

# INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE OPINION STATEMENT

Statement No: BSIV 772414

**Nexus Select Trust ESG Report 2023-24** 

# Scope

The scope of engagementagreed upon with NST includes the following:

- 1. The assurance covers the ESG Report 2023-24 of the NST, prepared "with reference to" GRI Standards, 2021 and focuses on systems and activities of Nexus Select Trust, covering the 17 Malls (Nexus Shantiniketan at Bengaluru, Nexus Seawoods at Navi Mumbai, Nexus Ahmedabad one at Ahmedabad, Nexus Koramangala at Bengaluru, Nexus Whitefield at Bengaluru, Nexus Westend at Pune, Nexus Centre City at Mysuru, Nexus Celebration at Udaipur, Nexus Elante at Chandigarh, Nexus Hyderabad at Hyderabad, Nexus Vijaya at Chennai, Fiza by Nexus at Mangaluru, Nexus Amritsar at Amritsar, Nexus Esplanade at Bhubaneswar, Treasure Island at Indore, Nexus Indore Central at Indore, Select City Walk at Delhi), 2 Hotels (Oakwood Residences at Bengaluru, Hyatt Regency at Chandigarh) & 3 Offices (Vijaya Office at Chennai, Elante Office at Chandigarh, Westend Icon Office at Pune), India during the period from 1 st April 2023 to 31 March 2024.
- 2. The AA1000 Assurance Standard, AA1000AS v3, Type 1 moderate level engagement evaluates the nature and extent of NST's adherence to all four AA1000 AccountAbility Principles: Inclusivity, Materiality, Responsiveness, and Impact. The specified sustainability performance information/data disclosed in the report has been evaluated.

#### **Opinion Statement**

Our work was carried out by a team of sustainability report assurors in accordance with the AA1000 Assurance standard, AA1000AS v3 and "with reference to" GRI Universal Standards 2021. We planned and performed this part of our work to obtain the necessary information and explanations we considered to provide sufficient evidence that NST's description of their self-declaration of compliance with the GRI Standards were fairly stated.

We conclude that the NST's ESG Report 2023-24 review provides a fair view of the NST's sustainability program and performance during FY 2023-24. We also believe that in the ESG Report 2023-24, the

BSI Group India Private Limited The Mira Corporate Suites in Plot 1-2, Ishwar Nagar Mathura Road, New Delhi-110065

T: +91 11 4762 9000 info.in@bsigroup.com/bsigroup.com/en-IN

India

The British Standards Institution Incorporated by Royal Charter Registered in India: CIN U74899DL1999PTC101381





Environment, Social, and Governance performance disclosures are fairly represented. The sustainability performance disclosures disclosed in the report demonstrate NST's efforts recognized by its stakeholders. The intended users of our assurance report are the management and stakeholders of NST.

### Methodology

Our work was designed to gather evidence on which to base our conclusion. We undertook the following activities:

- A top-level review of issues raised by external parties that could be relevant to NST's policies to provide a check on the appropriateness of statements made in the report.
- Discussion with senior executives and their external consultant on NST's approach and methodology of collection and evaluation of stakeholder engagement. We had no direct contact with external stakeholders.
- Interview with staff and authorities involved in sustainability management, report preparation and provision of report information were carried out.
- Review of key organizational developments.
- Review of supporting evidence for claims made in the reports.
- An assessment of the company's reporting and management processes concerning this reporting against the principles of Inclusivity, Materiality and Responsiveness as described in the AA1000 AccountAbility Principles Standard v3.
- A sample-based assessment of the reliability and quality of information as company's performance provided in the ESG report.

### **Conclusions**

A detailed review against the AA1000 AccountAbility Principles of Inclusivity, Materiality, Responsiveness, and Impact and the GRI Standards is set out below:

#### Inclusivity

This report has reflected a fact that NST is seeking the engagement of its stakeholders through numerous channels such as Meetings with regulators, business partners, suppliers, investors, and employees along with feedback processes from customers, and submission of various reports to the relevant stakeholders. The process of stakeholder engagement clearly addresses the various types of stakeholders involved, their modes of engagement together with their frequencies of interaction. Stakeholder interaction exercise has been conducted within this past year (similar to previous years), to identify and understand their concerns among the identified universe of material topics. We have seen a few instances of stakeholder engagement agenda including feedback about the previous ESG Report from different internal and external stakeholders.

