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# Green Bond Report 2023

UNIQA Insurance Group AG

uniqagroup.com

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### 1. UNIQA at a glance

### **Key figures**

The UNIQA Group is one of the leading insurance companies in its core markets of Austria and Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). Some 21,200 employees and exclusive sales partners serve more than 16 million customers across 18 countries. With a market share of about 21 per cent, UNIQA is the second-largest insurance company in Austria. It is further represented in 15 markets across the CEE region.

The Group provides a comprehensive range of products in property and casualty insurance, life insurance, and health insurance to its customers. In the first nine months of 2023 UNIQA achieved profitable growth and

stable results, generating earnings before taxes of 305 mil. EUR. Insurance revenue grew by 9.3 per cent by the end of September 2023 year on-year. Increases were recorded in all business lines: property and casualty insurance grew by 11 per cent, health insurance by 6 per cent and life insurance by 4 per cent. The combined ratio increased slightly to 92.0 per cent (1 - 9/2022: 89.6 per cent) due to higher weather related and Nat Cat claims. The overall cost ratio also increased slightly to 31.4 per cent (1 - 9/2022: 29.9 per cent).



Insurance Revenue 4.430 mil. FUR (1-9/2022: 4,053 mil. EUR)

**Gross Combined Ratio** 92% (1-9/2022: 89.6%)



**Earnings before taxes** 305 mil. EUR (1-9/2022: 250 mil. EUR)

### **UNIQA 3.0**

In 2020 UNIQA presented "UNIQA 3.0 - Seeding the Future", a far-reaching strategic programme formulated in response to the megatrends of a.o., economic power shifts, demographic and social changes, innovation & digitalization, and sustainability requirements. To support it in its mission to help its customers achieve a longer, better and safer life, UNIQA also formulated five Guiding Principles: customer first, simplicity, responsibility, integrity and community.

Key operational elements of the programme were condensed in a set of financial initiatives and business objectives, to be realized by 2025. These are very specific and ambitious: premium growth of approx. 3 per cent p.a., combined ratio in property/casualty insurance of approx. 93 per cent, total cost ratio of approx. 25 per cent, return on equity exceeding 9 per cent, solvency ratio exceeding 170 per cent, and customer satisfaction of at least 4.5 stars out of 5.

### **GUIDING Principles**

Our values

#### **Customer First**

We are relentlessly focused on the needs of our customers

#### Simplicity

We take action and learn from our mistakes.

#### Ownership

We **empower** each other to take responsibility.

### Integrity

We keep our promises

#### Community

We **collaborate** beyond conventional boundaries

### Sustainability at UNIQA

### Sustainability approach and ESG integration

The UNIQA sustainability strategy, published in 2020, pursues a holistic approach and ties its economic ambitions to a clear commitment to the environment and society. The strategy rests on five key pillars:

- 1. An investment policy established in accordance with ESG criteria
- 2. A product policy aligned with ESG criteria and featuring sustainable additional benefits
- 3. Exemplary sustainable operational management
- 4. Transparent reporting and ongoing independent ratings
- 5. Committed stakeholder management ensuring greater social and environmental responsibility

#### **ESG integration**

Sustainability measures become transformative only if they are implemented in a transparent and understandable way. UNIQA does this through strong governance and clear responsibilities, well-founded stakeholder engagement, comprehensive reporting and external ratings.

#### **Group ESG Committee**

The Group ESG Committee (ESGCO), set up in 2021, is the central body deciding on sustainability matters at a Management Board level. It comprises members of the Management Board of UNIQA Insurance Group AG and the heads of the Corporate Business, Sustainability and Ethics and Public Affairs departments. The committee was implemented to steer ESG integration in the core business, as well as to continuously monitor stakeholder awareness of environmental and social impacts arising from engagement and business activity.

#### Sustainability management

The Sustainability, Ethics and Public Affairs (SEPA) team is responsible for UNIQA Group's sustainability agendas and reports to the Head of HR, Brand and Sustainability, who also acts as the Chair of the ESG Committee. SEPA supports all operational units in integrating and pursuing UNIQA's sustainability strategy within relevant business processes. The team is also responsible for sustainability governance, reporting, rating enquiries and monitoring regulatory changes.



