

Market Watch

Renewed growth worries

Summary

- The S&P500 index fell 4.4% and the US 10-year Treasury yield fell to 0.58% amid renewed market worries over the economic impact of COVID-19 and related shutdowns. The financial sector led losses as UK banks scrapped dividends.
- Economic surveys showed weakness across most major regions. The OECD estimated that each month of lockdown would hit annual growth in OECD economies by around 2%. New COVID-19 infections surged in the US.
- **What to watch:** US and European COVID-19 infection rates, any progress on EU Eurobond issuance, China activity data and money market liquidity.

Background

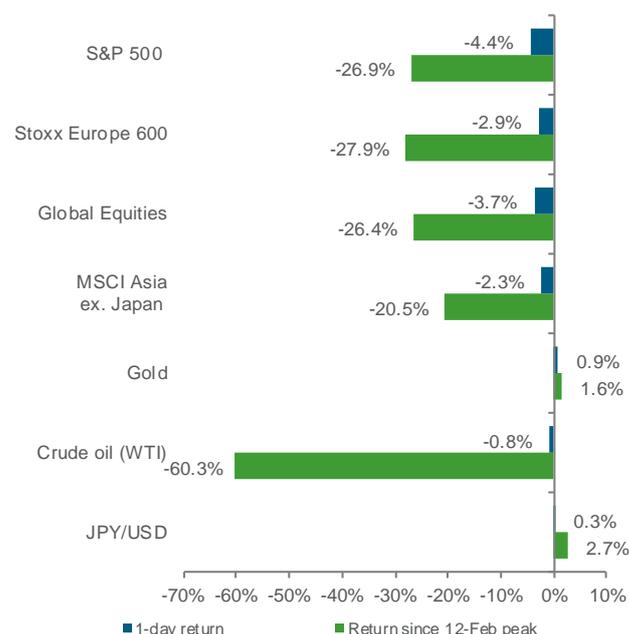
- The S&P500 index fell 4.4% and the Euro Stoxx 600 fell 2.9%. The 10-year US Treasury yield declined to 0.58% while ETF markets suggested high yield bonds fell. Gold and oil were both slightly higher. The USD (DXY) index rose 0.4%.
- **Technical watch:** The S&P 500 index's drop below immediate support at 2520 indicates that recent upward pressure has faded. This follows a retreat from near key resistance at 2650 (the 38.2% retracement of the February-March fall). The failure to sustain gains this week raises the risk of a retest of the March low of 2192. Subsequent support is at 2150 (the 78.6% retracement of the 2015-2020 rise) followed by 2025 (the 50% retracement of the 2009-2020 rise).

Updates

- 1) **Coronavirus containment:** The number of cases globally crossed 900k amid 22k new cases in the US on Tuesday. A BCA Research study showed a reasonably close pattern between Italian and US new COVID-19 cases per million people, arguing the US is approximately 2 weeks behind Italy's experience. If this pattern is maintained, it would suggest new infections may start peaking in about 10 days or so in the US. This assumes, of course, that Italian data does not signal a re-acceleration. On this, the number of new cases in Italy showed a rise of 4800 on Wednesday compared to about 4000 on Monday and Tuesday. Both Italy and Germany extended their lockdown/distancing measures to mid-April (Italy's were due to end on Friday).
- 2) **Sentiment:** The financial sector in the UK and the US weakened significantly after the UK's largest banks said they would scrap equity dividends under pressure from the Bank of England. This weakened sentiment for financial sector equities significantly not only in the UK, but also in the US.
- 3) **Economic impact:** The OECD estimated the lockdowns will have a direct impact of 20-25% of daily GDP (or about 2% annual GDP) if lockdowns last for a month and governments are successful in mitigating corporate defaults and job layoffs.

