Camissa Islamic Global Equity Fund

December 2024

The fund was down -10.3% this quarter, underperforming its benchmark of FTSE World Index. The fund has delivered a -1.7% return over the last year and 1.3% per annum annualized return over the last 5 years.

Economic backdrop

Global economic activity remains firm, but somewhat uneven. Financial conditions have gradually eased and developed market real household income continues to grow due to falling inflation, resilient employment and firm wages, whilst manufacturing activity has been weak and faces the risk of increased protectionism. The US economy is outperforming, with strong labour market, meaningful increases in aggregate household wealth and increasing business confidence and investment.

China's economic growth has been weak in nominal terms given ongoing deflation. The very weak property market has meaningfully dampened consumer confidence, contributing to disappointing consumption growth. Policymakers are responding with more aggressive monetary and fiscal stimulus and structural interventions that may improve near-term economic activity.

Europe's economy has been stagnating given its export link to China's weak economy, scarring from the energy crisis and the eroding competitiveness of its automotive and chemical sectors. It should benefit from any rebound in global manufacturing activity from low levels. Japan is maintaining solid economic activity, driven by rising private consumption, strong wage growth and enhanced business profitability and investment. Additionally, a healthy increase in long-term inflation expectations is supporting the normalisation of monetary policy.

Current South African economic activity is being somewhat boosted by a mild cyclical recovery in real consumption as consumers benefit from declining inflation and interest rates, together with recent once-off cash withdrawals from the two-pot retirement dispensation. Nevertheless, economic activity is constrained by acute underperformance of transport infrastructure, poor service delivery from weak and revenue-hungry municipalities, inadequate (albeit improved) electricity supply and low business confidence.

Following the election and the formation of the Government of National Unity, there have been positive leadership changes in key ministries and a commitment to attempting to address the country's structural problems. Consequently, following the dramatic economic decline of the last 15 years, there is room for optimism that the economy may stabilise and the country may potentially be setting on a more constructive path. Yet, given the deep structural issues in the economy - most notably the sizable government debt burden and a large, unskilled population with high unemployment levels - we believe that a modestly higher growth trajectory will take an extended period of time to engineer and this path is beset with risks.

Markets review

Global markets were slightly negative in the fourth quarter (down 0.1% in US dollars), with France (down 10.1%), the UK (down 6.8%), Hong Kong (down 4.9%) and Japan (down 4.1%) underperforming. Emerging markets were also negative, down 7.8% for the period, with underperformance from Brazil (down 19.7%), South Korea (down 17.7%), India (down 10.6%) and China (down 7.7%). Overall, however, 2024 was a very positive year for global equity markets, that were up 19.2%.

Fund performance and positioning

Notable positive contributors in the quarter were Siemens Energy, Philips and Evonik. Albemarle, Continental and Panasonic were the main detractors in the period. By sector, industrials, healthcare and energy contributed positively to the fund's performance relative to the benchmark over the second quarter of 2024. Our significant underweight positions in information technology and communication services were the main detractors on a relative basis. Our consumer discretionary and materials holdings detracted on an absolute and relative basis.

We remain overweight in European equities and substantially underweight in US equities, relative to our benchmark. We have maintained our positioning in high quality cyclical companies as we believe that share price levels are still low relative to their long-term prospects, and they should provide very attractive forward-looking returns.

Disclaimer The 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.