#### Green Bond Report 2023

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### **UNIQA Green Bond 2021**

With more than 1 billion EUR in sustainable investments and the objective of being climate-neutral by 2040, UNIQA is one of the pioneers in the Austrian insurance industry. After its first green bond for climate-friendly projects placed in 2020, UNIQA issued a second green bond in December 2021, which was also very well received by investors. The 2021 bond has a nominal amount of 375 million EUR, maturity of 20 years and is rated BBB by Standard & Poor's, with an annual coupon of 2.375 per cent. This bond financed the partial repurchase of two outstanding subordinated bonds with a total nominal amount of 375 mil. EUR, with coupons of 6.875 and 6.000 per cent. UNIQA is the only insurance company in Austria to be a partner of the "Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance" and is committed to detailed reporting on its progress in sustainable investing.

In May 2022, UNIQA also joined the Austrian Green Finance Alliance as one of nine founding members.

In November 2022, UNIQA became a member of the Climate Action 100+ initiative. This initiative focuses its efforts on the world's 166 highest-emitting companies that are critical to achieving climate neutrality. This accession complements UNIQA's existing memberships and its objectives in the area of sustainability.



"The performance of our first green bond demonstrates the strong demand from investors for sustainable investment products as an addition to their portfolios. We see a clear and encouraging trend: sustainability and climate protection have become key factors in investment decisions.

The considerable interest in our second green bond only supports this view and demonstrates the high level of trust investors place in UNIQA, as well as their willingness to join us on our path towards more sustainable investing."

Kurt Svoboda, CFRO at UNIQA Insurance Group AG



### 2. Green Bond Allocation Report

Allocated Amount 2022 Allocated Amount 2023	110 mil. EUR 162 mil. EUR
Unallocated Amount <sup>1</sup>	103 mil. EUR

In accordance with the UNIQA Green Bond Framework issued in 2020, an amount equivalent to 272 mil. EUR of the net proceeds was exclusively employed to refinance investments in sustainable assets. UNIQA ensures that the eligible assets comply with official national and international environmental and social standards and local laws and regulations on a best effort basis. The remaining share of proceeds has been intermittently allocated to green bonds UNIQA has invested in, before it can be allocated to qualifying projects.

In addition to the Green Bond Framework, the asset selection complies with UNIQA Group's internal ESG guidelines:

- UNIQA Sustainability Strategy
- UNIQA Responsible Investing Policy

#### **Green Bond allocation process**

As described in UNIQA's Green Bond Framework, the ESG Committee is an integral part of the green bond governance. The ESG Committee is responsible for reviewing and validating the existing pool of eligible green assets, updating the Green Bond Framework, and monitoring the ongoing evolution of market practices in disclosure, reporting and harmonization.

#### **Asset Selection & Evaluation**

The selection and evaluation of eligible assets is performed in three steps:

- Initial analysis of eligibility this is done as part of the ongoing investment decisions made by individual portfolio managers.
- Confirmation of eligibility the identified assets are subject to additional analysis with respect to their conformity with Green Bond criteria.
- Allocation decision the ESG committee takes a final decision on the selection of the assets designated to the green bonds.

<sup>1</sup>Note: An amount equal to the Unallocated Proceeds is held as investments in green bonds - these are a temporary investment management activity, (and explicitly do not constitute an 'Eligible Green Asset' for allocation under the UNIQA Green Bond Framework) and are viewed by UNIQA as a means to support the sustainable finance market whilst also serving as an acceptable short-term investment option.



### 3. Impact Report

### **Impact Summary**

UNIQA has engaged Morningstar Sustainalytics to calculate the estimated impact of the green bond issued by UNIQA in December 2021. Since issuance, 272 mil. EUR have been allocated in the categories of Renewable Energy, Pollution Prevention and Control, Sustainable Water and Wastewater Management, and Clean Transportation. The projects are located across various high-income OECD countries. For a representative year of the bond's term to maturity, Sustainalytics has calculated 254 kilotonnes of avoided GHG emissions in CO<sub>2</sub>e.