Equities pulled back after a strong start to the week

Selected market performance on 1 Apr and since 12 Feb



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

Table of technical support levels for selected assets

Index	Previous close	1st support	% from spot	2nd support	% from spot
S&P 500	2,470.50	2,192.00	-11.3%	2,025.00	-18.0%
Stoxx 600	310.77	269.00	-13.4%	233.00	-25.0%
MSCI Asia ex. Jp	547.09	501.00	-8.4%	435.00	-20.5%
UST-10Yr	0.58	0.32	-0.28	0.20	-0.40
Gold	1,590.59	1,545.00	-2.9%	1,451.00	-8.8%

Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

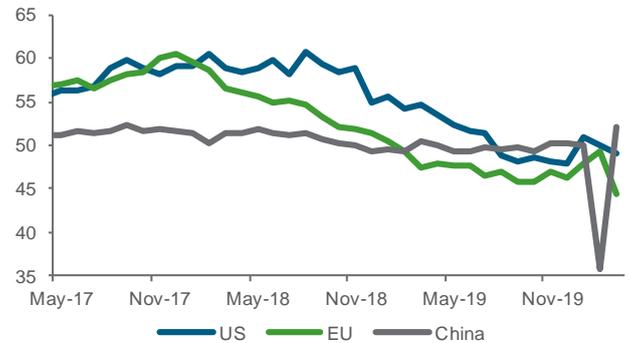
China's March PMI rebounded in March, showing that the economy troughed in February at the height of the COVID-19 lockdown. At one level, this is a positive, but the recovery is still tepid. Our sense is that the April data will be better as suggested by real-time indicators like electricity consumption, public transport usage and traffic congestion. China's recovery profile is important for the rest of the world as it might indicate how quickly other economies will recover once lockdowns ease.

US manufacturing PMI (ISM) data was actually better than expected, but still slipped below the 50 threshold separating expansion from contraction. It was supported by a strong supplier deliveries component – in this environment, it is likely indicative of the supply-side shock and, therefore, is a negative. Excluding this component, the ISM index would have been around 45 rather than the 49. Tonight's initial jobless claims data and, on Friday, the employment report and non-manufacturing PMI data will be important.

Elsewhere, **Euro** area business confidence hit the lowest level since the debt crisis of 2012, while the Tankan survey in Japan showed business sentiment at a 7-year low.

Business confidence surveys weakened in the US and Europe, but moved back above 50 in China

Manufacturing PMI data: US (ISM), Euro area (Markit) and China (official)

