

US SOLAR FUND PLC

AUDIT COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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(the "Company")

AUDIT COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSTITUTION

1. The Audit Committee (the "Committee") shall consist of a minimum of 2 members of the board of the Company (the "Board") who shall be appointed by the Board in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee provided that membership of the Committee shall be confined to independent non-executive directors, with at least one member having recent and relevant financial experience. If the Board decides that the entire Board should fulfil the role of the Committee, it will need to explain why it has done so.
2. The Chairman of the Committee, who shall not be the chairman of the Company, shall be appointed by the Board which shall determine the period for which he/she shall hold office. In the absence of the Committee Chairman and/or an appointed deputy, the remaining members present shall elect one of themselves to chair the meeting. The Chairman of the Board may be a member of, but not chair, the Committee provided he/she is independent on appointment as chairman.
3. Appointments to the Committee shall be for a period for up to three years, which may be extended by further three year periods, provided the members continue to be independent.
4. Members of the Committee may attend meetings of the Committee in person or through the medium of conference telephone or similar form of communication equipment, provided that all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear and speak to each other throughout such meeting.
5. Only members of the Committee have the right to attend Committee meetings. However, others may be invited to attend meetings of the Committee on a regular basis (for example, the external auditors) and other non-members may be invited to attend all or part of any meeting as and when appropriate and necessary.
6. A representative of the company secretary or its nominee shall act as the Secretary of the Committee and will ensure that the Committee receives information and papers in a timely manner to enable full and proper consideration to be given to issues.
7. The Chairman of the Committee should have recent and relevant financial experience ideally with a professional qualification from one of the professional accountancy bodies.
8. The Committee as a whole must have competence relevant to the sector in which the Company invests. The requirements for independence, financial experience and competence may be satisfied by the same members or different members of the Committee.
9. The quorum for decisions of the Committee shall be any 2 members. A duly convened meeting of the Committee at which a quorum is present shall be competent to exercise all or any of the authorities, powers and discretions vested in or exercisable by the Committee.

ROLE

10. The Committee should carry out the duties below for the Company, major subsidiary undertakings and the group as a whole, as applicable and appropriate.

10.1. Financial reporting

10.1.1. The Committee shall monitor the integrity of the financial statements of the Company including its annual and half-yearly reports and any other formal announcements relating to its financial performance and reviewing and reporting to the Board on significant financial reporting issues and judgements which they contain having regard to matters communicated to it by the auditor.

10.1.1.1. The Committee shall review and challenge where the Committee deems necessary:

- the consistency of, and any changes to, accounting policies both on a year on year basis and (as applicable) across the Company's group;
- the methods used to account for significant or unusual transactions where different approaches are possible;
- whether the Company has followed appropriate accounting standards and made appropriate estimates and judgements, taking into account the views of the auditor;
- the clarity and completeness of disclosure in the Company's financial reports and the context in which statements are made; and
- all material information presented with the financial statements, such as the corporate governance statement relating to the audit and risk management.

10.1.1.2. Where the Committee is not satisfied with any aspect of the proposed financial reporting by the Company, it shall report its views to the Board.

10.2. **Narrative reporting**

10.2.1. Where requested by the Board, the Committee should review the content of the annual report and accounts and advise the Board on whether, taken as a whole, it is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Company's position and performance, business model and strategy.

10.3. **Internal controls and risk management systems**

10.3.1. The Committee shall:

10.3.1.1. keep under review the adequacy and effectiveness of the Company's internal audit function (where it has one), internal financial controls and internal control and risk management systems;

10.3.1.2. review and approve the statements to be included in the annual report concerning internal controls and risk management;

10.3.1.3. review and approve statements explaining how assets have been invested with a view to spreading investment risk;

10.3.1.4. review and approve the quarterly net asset valuations and quarterly management accounts prepared by the Company's secretary and administrator;

10.3.1.5. review any cash flow forecasts produced by the Company's secretary and administrator in order to monitor the cash flow of the Company and ensure that the Company remains on track to meet any forecast or targeted dividend payments;

10.3.1.6. recommend the level of any proposed dividend to the Board;

10.3.1.7. liaise with the Board and ensure that other statements regarding the Company's investment manager and, if appropriate in the opinion of the Committee, the investment adviser, including relevant details of its remuneration and appointment and its continued appointment are, included in the annual report; and

10.3.1.8. ensure that the annual report includes:

- the full text of the Company's published investment policy;
- a detailed and meaningful analysis of the Company's investment portfolio; and
- a summary of the valuation of its portfolio made in accordance with the Listing Rules published by the Financial Conduct Authority (with which the Company has resolved to comply voluntarily).