#### Avoid CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by Use of Proceeds Category and Location of Projects by Country



• 4 % Clean Transportation

### Scope of Work and Limitations

UNIQA has engaged Sustainalytics to calculate the environmental impacts of the projects financed with proceeds from the 2021 Green Bond. For this work, Sustainalytics relied on the data provided by UNIQA on the amount allocated and the technical data on the projects financed. Sustainalytics' impact reporting is aligned with ICMA's June 2023 Harmonised Framework for Impact Reporting.<sup>2</sup> The methodology and assumptions made for the impact calculation are outlined in the methodology chapter. As part of this engagement, Sustainalytics exchanged information with UNIQA's representatives to understand the sustainability impact of its projects. Through these exchanges, UNIQA's representatives have confirmed that:

 They understand it is the sole responsibility of UNIQA to ensure that the information provided is complete, accurate and up to date;

- (2) They have provided Sustainalytics with all relevant information;
- (3) Any provided material information has been duly disclosed in a timely manner.

Sustainalytics also reviewed relevant public documents and non-public information.

### **Impact Findings**

For reporting, Sustainalytics follows the ICMA Harmonised Framework for Impact Reporting<sup>2</sup>, which synthesizes market expectations and outlines recommendations for impact reporting to create a standardized reporting structure and to enhance the understanding of the impact to all stakeholders, including investors. Table 1, 2 and 3 provide project level details. These metrics correspond to a representative year during the bond's term to maturity and are based on the share of project financing.

Technology Type	Allocated Amount	Financed Generation	Financed Capacity	Financed Emissions Avoided
	EUR	MWh/year	MW	tCO2e/year
Wind	107,783,534	340,023	142	89,620
Solar	36,509,531	123,830	72	54,733
Mixed renewables	14,431,126	123,658	76	42,690

#### Table 1: Impact of Renewable Energy Projects by Technology

#### **Table 2: Impact of Pollution Prevention and Control Projects by Technology**

Technology Type	Allocated Amount	Financed Waste Treated	Financed Electricity Generation	Financed Project Emissions	Financed Emissions Avoided
	EUR	tonnes	MWh	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Waste-to-Energy	47,518,725	92,325	86,099	31,619	56,270

#### Table 3: Impact of Clean Transportation by Project Type

Project Type	Allocated Amount	Passenger-km Travelled	Tonne-km Travelled	Financed GHG Emissions	Financed GHG Emissions Avoided
	EUR	pkm	tkm	tCO <sub>2</sub> e/year	tCO <sub>2</sub> e/year
Rolling Stock	18,841,847	1,300,898,559	23,208,330,836	20,571	10,947
Infrastructure	42,160,507	1,666,949,106	1,160,670,777	60	227

<sup>2</sup> ICMA, "Handbook - Harmonised Framework for Impact Reporting", (2023), at: https://www.icmagroup.org/assets/documents/ Sustainable-finance/2023-updates/Handbook-Harmonised-framework-for-impact-reporting-June-2023-220623.pdf

### 4. Methodology

Sustainalytics developed its own methodologies for quantifying GHG avoidance and other metrics, including leveraging publicly available best-in-class methodologies, protocols and frameworks that are currently industry best practice. Their estimation practices and general principles rely on the GHG Protocol.<sup>3</sup> Their methodologies are based on guidance provided by the International Financial Institutions<sup>4</sup> on calculation methodology and global emissions. In addition, Sustainalytics relies on the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials' Global Accounting Standard<sup>5</sup> for guidance on estimation where data is not readily available and assumptions must be made. Finally, the UN's Clean Development Mechanism<sup>6</sup> provides guidance and information, serving as the foundation for these and other methodologies, including those implemented in this report.

