First State Investments

24 January 2014

### Notice to Unitholders of First State Global Opportunities Fund (the "Sub-Fund")

Dear Unitholder,

## CHANGE TO:

# (1) INVESTMENT POLICY AND APPROACH, SUB-INVESTMENT MANAGER AND NAME OF THE UNDERLYING SUB-FUND

#### (2) NAME OF THE SUB-FUND

As you may be aware, the investment policy of the Sub-Fund is to invest all or substantially all of its assets in a sub-fund under the Dublin registered First State Global Umbrella Fund plc (the "**Company**") known as the First State Global Opportunities Fund (the "**Underlying Sub-Fund**").

We would like to inform you that the shareholders of the Underlying Sub-Fund have approved a change to the investment policy of the Underlying Sub-Fund to take effect from <u>24 February 2014</u> (the "Effective Date"). The investment approach of the Underlying Sub-Fund will also be changed from the Effective Date.

The change in investment policy of the Underlying Sub-Fund is due to a transition in management for the Underlying Sub-Fund. We, First State Investments (Singapore)("First State Singapore"), will be appointed as the sub-investment manager of the Underlying Sub-Fund with effect from the Effective Date.

To reflect the revised investment policy, the Underlying Sub-Fund will be re-named "First State Worldwide Leaders Fund" from the Effective Date.

The Sub-Fund will also be re-named "First State Worldwide Leaders Fund" from the Effective Date to reflect its continued investment into the Underlying Sub-Fund.

*Please refer to the Annex for information on the revised investment policy and approach of the Underlying Sub-Fund.* There is no change to the investment objective of the Sub-Fund as a result of the above changes and the Sub-Fund will continue to invest all or substantially all of its assets in the Underlying Sub-Fund after the Effective Date. There is no change to the current fees payable by the Sub-Fund in relation to its investment into the Underlying Sub-Fund as a result of the changes.

#### Why is the management for the Underlying Sub-Fund being transitioned?

The Underlying Sub-Fund's current sub-investment manager, First State Investment Management (UK) Limited ("First State UK"), has reviewed its global equity investment funds to ensure that the funds are well positioned to deliver the right long term outcomes to investors.

As a result of this review, First State UK has taken the decision to migrate the management of all of its global equity funds to the First State Stewart team, which also manages the First State group's Asia Pacific and Global Emerging Markets equity funds.

In order for the Underlying Sub-Fund to be managed to its full potential by the First State Stewart team it was necessary to change the investment policy of the Underlying Sub-Fund to permit the Underlying Sub-Fund to focus on investment in the equity securities of larger capitalisation companies worldwide and to allow broader exposure to the equity securities of companies in emerging market countries. Such changes will better align the Underlying Sub-Fund's investment policy with the investment expertise and stock selection process adopted by the First State Stewart Team at First State Singapore to whom the investment management is being transitioned.

As a result, First State Singapore will be appointed as sub-investment manager of the Underlying Sub-Fund in place of First State UK with effect from the Effective Date.

First State Investments (registration number 53236800B) is a business division of First State Investments (Singapore)

## What do I need to do?

Your options:

## **Option 1 – Continue holding your units**

You may choose to continue holding your units in the Sub-Fund after the Effective Date. In this case, no action on your part is required.

## **Option 2 – Switch your units**

You may choose to switch your units in the Sub-Fund to units in any of the other sub-funds of the Fund (each a "**New Sub-Fund**"). In effect, this means redeeming your units in the Sub-Fund at the prevailing redemption price calculated in accordance with the applicable provisions in the Deed and re-investing the redemption proceeds into the relevant New Sub-Fund at the New Sub-Fund's prevailing subscription price.

We are pleased to inform you that the switching fee will be waived for this exercise.

Please note that the investment objective, focus and approach of a New Sub-Fund as well as the fees and charges payable may not be the same as that for the Sub-Fund. Before making any investment decision to switch into a New Sub-Fund, you should read the prospectus of the New Sub-Fund carefully and we encourage you to seek advice from a financial adviser before making any investment decision. Should you choose not to consult a financial adviser, you should carefully consider whether an investment in the New Sub-Fund is suitable for you and your individual circumstances.

Please note that any switch will be subject to the provisions of the Deed and the following conditions apply:

- (i) no switch may be made if the switch will result in you holding a number of units in the New Sub-Fund which is below the applicable minimum holding amount;
- (ii) if you purchased your units with your SRS/CPF monies, your units can only be switched for units in a New Sub-Fund that can be subscribed using SRS/CPF monies; and
- (iii) switching of units is only allowed if the units are denominated in the same currency.

You may obtain the switching form from your distributor. For units to be switched before the Effective Date, you will have to submit your duly completed switching form to your distributor by <u>24 February 2014</u>. You may still switch your units after the Effective Date and we are pleased to inform you that we will continue to waive the switching fee on switches submitted by <u>25 August 2014</u>.

## You should also note that your right to redeem your units in the Sub-Fund in accordance with the applicable provisions in the trust deed of the Sub-Fund remain unchanged.

**Important:** You should obtain independent professional or legal advice in the event you have any doubt relating to the contents of this notice.

If you need any clarification or further information, please contact the distributor whom you had purchased units of the Sub-Fund from.

Thank you for investing with First State Investments. We look forward to your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Alexis Ng Director

## <u>Annex</u>



#### Revised investment policy and approach of the Underlying Sub-Fund from the Effective Date:

#### "Investment Policy

The Underlying Sub-Fund invests primarily in a diverse portfolio of equity securities of larger capitalisation companies which are listed, traded or dealt in on any of the regulated markets worldwide. Larger capitalisation companies are currently defined as companies with a minimum investible market cap (free float) of US\$3 billion at the time of investment. The investment manager of the Underlying Sub-Fund may review this definition as considered appropriate.

In relation to the term Leaders, this indicates the Underlying Sub-Fund will not invest in securities of small capitalisation companies. Small capitalisation companies are currently defined as companies with a minimum investible market cap (free float) of less than US\$1 billion at the time of investment.

The Underlying Sub-Fund is not managed to a benchmark and may have exposure to developed or emerging markets whilst maintaining its geographical diversity. The Underlying Sub-Fund may invest in any industry.

#### Investment Approach

The investment manager / sub-manager of the Underlying Sub-Fund aims to create wealth over the long term by applying an active and disciplined approach to investing in quality assets. The investment manager / sub-manager of the Underlying Sub-Fund uses a 'bottom-up' approach to stock selection – beginning at the ground level with a thorough analysis of individual companies (rather than sectors or countries), researching their background looking for growth potential, and identifying companies whose shares are under-valued when measured against a range of valuation techniques. While focusing on companies, the investment manager / sub-manager of the Underlying Sub-Fund is always mindful of the economic and political outlook of the markets in which the companies operate."

It should be noted that as a consequence of the change to the investment policy of the Underlying Sub-Fund, the risk profile of the Underlying Sub-Fund (and consequently, the Sub-Fund) is increased and the Emerging Market Risk factor as detailed in the prospectus for the Sub-Fund<sup>1</sup> will apply.

## You should consult your financial adviser if in doubt whether this Sub-Fund remains suitable for you after the Effective Date.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A copy of the prospectus is accessible at <u>www.firststateinvestments.com</u> or may be obtained from any of our distributors.