10.4. **External audit**

10.4.1. The Committee shall:

10.4.1.1. consider and make recommendations to the Board, to be put to shareholders for approval at the Company's annual general meeting, in relation to the appointment, re-appointment and removal of the Company's external auditor and the approval of the remuneration and terms of engagement of the external auditor. If the Board does not accept the Committee's recommendation(s), the Committee shall prepare a statement for inclusion in the Company's annual report, and in any papers recommending appointment or re-appointment, explaining the recommendation and setting out the reasons why the Board has taken a different position.

10.4.1.2. ensure that the audit services' contract is put out to tender such that the Company complies with the permissible period of tenure and the selection procedure set out in s.489A of the Companies Act 2006. The Committee is responsible for organising the selection process for a new external auditor and must select at least two potential audit firms to be put forward to the Board, expressing a preference for one of them (and giving reasons for the preference identified). The Committee must state in its recommendation that its recommendation is free from influence from a third party and that no contractual term restricting the choice by the general meeting of the Company's shareholders to certain categories or lists of statutory auditors or audit firms (as fully described in Article 16 (6) of Regulation (EU) No.537 (2014)) has been imposed on the Company. The Committee shall ensure that all tendering firms have such access as is necessary to information and individuals during the duration of the tendering process;

10.4.1.3. if an external auditor resigns, investigate the issues leading to this and decide whether any action is required;

10.4.1.4. develop and implement a policy on the engagement of the external auditor to supply non-audit services, taking into account relevant guidance regarding the provision

of non-audit services by the external audit firm, and regarding the prohibition of certain non-audit services and to report to the Board, identifying any matters in respect of which it considers that action or improvement is needed and making recommendations as to the steps to be taken;

10.4.1.5. oversee the relationship with the external auditor including (but not limited to):

- approval of their remuneration, including both fees for audit and non-audit services and that the level of fees is appropriate to enable an effective and high quality audit to be conducted and that the levels of such remuneration is in accordance with the relevant requirements;
- approval of their terms of engagement, including any engagement letter issued at the start of each audit and the scope of the audit;
- assessing annually their independence and objectivity and the effectiveness of the audit process taking into account relevant UK law, professional and regulatory requirements, the Ethical Standard and the relationship with the external auditor as a whole, including the provision of any non-audit services (including satisfying itself that the auditor appointed by the Company is not conflicted by any work carried out by it for the Investment Manager and that any potential conflict of interest has been satisfactorily resolved);
- satisfying itself that there are no relationships (such as family, employment, investment, financial or business) between the external auditor and the Company, the investment manager or the investment adviser (other than in the ordinary course of business) which could adversely affect the external auditor's independence and objectivity;
- agreeing with the Board a policy on the employment by the investment manager or the investment adviser of former employees of the Company's auditor and, monitoring the implementation of this policy;
- (monitoring the external auditor's processes for maintaining independence, its compliance with the relevant UK law, regulation, other professional requirements and the Ethical Standard on the rotation of audit partners, the level of fees paid by the Company compared to the overall fee income of the firm, office and partner and other related requirements;
- assessing annually the qualifications, expertise and resources and independence of the external auditor and the effectiveness of the external audit process, which shall include a report from the external auditor on their own internal quality procedures;
- seeking to ensure co-ordination with the activities of the appointed administrator;
- reviewing the report provided by the external auditor to the Committee and considering whether to request a meeting with the external auditor to discuss the matters in such report; and

- evaluating the risks to the quality and effectiveness of the financial reporting process and consideration of the need to include the risk of the withdrawal of their external auditor from the market in that evaluation;
- develop and recommend to the board the company's formal policy on the provision of non-audit services by the auditor, including approval of non-audit services by the committee and specifying the types of non-audit service to be approved, and assessment of whether non-audit services have a direct or material effect on the audited financial statements. The policy should include consideration of the following matters:
 - i. threats to the independence and objectivity of the external auditor and any safeguards in place;
 - ii. the nature of the non-audit services;
 - iii. whether the external audit firm is the most suitable supplier of the non-audit service;
 - iv. the fees for the non-audit services, both individually and in aggregate, relative to the audit fee; and
 - v. the criteria governing compensation.
- meet regularly with the external auditor (including once at the planning stage before the audit and once after the audit at the reporting stage) and at least once a year, without any representatives of the investment manager or investment adviser being present, to discuss the auditor's remit and any issues arising from the audit;
- review and approve the annual audit plan and ensure that it is consistent with the scope of the audit engagement, having regard to the seniority, expertise and experience of the audit team; and
- review the findings of the audit with the external auditor. This shall include but not be limited to, the following:
 - vi. a discussion of any major issues which arose during the audit;
 - vii. key accounting and audit judgements;
 - viii. levels of errors identified during the audit; and
 - ix. the effectiveness of the audit process.