#### **Renewable Energy**

It is assumed that energy generated by the projects crowd out a mix of current and upcoming planned generation capacity, and therefore associated emissions. The approach taken to derive the greenhouse gas emissions avoidance uses:

- a) The emissions of the renewable energy projects, which are often (but not always) zero; and
- b) The baseline emissions or emissions occurring in the absence of the project. For electricity generation, these emissions are based on the energy mix used to supply electricity to the local grid.
- c) Financed project avoided emissions are calculated by using the share of project financing of the total project emissions avoided from the above calculations.

#### **Data Sources and Assumptions**

- For projects included under Renewable Energy, UNIQA provided energy generation data (in MWh) where available; otherwise, the project capacity (in MW) was provided.
- For projects where only capacity data was provided, Sustainalytics estimated the annual energy generation based on the technology and location of the projects using historical energy data provided by IRENA.<sup>7</sup> For projects where only energy generation was provided, Sustainalytics estimated the project capacity using the same data.

- The projects consist of both operational assets and those under construction. The calculated emissions avoided make no distinction between the two, assuming all projects are operational. For projects under construction, the expected energy generation is estimated using the project capacity.
- The baseline emission factors for the countries where projects are located were sourced from IFI.<sup>8</sup> To account for emissions from upstream activities, Sustainalytics applies an additional, indirect emissions factor.<sup>9</sup>
- For zero-carbon technologies such as solar and wind energy, the emissions per unit of generation are assumed to be 0 gCO<sub>2</sub>e/kWh.

#### **Pollution Prevention and Control**

For waste-to-energy projects, it is assumed that the waste, if not used for energy production, would have undergone alternative disposal methods, such as landfilling or incineration. It is also assumed that the energy generated from waste crowds out a mix of current and upcoming planned electricity generation capacity. This displacement of other waste management methods and electricity generation results in the corresponding avoided GHG emissions. The approach taken to derive the GHG emissions avoided is based on the comparison between:

- a) The GHG emissions of the waste-to-energy project; and
- b) The baseline emissions or emissions occurring in the absence of the project. For the electricity generation, which forms part of the avoided carbon emissions, these emissions are based on the energy mix used to supply electricity to the local grid; for the other part, namely the GHG emissions originating from waste treatment, the GHG emissions are based on the local treatment of waste.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Greenhouse Gas Protocol, "About Us", (2023), at: https://ghgprotocol.org/ <sup>4</sup> International Financial Institutions (IFI), "Members of the International Financial Institutions on Greenhouse Gas Accounting", at: https:// unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/IFIs membership for UNFCCC %27white pages%27\_0.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF), "About", (2023) at: https://carbonaccountingfinancials.com/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> UNFCCC, "CDM Methodologies Booklet – Fourteenth edition", (2022), at: https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/documentation/index.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), "Statistics Time Series", (2023) at: https://www.irena.org/Data/View-data-by-topic/Capacity-and-Generation/Statistics-Time-Series

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> UNFCCC, "The IFI Dataset of Default Grid Factors", available at: https:// unfccc.int/climate-action/sectoral-engagement/ifis-harmoniza-

tion-of-standards-for-ghg-accounting/ifi-twg-list-of-methodologies <sup>9</sup> Government of the UK, "Government conversion factors for company reporting of greenhouse gas emissions", (2023), at: https://www.gov.uk/ government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting

#### **Data Sources and Assumptions**

- For the projects included under Pollution Prevention and Control, the emission factors of the projects were provided by UNIQA where possible. Where not available, an average emission factor for waste-to-energy was applied.<sup>10</sup>
- For projects where only the annual electricity generation was provided, the amount of waste treated was estimated using the average calorific value of municipal solid waste.<sup>10</sup>
- The local waste mix and the local waste treatment practices were sourced from the IPCC.<sup>11</sup>
- The method used to estimate emissions from waste management practices was adopted from the European Investment Bank.<sup>12</sup>
- The baseline emission factors for the countries where projects are located were sourced from IFI.<sup>13</sup> To account for emissions from upstream activities, Sustainalytics applied an additional, indirect emissions factor.<sup>11</sup>

#### **Clean Transportation**

Clean transportation is assumed to displace a mix of existing and future transportation along the same travel distance. The GHG emissions avoided are calculated using:

- a) The emissions of the clean transportation projects based on the best available data from UNIQA. To the extent available, calculations are based on fuel consumption or passenger-kilometre data. In the absence of such information, estimates are made based on mode of transportation, fuel type and average passengers per vehicle.
- b) The baseline emissions, which are the emissions associated with a basket of vehicles or modes of transport being replaced currently and in the future lifetime of the project.
- c) Financed project-avoided emissions are calculated by using the share of project financing of the total project emissions avoided from the above calculations.