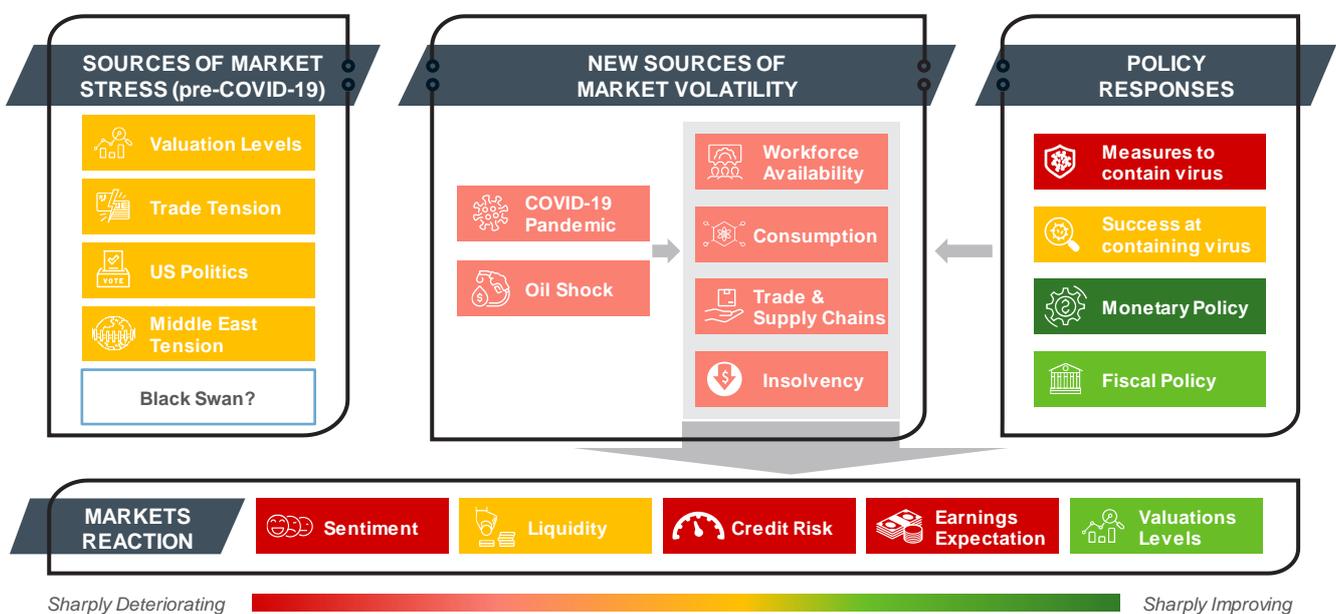


Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered

What does this mean for investors?

- Markets are likely to remain volatile in the coming days as new COVID-19 cases continue to rise in the US and resulting lockdowns remain likely to extend in parts of both Europe and the US. The technical picture also suggests the short-term outlook could remain weak. That said, continued signs of a recovery in China's economic activity is a positive amid increasingly attractive valuations across both equities and corporate bonds, though the ability to ride out short term fluctuations remains key.

Things we are watching and our assessment



Source: Standard Chartered

Disclosures

This document is confidential and may also be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please destroy all copies and notify the sender immediately. This document is being distributed for general information only and is subject to the relevant disclaimers available at <https://www.sc.com/en/regulatory-disclosures/#market-commentary-disclaimer>. It is not and does not constitute research material, independent research, an offer, recommendation or solicitation to enter into any transaction or adopt any hedging, trading or investment strategy, in relation to any securities or other financial instruments. This document is for general evaluation only. It does not take into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any particular person or class of persons and it has not been prepared for any particular person or class of persons. You should not rely on any contents of this document in making any investment decisions. Before making any investment, you should carefully read the relevant offering documents and seek independent legal, tax and regulatory advice. In particular, we recommend you to seek advice regarding the suitability of the investment product, taking into account your specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs, before you make a commitment to purchase the investment product. Opinions, projections and estimates are solely those of SCB at the date of this document and subject to change without notice. Past performance is not indicative of future results and no representation or warranty is made regarding future performance. Any forecast contained herein as to likely future movements in rates or prices or likely future events or occurrences constitutes an opinion only and is not indicative of actual future movements in rates or prices or actual future events or occurrences (as the case may be). This document must not be forwarded or otherwise made available to any other person without the express written consent of the Standard Chartered Group (as defined below). Standard Chartered Bank is incorporated in England with limited liability by Royal Charter 1853 Reference Number ZC18. The Principal Office of the Company is situated in England at 1 Basinghall Avenue, London, EC2V 5DD. Standard Chartered Bank is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority. Standard Chartered PLC, the ultimate parent company of Standard Chartered Bank, together with its subsidiaries and affiliates (including each branch or representative office), form the Standard Chartered Group. Standard Chartered Private Bank is the private banking division of Standard Chartered. Private banking activities may be carried out internationally by different legal entities and affiliates within the Standard Chartered Group (each an "SC Group Entity") according to local regulatory requirements. Not all products and services are provided by all branches, subsidiaries and affiliates within the Standard Chartered Group. Some of the SC Group Entities only act as representatives of Standard Chartered Private Bank, and may not be able to offer products and services, or offer advice to clients. They serve as points of contact only. ESG data has been provided by Refinitiv. Refer to <https://www.refinitiv.com/en/financial-data/company-data/esg-research-data>.

Market Abuse Regulation (MAR) Disclaimer

Banking activities may be carried out internationally by different branches, subsidiaries and affiliates within the Standard Chartered Group according to local regulatory requirements. Opinions may contain outright "buy", "sell", "hold" or other opinions. The time horizon of this opinion is dependent on prevailing market conditions and there is no planned frequency for updates to the opinion. This opinion is not independent of Standard Chartered Group's trading strategies or positions. Standard Chartered Group and/or its affiliates or its respective officers, directors, employee benefit programmes or employees, including persons involved in the preparation or issuance of this document may at any time, to the extent permitted by applicable law and/or regulation, be long or short any securities or financial instruments referred to in this document or have material interest in any such securities or related investments. Therefore, it is possible, and you should assume, that Standard Chartered Group has a material interest in one or more of the financial instruments mentioned herein. Please refer to <https://www.sc.com/en/banking-services/market-disclaimer.html> for more detailed disclosures, including past opinions/recommendations in the last 12 months and conflict of interests, as well as disclaimers. A covering strategist may have a financial interest in the debt or equity securities of this company/issuer. This document must not be forwarded or otherwise made available to any other person without the express written consent of Standard Chartered Group.