10.4.2. The Committee shall also:

10.4.2.1. review any representation letter(s) requested by the external auditor before they are signed;

10.4.2.2. review the management letter and management's response to the auditor's findings and recommendations; and

10.4.2.3. review the effectiveness of the audit process, including an assessment of the quality of the audit, the handling of key judgements by the auditor, and the auditor's response to questions from the committee.

10.5. Reporting responsibilities

10.5.1. All proceedings of the Committee shall be reported formally to the Board by the Committee Chairman.

10.5.2. The Committee Chairman shall also report to the Board on its proceedings after each meeting on all matters within its duties and responsibilities and shall also report to the Board on how it has discharged its responsibilities. This report shall include:

10.5.2.1. the significant issues that it considered in relation to the financial statements (required under paragraph 10.1.1) and how these were addressed;

10.5.2.2. its assessment of the effectiveness of the external audit process (required under paragraph 10.4.5(c) and 10.4.5(c)) and its recommendation on the appointment or reappointment of the external auditor, together with information on the length of tenure of the current audit firm and when a tender was last conducted;

10.5.2.3. any key matters raised by the external auditors in its report to the Committee;

10.5.2.4. if the external auditor provides non-audit services, an explanation of how auditor objectivity and independence are safeguarded; and

10.5.2.5. any other issues on which the Board has requested the Committee's opinion.

i. The Committee shall make whatever recommendations to the Board it deems appropriate on any area within its remit where action or improvement is needed.

10.5.3. The Committee shall compile a report on its activities in discharging its responsibilities to be included as a separate section in the Company's annual report. The report should include an explanation of the significant issues that the Committee considered in relation to the financial statements and how these issues were addressed; an explanation of how it has assessed the effectiveness of the external audit process and the approach taken to the appointment or reappointment of the external auditor; information on the length of tenure of the current audit firm, when a tender was last conducted and advance notice of any re-tendering plans; and if the external auditor provides non-audit services, an explanation of how auditor objectivity and independence are safe-guarded, and all other information requirements set out in the UK Corporate Governance Code and/or the AIC Code of Corporate Governance.

10.5.4. In the compiling the reports referred to in paragraphs 10.5.2 and 10.5.4, the Committee should exercise judgement in deciding which of the issues it considers in relation to the financial statements are significant, but should include at least those matters that have informed the Board's assessment of whether the Company is a going concern. The report to shareholders need not repeat information disclosed elsewhere in the annual report and accounts, but could provide cross-references to that information.

10.5.5. Through the Chairman of the Board, the Committee shall ensure that the Company maintains contact as appropriate and required with its principal shareholders in respect of audit and financial issues.

10.6. Other matters

10.6.1. The Committee shall:

10.6.1.1. have access to sufficient resources in order to carry out its duties, including access to the company secretary for assistance as required;

10.6.1.2. give due consideration to laws and regulations, the provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code, the AIC Code of Corporate Governance and the requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority's Listing, the Market Abuse Regulation and Prospectus and Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules and any other applicable rules (to the extent applicable to a company listed on the Specialist Fund Segment of the Main Market of the London Stock Exchange which has resolved to comply voluntarily with certain of the Listing Rules), as appropriate;

10.6.1.3. be provided with appropriate and timely training, both in the form of an induction programme for new members and on an on-going basis for all members;

10.6.1.4. be responsible for co-ordination with external auditors;

10.6.1.5. oversee any investigation of activities which are within its terms of reference;

10.6.1.6. work and liaise as necessary with all other Board committees; and

10.6.1.7. arrange for periodic reviews of its own performance and, at least annually, review its constitution and terms of reference to ensure it is operating at maximum effectiveness and recommend any changes it considers necessary to the Board.

PROCEDURE

11. The Committee shall meet at least twice each year at appropriate intervals in the financial reporting and audit cycle and at such other times as the Chairman of the Committee or other Committee member shall require.
12. Meetings of the Committee shall be convened by the Secretary of the Committee at the request of any of its members or at the request of the external audit lead partner if they consider it necessary.
13. At least 5 working days' notice of any meeting of the Committee shall be given, although such notice period may be waived or shortened with the consent in writing of all the members of the Committee for the time being. Notice of the meeting shall confirm the venue, time and date together with an agenda of items to be discussed. Notice shall be sent to each member of the Committee and any other person required to attend. Supporting papers shall be sent to Committee members and to other attendees as appropriate at the same time.
14. Notices, agendas and supporting papers can be sent in electronic form where the recipient has agreed to receive documents in such a way.
15. The Company Secretary (or its delegate) or such other person as the Board may determine from time to time shall be the secretary of the Committee.