#### **Data Sources and Assumptions**

- For projects included under Clean Transportation, UNIQA provided data on either the number of vehicles, number of passenger-kilometres travelled for passenger transport, number of tonne-kilometres travelled for freight transport, or fuel consumption for the included projects.
- In instances where passenger-kilometres or tonne-kilometres travelled data were missing, Sustainalytics estimated this information based on available project data. These estimations relied on local rail statistics specific to each project.
- For passenger transport, it is assumed that the projects displace the baseline, which is the average mode of transport used in the local context based on road statistics. This baseline includes a mix of passenger vehicles, buses, metros and taxis. For overseas transport, airplane and maritime transport are also included in the baseline.
- For freight transport, it is assumed that projects displace the baseline, which is a mix of modes used to transport freight in the local context based on road statistics, including freight trucks and rail, For overseas transport, maritime transport is also included in the baseline.
- The emissions of the individual rail projects are based on the electricity consumption. Where possible, Sustainalytics used emissions factors provided by UNIQA. In the absence of these, emissions were calculated using the national grid emission factors sourced from IFI. To account for emissions from upstream activities, such as electricity transmission losses and the extraction and refining of primary fuels, Sustainalytics applies an additional, indirect emissions factor to the emissions directly emitted by the project and baseline vehicles.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> IEA Bioenergy, "Municipal Solid Waste and its Role in Sustainability", (2003) at: www.ieabioenergy.com/wp-content/ uploads/2013/10/40\_IEAPositionPaperMSW.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> IPCC, "2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Chapter 2 Waste Generation, Composition and Management Data", (2019) at: https://www.ipcc.nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2019rf/pdf/5\_ Volume5/19R\_V5\_2\_Ch02\_Waste\_Data.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> European Investment Banak, "EIB Project Carbon Footprint Methodologies", (2023), at: https://www.eib.org/attachments/lucalli/eib\_project\_carbon\_footprint\_methodologies\_2023\_en.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> UNFCCC, The IFI Dataset of Default Grid Factors, available at: https://unfccc.int/climate-action/sectoral-engagement/ifis-harmonization-of-standards-for-ghg-accounting/ifi-twg-list-of-methodologies

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### **APPENDIX 1/1: External Allocation Review**

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### **UNIQA Insurance Group AG**

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#### Introduction

In December 2021, UNIQA Insurance Group AG ("UNIQA") issued a EUR 375 million green bond (the "2021 Green Bond"), aimed at financing and refinancing existing and future projects expected to provide positive environmental impacts through facilitating renewable energy and sustainable resource management investments in high-income OECD countries. In November 2023, UNIQA engaged Sustainalytics to review the projects funded through the 2021 Green Bond and provide an assessment as to whether the projects met the use of proceeds criteria outlined in the UNIQA Green Bond Framework (the "Framework").<sup>1</sup> Sustainalytics has calculated the estimated impact achieved by the 2021 Green Bond in a separate report. Sustainalytics provided a Second Party Opinion on the Framework in June 2020.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

Sustainalytics evaluated the projects and assets funded between December 2022 and December 2023 (the "Nominated Projects") based on whether the projects and programmes met the use of proceeds and eligibility criteria outlined in the UNIQA Green Bond Framework.