This report focuses on the activities undertaken by Nexus Select Trust covering the 17 Malls (Nexus Shantiniketan at Bengaluru, Nexus Seawoods at Navi Mumbai, Nexus Ahmedabad one at Ahmedabad, Nexus Koramangala at Bengaluru, Nexus Whitefield at Bengaluru, Nexus Westend at Pune, Nexus Centre City at Mysuru, Nexus Celebration at Udaipur, Nexus Elante at Chandigarh, Nexus Hyderabad at Hyderabad, Nexus Vijaya at Chennai, Fiza by Nexus at Mangaluru, Nexus Amritsar at Amritsar, Nexus Esplanade at Bhubaneswar, Treasure Island at Indore, Nexus Indore Central at Indore, Select City Walk at Delhi), 2 Hotels (Oakwood Residences at Bengaluru, Hyatt Regency at Chandigarh) & 3 Offices (Vijaya Office at Chennai, Elante Office at Chandigarh, Westend Icon Office at Pune), India during the period from 1st April

BSI Group India Private Limited
The Mira Corporate Suites
Plot 1-2, Ishwar Nagar
Mathura Road, New Delhi-110065
India
T: +91 11 4762 9000
info.in@bsigroup.com/bsigroup.com/en-IN

The British Standards Institution Incorporated by Royal Charter Registered in India: CIN U74899DI 1999PTC101381 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

103 ESG REPORT 2023-24 104



2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

This report covers the fair reporting and disclosure for environment, social and governance information. In our professional opinion, the report covers the NST's inclusivity issues that demonstrates participation of stakeholders in developing and achieving an accountable and strategic response to sustainability.

# **Materiality**

NST publishes sustainability information that enables its stakeholders to make informed judgments about the company's management and performance. In this year FY'24, NST has conducted a fresh materiality assessment with inputs and feedback from various internal and external stakeholders. The 19 material topics identified are -

Energy & Emissions Management, Climate Risks & Opportunities Management, Water Stewardship, Circular Economy & Waste Management, Biodiversity & Land Use;

Employee Health Safety Well-being, Human Rights & Labour Relations, Diversity Inclusion & Non-Discrimination, Human Capital Development, Talent Recruitment & Retention, Tenant Relationships & Customer Satisfaction, Community Relations;

Corporate Governance, Ethical Business Conduct, Sustainable Sourcing & Procurement Practices, Regulatory Compliance, Data Privacy and Security, Green Portfolio, Food Safety.

The 8 material topics identified, for which assurance is sought are:

- 1. Energy & Emissions management
- 2. Water Stewardship
- 3. Circular Economy and Waste Management
- 4. Employee Health Safety & Wellbeing
- 5. Human Rights and Labour Relations
- 6. Diversity, inclusion, and non-discrimination
- 7. Human Capital Development
- 8. Talent Recruitment and Retention

In our professional opinion the report covers the NST's material issues by using NST materiality matrix, internal and external stakeholder consultation and boundary mapping. In our professional opinion nothing has come to our attention to suggest that the responses related to identified material topics are not adequately represented in the Report.

### Responsiveness

NST has implemented the practice to respond to the expectations and perceptions of its stakeholders. Feedback from all the internal stakeholder representatives were collected along with few selected external stakeholders. A few instances of stakeholder engagement agenda & action points from those engagement meetings were shared to us to demonstrate that NST is serious about the relevant content it works upon and shares with its stakeholders. This includes changes in the wide change in the materiality topics. It also includes the changes in this year's report structure and scope readiness and preparedness basis the feedback about the previous ESG Report publishing timeline.

In our professional opinion nothing has come to our attention to suggest that the responses related to identified material topics are not adequately represented in the report.

BSI Group India Private Limited
The Mira Corporate Suites
Plot 1-2, Ishwar Nagar
Mathura Road, New Delhi-110065
India
T: +91 11 4762 9000
info.in@bsigroup.com/en-IN

The British Standards Institution Incorporated by Royal Charter Registered in India: CIN U74899DL1999PTC101381





### **Impact**

NST has also demonstrated that adequate systems are in place to monitor, measure and be accountable for their actions that affect the economy, environment, society, stakeholders, and the organization itself. The nature and extent of the errors and mistakes in data agglomeration and reporting has shown a marked reduction as compared to last year. The scope of reporting is being improved to capture as many relevant / material GRI indicators. The processes of data monitoring measurement and reporting is stabilized, standardized and understood by all parts of the organization; thereby allowing them to take the next step towards causing improvements for each of these reported metrics. Quite a few of these metrics have reported the improvement projects undertaken and demonstrated marked improvement.

## **GRI-reporting**

Nexus Select Trust provided us with their self-declaration of compliance "with reference to" the GRI Universal Standard 2021.

Based on our verification review, we are able to confirm that social responsibility and sustainable development disclosures in all 3 categories (Environmental, Social and Governance) are reported "with reference to" the GRI Universal Standard 2021. It is the responsibility of NST corporate to notify GRI post publishing the report.

In our professional opinion the self-declaration covers NST Corporate's social responsibility and sustainability issues. On the basis of the verification undertaken, nothing has come to our attention to suggest that the Report does not properly describe the following sustainability disclosures as stipulated in the GRI Standards.