Country/Market Specific Disclosures

Botswana: This document is being distributed in Botswana by, and is attributable to, Standard Chartered Bank Botswana Limited which is a financial institution licensed under the Section 6 of the Banking Act CAP 46:04 and is listed in the Botswana Stock Exchange. **Brunei Darussalam:** This document is being distributed in Brunei Darussalam by, and is attributable to, Standard Chartered Bank (Brunei Branch) | Registration Number RFC/61. Standard Chartered Bank is incorporated in England with limited liability by Royal Charter 1853 Reference Number ZC18 and Standard Chartered Securities (B) Sdn Bhd, which is a limited liability company registered with the Registry of Companies with Registration Number RC20001003 and licensed by Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam as a Capital Markets Service License Holder with License Number AMBD/R/CMU/S3-CL. **China Mainland:** This document is being distributed in China by, and is attributable to, Standard Chartered Bank (China) Limited which is mainly regulated by China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC), State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), and People's Bank of China (PBOC). **Hong Kong:** In Hong Kong, this document, except for any portion advising on or facilitating any decision on futures contracts trading, is distributed by Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited ("SCBHK"), a subsidiary of Standard Chartered PLC. SCBHK has its registered address at 32/F, Standard Chartered Bank Building, 4-4A Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong and is regulated by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and registered with the Securities and Futures Commission ("SFC") to carry on Type 1 (dealing in securities), Type 4 (advising on securities), Type 6 (advising on corporate finance) and Type 9 (asset management) regulated activity under the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) ("SFO") (CE No. AJ1614). The contents of this document have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Hong Kong and you are advised to exercise caution in relation to any offer set out herein. If you are in doubt about any of the contents of this document, you should obtain independent professional advice. Any product named herein may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong by means of any document at any time other than to "professional investors" as defined in the SFO and any rules made under that ordinance. In addition, this document may not be issued or possessed for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, and any interests may not be disposed of, to any person unless such person is outside Hong Kong or is a "professional investor" as defined in the SFO and any rules made under that ordinance, or as otherwise may be permitted by that ordinance. In Hong Kong, Standard Chartered Private Bank is the private banking division of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited. **Ghana:** Standard Chartered Bank Ghana Limited accepts no liability and will not be liable for any loss or damage arising directly or indirectly (including special, incidental or consequential loss or damage) from your use of these documents. Past performance is not indicative of future results and no representation or warranty is made regarding future performance. You should seek advice from a financial adviser on the suitability of an investment for you, taking into account these factors before making a commitment to invest in an investment. To unsubscribe from receiving further updates, please click [here](#). Please do not reply to this email. Call our Priority Banking on 0302610750 for any questions or service queries. You are

advised not to send any confidential and/or important information to the Bank via e-mail, as the Bank makes no representations or warranties as to the security or accuracy of any information transmitted via e-mail. The Bank shall not be responsible for any loss or damage suffered by you arising from your decision to use e-mail to communicate with the Bank.

