

The fund was up 5.2% in the final quarter, underperforming its benchmark of FTSE World Index (up 6.9%). The fund underperformed its benchmark over the past year up 12.5% relative to the benchmark up 18.9%. It underperformed over the past 5 years, up 5.1% (versus the benchmark up 12.0%).

### **Economic backdrop**

Global economic activity should remain firm, benefiting from easing financial conditions and strong developed market real household income growth due to sharply falling inflation and higher wages. The US economy is demonstrating particular strength, with a relatively strong consumer underpinned by a very robust labour market and high aggregate household wealth.

Europe's economy, which has stagnated given its linkage to China's weak economic recovery, should benefit meaningfully from a rebound in global manufacturing activity (from low levels) and the ongoing normalisation lower of gas prices. In Japan, continued export growth, improving business investment and private consumption (due to re-emergent wage growth and aided by a large once off personal tax refund) is leading to sustained solid economic activity.

The Chinese economy's recovery has fallen well short of expectations following the lifting of prolonged pandemic lockdown restrictions. Although contact-intensive service industries have experienced a strong recovery, property market activity has been very weak for a sustained period and has depressed consumer confidence. A recovery in exports, manufacturing and infrastructure spending, along with more decisive government stimulus measures should result in stronger near-term growth.

Economic activity in South Africa is severely constrained by an inadequate electricity supply, acute underperformance of transport infrastructure, poor service delivery from weak and revenue-hungry municipalities and chronically low business confidence. Additionally, the economic contribution from the mining sector that has benefitted from high commodity prices, is now far lower. For these reasons, coupled with the sizable government debt burden and a large, unskilled population with high unemployment - we remain pessimistic regarding the structural growth rate for the local economy. Gradual steps by government toward economic reform (now involving more productive private sector partnerships) need to speed up in order to stabilise the economy and prevent further decline.

### **Markets review**

Global markets were strongly positive in the final quarter (up 11.5% in US dollars), with Germany (up 13.9%) and the US (up 11.7%) outperforming. Emerging markets were also positive in the period (up 7.9%), with outperformance from Brazil (up 19.1%), South Korea (up 15.5%) and South Africa (up 12.7%), while China (down 4.2%) and Turkey (down 12.1%) underperformed. 2023 was a very positive year for global equity markets that were up 24.4% overall.

### **Fund performance and positioning**

Key positive contributors were Hochtief, Bayer and SKF. Global equity detractors included Pfizer, Johnson Electric and Roche. We remain overweight European equities and substantially underweight US equities relative to our benchmark.

### **Disclaimer**

Camissa Islamic Global Equity Fund is a sub-fund of Camissa Global Asset Management ICAV. This Fund is managed by KBA Consulting Management Limited. The Fund and the Manager are authorised in Ireland and regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

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**Additional information:** Please read the Key investor information in conjunction with the Supplemental Deed of the fund and the Fund prospectus.