- GRI 302: Energy 2016 302-1, 302-2, 302-3, 302-4
- GRI 303: Water & Effluents 2018 303-3, 303-4, 303-5
- GRI 305: Emissions 2016 305-1, 305-2, 305-3, 305-4, 305-5
- GRI 306: Waste 2020 306-3, 306-4
- GRI 401: Employment 2016 401-1, 401-2, 401-3
- GRI 403: Occupational Health and Safety 2018 403-1, 403-2, 403-3, 403-4, 403-5, 403-6, 403-7, 403-8, 403-9, 403-10
- GRI 404: Training & Education 2016 404-1, 404-2, 404-3
- GRI 405: Diversity and Equal Opportunity 2016 405-1, 405-2
- GRI 406: Non-discrimination 2016 406-1
- GRI 407: Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining 2016 407-1

#### **Competency and Independence**

BSI Group India Private Limited
The Mira Corporate Suites
Plot 1-2, Ishwar Nagar
Mathura Road, New Delhi-110065
T: +91 11 4762 9000
info.in@bsigroup.com/en-IN

India

The British Standards Institution Incorporated by Royal Charter Registered in India: CIN U74899DL1999PTC101381



105 ESG REPORT 2023-24 106



The assurance team was composed of Lead auditors experienced in industrial sector, and trained in a range of sustainability, environmental and social standards including GRI Universal Standard 2021, AA1000, ISO10002, ISO 14001, ISO 45001, ISO 14064,

ISO 50001 and ISO 9001, etc. BSI is a leading global standards and assessment body founded in 1901. The assurance is carried out in line with the BSI Fair Trading Code of Practice.

#### **Assurance Level**

The type 1 moderate level of assurance provided is in accordance with AA1000 Assurance standard, AA1000AS v3 in our review as defined by the scope and methodology described in this statement.

### Responsibility

It is the responsibility of NST's senior management to ensure the information presented in the ESG report is accurate. It is also left to the decision of the NST management on the publishing / submission of the report to any of their stakeholders. Our responsibility is to provide an independent assurance opinion statement to stakeholders giving our professional opinion based on the scope and methodology described.

# Reliability

The assurance statement on the performance was issued based on the evidence collected from ground level provided by the employees of NST. The sample selection was on random basis and selection is done by BSI auditor. The assessment included all sites covering the 17 Malls (Nexus Shantiniketan at Bengaluru, Nexus Seawoods at Navi Mumbai, Nexus Ahmedabad one at Ahmedabad, Nexus Koramangala at Bengaluru, Nexus Whitefield at Bengaluru, Nexus Westend at Pune, Nexus Centre City at Mysuru, Nexus Celebration at Udaipur, Nexus Elante at Chandigarh, Nexus Hyderabad at Hyderabad, Nexus Vijaya at Chennai, Fiza by Nexus at Mangaluru, Nexus Amritsar at Amritsar, Nexus Esplanade at Bhubaneswar, Treasure Island at Indore, Nexus Indore Central at Indore, Select City Walk at Delhi), 2 Hotels (Oakwood Residences at Bengaluru, Hyatt Regency at Chandigarh) & 3 Offices (Vijaya Office at Chennai, Elante Office at Chandigarh, Westend Icon Office at Pune), India during the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. The assurance team was convinced that the performance information presented in the report are reliable and representative.

### Quality

The quality of information was checked through cross verification of data. Field level measurement and records were verified with the procurement and supply chain invoices/bills. Interview with the responsible persons detailed the activities, maintenance, and process performance. The fitness of the measuring devices, frequency of measurement and recording, competency of the person concerned, and review & approval of information were checked and found in conformance.

#### **Performance Information**

NST ESG Report has addressed their Environmental, Social and Governance performance through GRI Universal Standard 2021 topic disclosures. The assurance team has evaluated the requirements of the GRI

BSI Group India Private Limited
The Mira Corporate Suites
Plot 1-2, Ishwar Nagar
Mathura Road, New Delhi-110065
India
T: +91 11 4762 9000
info.in@bsigroup.com/en-IN

The British Standards Institution Incorporated by Royal Charter Registered in India: CIN U74899DL1999PTC101381





disclosures for general disclosures and those relevant to the material topics only. For the specific data presented in the report, minimal technical/compilation errors were identified during the sampling process which were corrected for the final report.

Based on the processes and procedures conducted with a moderate assurance, there is no evidence that the Environment, Social data, and information presented in the Nexus Select Trust ESG Report 2023-24 are not materially correct and are not a fair representation of their Environmental and Social performance.

Issue Date: 13/06/2024 For and on behalf of BSI:



BSI representative Theuns Kotze, Managing Director – IMETA Assurance





T: +91 11 4762 9000

bsigroup.com/en-IN

info.in@bsigroup.com

The British Standards Institution Incorporated by Royal Charter Registered in India: CIN U74899DL1999PTC101381



107 ESG REPORT 2023-24 108