Use of Proceeds	Eligibility Criteria
Renewable Energy	Wind and/or solar power projects located in high-income OECD countries.
Pollution Prevention and Control	Waste-to-energy projects with materials recovery and recycling prior to incineration, and acceptable levels of thermal efficiency located in high-income OECD countries, including municipal solid waste treatment plant: mechanical-biological treatment (MBT), materials recovery, combustion with energy recovery, and anaerobic digestion.
Clean Transportation	Electric rail transportation projects located in high-income OECD countries, including investments in rolling stock, rolling stock refurbishment, rail transportation systems and infrastructure.
Sustainable Water and Wastewater Management	Projects which improve the energy and/or water efficiency of water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure, located in high-income OECD countries.

Table 1: Use of	Proceeds (	ategory and	the Fligibilit	v Criteria
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> UNIQA, "UNIQA Green Bond Framework", at: <u>https://www.uniqagroup.com/grp/sustainability/strategy-governance/UNIQA\_Green\_Bond\_Framework.pdf</u> <sup>2</sup> Sustainalytics, "Second-Party Opinion, UNIQA Green Bond Framework", at: <u>https://www.uniqagroup.com/grp/investor-</u>

relations/UNIQA\_Green\_Bond\_Framework\_Second\_Party\_Opinion\_Final\_0906.pdf

#### **Issuer's Responsibility**

UNIQA is responsible for providing accurate information and documentation relating to the details of the funded projects, including description of projects and amounts allocated.

#### **Independence and Quality Control**

Sustainalytics, a leading provider of ESG research and ratings, conducted the verification of use of proceeds from the 2021 Green Bond. The work undertaken as part of this engagement included collection of documentation from UNIQA and review of said documentation to assess conformance with the UNIQA Green Bond Framework.

Sustainalytics relied on the information and the facts presented by UNIQA. Sustainalytics is not responsible nor shall it be held liable for any inaccuracies in the opinions, findings or conclusions herein due to incorrect or incomplete data provided by UNIQA.

Sustainalytics made all efforts to ensure the highest quality and rigor during its assessment process and enlisted its Sustainability Bonds Review Committee to provide oversight of the review.

#### Conclusion

Based on the limited assurance procedures conducted,<sup>3</sup> nothing has come to Sustainalytics' attention that causes us to believe that, in all material respects, the Nominated Projects do not conform with the use of proceeds and reporting criteria outlined in the UNIQA Green Bond Framework.

#### **Detailed Findings**

#### **Table 3: Detailed Findings**

Eligibility Criteria	Procedure Performed	Factual Findings	Error or Exceptions Identified
Use of Proceeds Criteria	Verification of the 72 projects funded with proceeds from the 2021 Green Bond to determine if projects aligned with the use of proceeds criteria outlined in the UNIQA Green Bond Framework. For allocation to the individual use of proceeds categories, please refer to Appendix 1.	All 72 projects reviewed complied with the use of proceeds criteria.	None

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Sustainalytics limited assurance process includes reviewing the documentation relating to the details of the funded projects, including description of projects, estimated and realized costs of projects, and project impact, as provided by the issuing entity, which is responsible for providing accurate information. Sustainalytics has not conducted on-site visits to projects.

### Appendix

#### Appendix 1: Allocation Reporting by Use of Proceeds Category

Use of Proceeds Category	Green Projects Financed	Net Proceeds Allocation (EUR) <sup>4</sup>
	Solar	36,509,531
Renewable Energy	Wind	107,783,534
	Mixed Renewables <sup>5</sup>	14,431,126
Pollution Prevention and Control	Waste-to-Energy	47,518,725
Clean Transportation	Electric rolling stock	18,841,847
Clean Transportation	Electric rail infrastructure	42,160,507
Sustainable Water and Wastewater Management	Water Infrastructure	4,657,447
Total Proceeds Al	271,902,717	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The total allocation of EUR 271,902,717 comprises EUR 247,034,897 alongside other currencies (AUD 1,033,705, CAD 10,619,183, GBP 6,200,715 and USD 10,922,444). These values were converted to EUR using exchange rates as of November 23, 2023: AUD/EUR: 0.6012, CAD/EUR: 0.6693, GBP/EUR: 1.1491, USD/EUR: 0.9168.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> In this context, "Mixed Renewables" refers to a combination of both wind and solar energy sources.

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## **Green Bond Report 2023**



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