India: This document is being distributed in India by Standard Chartered Bank in its capacity as a distributor of mutual funds and referrer of any other third party financial products. Standard Chartered Bank does not offer any 'Investment Advice' as defined in the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Investment Advisers) Regulations, 2013 or otherwise. Services/products related securities business offered by Standard Chartered Bank are not intended for any person, who is a resident of any jurisdiction, the laws of which imposes prohibition on soliciting the securities business in that jurisdiction without going through the registration requirements and/or prohibit the use of any information contained in this document. **Indonesia:** This document is being distributed in Indonesia by Standard Chartered Bank, Indonesia branch, which is a financial institution licensed, registered and supervised by Otoritas Jasa Keuangan (Financial Service Authority). **Jersey:** In Jersey, Standard Chartered Private Bank is the Registered Business Name of the Jersey Branch of Standard Chartered Bank. The Jersey Branch of Standard Chartered Bank is regulated by the Jersey Financial Services Commission. Copies of the latest audited accounts of Standard Chartered Bank are available from its principal place of business in Jersey: PO Box 80, 15 Castle Street, St Helier, Jersey JE4 8PT. Standard Chartered Bank is incorporated in England with limited liability by Royal Charter in 1853 Reference Number ZC 18. The Principal Office of the Company is situated in England at 1 Basinghall Avenue, London, EC2V 5DD. Standard Chartered Bank is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority. The Jersey Branch of Standard Chartered Bank is also an authorised financial services provider under license number 44946 issued by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority of the Republic of South Africa. Jersey is not part of the United Kingdom and all business transacted with Standard Chartered Bank, Jersey Branch and other SC Group Entity outside of the United Kingdom, are not subject to some or any of the investor protection and compensation schemes available under United Kingdom law.

Kenya: This document is being distributed in Kenya by, and is attributable to Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Limited. Investment Products and Services are distributed by Standard Chartered Investment Services Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Limited (Standard Chartered Bank/the Bank) that is licensed by the Capital Markets Authority as a Fund Manager. Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Limited is regulated by the Central Bank of Kenya. **Malaysia:** This document is being distributed in Malaysia by Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad. Recipients in Malaysia should contact Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad in relation to any matters arising from, or in connection with, this document. **Nigeria:** This document is being distributed in Nigeria by Standard Chartered Bank Nigeria Limited, a bank duly licensed and regulated by the Central Bank of Nigeria. **Pakistan:** This document is being distributed in Pakistan by, and attributable to Standard Chartered Bank (Pakistan) Limited having its registered office at PO Box 5556, I.I Chundrigar Road Karachi, which is a banking company registered with State Bank of Pakistan under Banking Companies Ordinance 1962 and is also having license issued by Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan for Security Advisors. Standard Chartered Bank (Pakistan) Limited acts as a distributor of mutual funds and referrer of other third party financial products. **Singapore:** This document is being distributed in Singapore by, and is attributable to, Standard Chartered Bank (Singapore) Limited (Registration No. 201224747C/ GST Group Registration No. MR-8500053-0, "SCBSL"). Recipients in Singapore should contact SCBSL in relation to any matters arising from, or in connection with, this document. SCBSL is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered Bank and is licensed to conduct banking business in Singapore under the Singapore Banking Act, Chapter 19. Standard Chartered Private Bank is the private banking division of SCBSL. IN RELATION TO ANY SECURITY OR SECURITIES-BASED DERIVATIVES CONTRACT REFERRED TO IN THIS DOCUMENT, THIS DOCUMENT, TOGETHER WITH THE ISSUER DOCUMENTATION, SHALL BE DEEMED AN INFORMATION MEMORANDUM (AS DEFINED IN SECTION 275 OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES ACT, CHAPTER 289 ("SFA")). THIS DOCUMENT IS INTENDED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ACCREDITED INVESTORS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 4A(1)(a) OF THE SFA, OR ON THE BASIS THAT THE SECURITY OR SECURITIES-BASED DERIVATIVES CONTRACT MAY ONLY BE ACQUIRED AT A CONSIDERATION OF NOT LESS THAN S\$200,000 (OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN A FOREIGN CURRENCY) FOR EACH TRANSACTION. Further, in relation to any security or securities-based derivatives contract, neither this document nor the Issuer Documentation has been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore under the SFA. Accordingly, this document and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the product may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the product be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons other than a relevant person pursuant to section 275(1) of the SFA, or any person pursuant to section 275(1A) of the SFA, and in accordance with the conditions specified in section 275 of the SFA, or pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA. In relation to any collective investment schemes referred to in this document, this document is for general information purposes only and is not an offering document or prospectus (as defined in the SFA). This document is not, nor is it intended to be (i) an offer or solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any capital markets product; or (ii) an advertisement of an offer or intended offer of any capital markets product.