16. The secretary of the Committee or its delegate shall attend meetings of the Committee to take minutes.
17. In the absence of the secretary of the Committee, the members present at the meeting of the Committee shall elect another person to act as the secretary for the purposes of that meeting.
18. The secretary shall ascertain, at the beginning of each meeting, the existence of any conflicts of interest and minute them accordingly. The relevant member of the Committee shall not be counted towards the quorum and he/she must abstain from voting on any resolution of the Committee in which he/she and/or his/her associates have a material interest.
19. A duly convened meeting of the Committee at which a quorum is present shall be competent to exercise all or any of the authorities, powers and discretions vested in or exercisable by the Committee.
20. The secretary shall minute the proceedings and discussions of all meetings of the Committee, including recording the names of those present and in attendance.
21. Draft minutes of the meeting of the Committee shall be agreed with the Committee Chairman and then circulated promptly to all members of the Committee and, once agreed, to the Board unless it would be inappropriate to do so in the opinion of the Committee Chairman.
22. Once agreed, minutes of the Committee meetings shall be kept by the secretary of the Committee and shall be available for inspection by any member of the Committee or Director at any reasonable time on reasonable notice.
23. The Chairman of the Committee shall attend the Company's Annual General Meeting prepared to respond to any shareholder questions on the Committee and its activities and responsibilities.
24. All members of the Committee shall have access to sufficient resources in order to carry out its duties, including access to the advice and services of the secretary of the Committee with a view to ensuring that procedures of the Committee and all applicable rules and regulations are followed.
25. In the event that the Committee or any member of the Committee requires access to independent professional advice in connection with his duties, a request may be made to the Chairman.
26. Every member of the Committee shall give sufficient time and attention to his/her duties as a member of the Committee. He/she shall give the Company the benefit of his/her skills and expertise through regular attendance and active participation.

AUTHORITY

27. The Committee is authorised to:
 - 27.1. seek any information it requires from any member of the Board and/or any director or employee of the investment manager or investment adviser in order to perform its duties;
 - 27.2. investigate and review any matter within its terms of reference and consider any matter the Committee deems relevant to the discharge of its duties;
 - 27.3. obtain, at the Company's expense, independent legal, accounting or other professional advice on any matter it believes it necessary to do so within its terms of reference;

- 27.4. call on the investment manager or investment adviser to be questioned at a meeting of the Committee as and when required; and
- 27.5. have the right to publish in the Company's annual report, details of any issues that cannot be resolved between the Committee and the Board.

RISK

28. The duties of the Committee in relation Risk activities shall be to:

- 28.1. advise the Board on the company's overall risk appetite, tolerance and strategy, taking account of the current and prospective macroeconomic and financial environment and drawing on financial stability assessments such as those published by relevant industry and regulatory authorities and other authoritative sources that may be relevant for the Company's risk policies.
- 28.2. oversee and advise the Board on the current risk exposures of the Company and future risk strategy.
- 28.3. in relation to risk assessment:
- 28.4. keep under review the Company's overall risk assessment processes that inform the Board's decision making, ensuring both qualitative and quantitative metrics are maintained;
- 28.5. review regularly and approve the parameters used in these measures and the methodology adopted; and
- 28.6. set a standard for the accurate and timely monitoring of large exposures and certain risk types of critical importance.
- 28.7. review the Company's capability to identify and manage new risk.
- 28.8. review reports on any material breaches of risk limits and the adequacy of proposed action.
- 28.9. keep under review the effectiveness of the Company's internal financial controls and internal controls and risk management systems and review and approve the statements to be included in the annual report concerning internal controls and risk management.
- 28.10. review the adequacy and security of the Company's arrangements for its stakeholders to raise concerns, in confidence, about possible wrongdoing in financial reporting or other matters. The Committee shall ensure that these arrangements allow proportionate and independent investigation of such matters and appropriate follow up action.
- 28.11. review the Company's procedures for detecting fraud.
- 28.12. review the Company's procedures for the prevention of bribery.
- 28.13. consider and approve the remit of the risk management function and ensure it has adequate resources and appropriate access to information to enable it to perform its function effectively and in accordance with the relevant professional standards. The Committee shall also ensure the function has adequate independence and is free from restrictions.

28.14. Work and liaise as necessary with all other Board Committees.