the potential application of the “constructive ownership” rules.

We will not attempt to ascertain whether an Underlying or any of the entities whose stock is included in, or owned by, an Underlying, as the case may be, 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 an Underlying or one or more of the entities whose stock is included in, or owned by, an Underlying, as the case may be, were so treated, certain adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences might apply. You should refer to information filed with the SEC and other authorities by the Underlyings and the entities whose stock is included in, or owned by the Underlyings, as the case may be, and consult your tax advisor regarding the possible consequences to you if an Underlying or one or more of the entities whose stock is included in, or owned by, an Underlying, as the case may be, is or becomes a PFIC or a USRPHC.

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 Notes are likely to be treated as U.S. situs property, subject to U.S. federal estate tax. These individuals and entities should consult their own tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal estate tax consequences of investing in the Notes.

A “dividend equivalent” payment is treated as a dividend from sources within the United States and such payments generally would be subject to a 30% U.S. withholding tax if paid to a non-U.S. holder. Under U.S. Treasury Department regulations, payments (including deemed payments) with respect to equity-linked instruments (“ELIs”) that are “specified ELIs” may be treated as dividend equivalents if such specified ELIs reference an interest in an “underlying security,” which is generally any interest in an entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes if a payment with respect to such interest could give rise to a U.S. source dividend. However, Internal Revenue Service guidance provides that withholding on dividend equivalent payments will not apply to specified ELIs that are not delta-one instruments and that are issued before January 1, 2019. Based on the Issuer’s determination that the Notes are not “delta-one” instruments, non-U.S. holders should not be subject to withholding on dividend equivalent payments, if any, under the Notes. However, it is possible that the Notes could be treated as deemed reissued for U.S. federal income tax purposes upon the occurrence of certain events affecting an Underlying or the Notes, and following such occurrence the Notes could be treated as subject to withholding on dividend equivalent payments. Non-U.S. holders that enter, or have entered, into other transactions in respect of an Underlying or the Notes should consult their tax advisors as to the application of the dividend equivalent withholding tax in the context of the Notes and their other transactions. If any payments are treated as dividend equivalents subject to withholding, we (or the applicable paying agent) would be entitled to withhold taxes without being required to pay any additional amounts with respect to amounts so withheld.

Additionally, the IRS has announced that withholding under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (as discussed in the accompanying prospectus supplement) on payments of gross proceeds from a sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition of the Notes will only apply to dispositions after December 31, 2018.

For a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in a Note, please see the discussion under “U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations” in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS OF NOTES SHOULD CONSULT THEIR TAX ADVISORS AS TO THE FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, AND OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES TO THEM OF THE PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP AND DISPOSITION OF NOTES.

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December 11, 2017

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