Deposit Insurance Scheme: Singapore dollar deposits of non-bank depositors are insured by the Singapore Deposit Insurance Corporation, for up to S\$75,000 in aggregate per depositor per Scheme member by law. Foreign currency deposits, dual currency investments, structured deposits and other investment products are not insured. **Taiwan:** Standard Chartered Bank ("SCB") or Standard Chartered Bank (Taiwan) Limited ("SCB (Taiwan)") may be involved in the financial instruments contained herein or other related financial instruments. The author of this document may have discussed the information contained herein with other employees or agents of SCB or SCB (Taiwan). The author and the above-mentioned employees of SCB or SCB (Taiwan) may have taken related actions in respect of the information involved (including communication with customers of SCB or SCB (Taiwan) as to the information contained herein). The opinions contained in this document may change, or differ from the opinions of employees of SCB or SCB (Taiwan). SCB and SCB (Taiwan) will not provide any notice of any changes to or differences between the above-mentioned opinions. This document may cover companies with which SCB or SCB (Taiwan) seeks to do business at times and issuers of financial instruments. Therefore, investors should understand that the information contained herein may serve as specific purposes as a result of conflict of interests of SCB or SCB (Taiwan). SCB, SCB (Taiwan), the employees (including those who have discussions with the author) or customers of SCB or SCB (Taiwan) may have an interest in the products, related financial instruments or related derivative financial products contained herein; invest in those products at various prices and on different market conditions; have different or conflicting interests in those products. The potential impacts include market makers' related activities, such as dealing, investment, acting as agents, or performing financial or consulting services in relation to any of the products referred to in this document. **UAE:** DIFC - Standard Chartered Bank is incorporated in England with limited liability by Royal Charter 1853 Reference Number ZC18. The Principal Office of the Company is situated in England at 1 Basinghall Avenue, London, EC2V 5DD. Standard Chartered Bank is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority. Standard Chartered Bank, Dubai International Financial Centre having its offices at Dubai International Financial Centre, Building 1, Gate Precinct, P.O. Box 999, Dubai, UAE is a branch of Standard Chartered Bank and is regulated by the Dubai Financial Services Authority ("DFSA"). This document is intended for use only by Professional Clients and is not directed at Retail Clients as defined by the DFSA Rulebook. In the DIFC we are authorised to provide financial

services only to clients who qualify as Professional Clients and Market Counterparties and not to Retail Clients. As a Professional Client you will not be given the higher retail client protection and compensation rights and if you use your right to be classified as a Retail Client we will be unable to provide financial services and products to you as we do not hold the required license to undertake such activities. For Islamic transactions, we are acting under the supervision of our Shariah Supervisory Committee. Relevant information on our Shariah Supervisory Committee is currently available on the Standard Chartered Bank website in the Islamic banking section at: <https://www.sc.com/en/banking/islamic-banking/http://www.standardchartered.com/en/banking-services/islamic-banking/shariah-supervisory-committee.html>. **UAE:** For residents of the UAE – Standard Chartered Bank UAE does not provide financial analysis or consultation services in or into the UAE within the meaning of UAE Securities and Commodities Authority Decision No. 48/r of 2008 concerning financial consultation and financial analysis. **Uganda:** Our Investment products and services are distributed by Standard Chartered Bank Uganda Limited, which is licensed by the Capital Markets Authority as an investment adviser. **United Kingdom:** Standard Chartered Bank (trading as Standard Chartered Private Bank) is an authorised financial services provider (license number 45747) in terms of the South African Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, 2002. **Vietnam:** This document is being distributed in Vietnam by, and is attributable to, Standard Chartered Bank (Vietnam) Limited which is mainly regulated by State Bank of Vietnam (SBV). Recipients in Vietnam should contact Standard Chartered Bank (Vietnam) Limited for any queries regarding any content of this document. **Zambia:** This document is distributed by Standard Chartered Bank Zambia Plc, a company incorporated in Zambia and registered as a commercial bank and licensed by the Bank of Zambia under the Banking and Financial Services Act Chapter 387 of the Laws of Zambia.