

## **APPROVAL OF INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND SUB-ADVISORY CONTRACTS (INVESCO V.I. HIGH YIELD FUND)**

At meetings held on June 13, 2023, the Board of Trustees (the Board or the Trustees) of AIM Variable Insurance Funds (Invesco Variable Insurance Funds) as a whole, and the independent Trustees, who comprise over 75% of the Board, voting separately, approved the continuance of the Invesco V.I. High Yield Fund's (the Fund) Master Investment Advisory Agreement with Invesco Advisers, Inc. (Invesco Advisers and the investment advisory agreement) and the Master Intergroup Sub-Advisory Contract for Mutual Funds with Invesco Asset Management Deutschland GmbH, Invesco Asset Management Limited, Invesco Asset Management (Japan) Limited, Invesco Hong Kong Limited, Invesco Senior Secured Management, Inc. and Invesco Canada Ltd. and separate sub-advisory contracts with Invesco Capital Management LLC and Invesco Asset Management (India) Private Limited (collectively, the Affiliated Sub-Advisers and the sub-advisory contracts) for another year, effective July 1, 2023. After evaluating the factors discussed below, among others, the Board approved the renewal of the Fund's investment advisory agreement and the sub-advisory contracts and determined that the compensation payable thereunder by the Fund to Invesco Advisers and by Invesco Advisers to the Affiliated Sub-Advisers is fair and reasonable.

### **The Board's Evaluation Process**

The Board has established an Investments Committee, which in turn has established Sub-Committees that meet throughout the year to review the performance of funds advised by Invesco Advisers (the Invesco Funds). The Sub-Committees meet regularly with portfolio managers for their assigned Invesco Funds and other members of management to review information about investment performance and portfolio attributes of these funds. The Board has established additional standing and ad hoc committees that meet regularly throughout the year to review matters within their purview, including a working group focused on opportunities to make ongoing and continuous improvements to the annual review process for the Invesco Funds' investment advisory and sub-advisory contracts. The Board took into account evaluations and reports that it received from its committees and sub-committees, as well as the information provided to the Board and its committees and sub-committees throughout the year, in considering whether to approve each Invesco Fund's investment advisory agreement and sub-advisory contracts.

As part of the contract renewal process, the Board reviews and considers information provided in response to requests for information submitted to management by the independent Trustees with assistance from legal counsel to the independent Trustees and the Senior Officer, an officer of the Invesco Funds who reports directly to the independent Trustees. The Board receives comparative investment performance and fee and expense data regarding the Invesco Funds prepared by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. (Broadridge), an independent mutual fund data provider, as well as information on the composition of the peer groups provided by Broadridge and its methodology for determining peer groups. The Board also receives an independent written evaluation from the Senior Officer. The Senior Officer's evaluation is prepared as part of his responsibility to manage the process by which the Invesco Funds' proposed management fees are negotiated during the annual contract renewal process to ensure they are negotiated in a manner that is at arms' length and reasonable in accordance with certain

negotiated regulatory requirements. In addition to meetings with Invesco Advisers and fund counsel throughout the year and as part of meetings convened on May 2, 2023 and June 13, 2023, the independent Trustees also discussed the continuance of the investment advisory agreement and sub-advisory contracts in separate sessions with the Senior Officer and with independent legal counsel. Also, as part of the contract renewal process, the independent Trustees reviewed and considered information provided in response to follow-up requests for information submitted by the independent Trustees to management. The independent Trustees met and discussed those follow-up responses with legal counsel to the independent Trustees and the Senior Officer.

The discussion below is a summary of the Senior Officer's independent written evaluation with respect to the Fund's investment advisory agreement and sub-advisory contracts, as well as a discussion of the material factors and related conclusions that formed the basis for the Board's approval of the Fund's investment advisory agreement and sub-advisory contracts. The Trustees' review and conclusions are based on the comprehensive consideration of all information presented to them during the course of the year and in prior years and are not the result of any single determinative factor. Moreover, one Trustee may have weighed a particular piece of information or factor differently than another Trustee. The information received and considered by the Board was current as of various dates prior to the Board's approval on June 13, 2023.

#### **Factors and Conclusions and Summary of Independent Written Fee Evaluation**

##### **A. Nature, Extent and Quality of Services Provided by Invesco Advisers and the Affiliated Sub-Advisers**

The Board reviewed the nature, extent and quality of the advisory services provided to the Fund by Invesco Advisers under the Fund's investment advisory agreement, and the credentials and experience of the officers and employees of Invesco Advisers who provide these services, including the Fund's portfolio manager(s). The Board considered recent senior management changes at Invesco and Invesco Advisers, including the appointment of new Co-Heads of Investments, that had been presented to and discussed with the Board. The Board's review included consideration of Invesco Advisers' investment process and oversight, credit analysis, and research capabilities. The Board considered information regarding Invesco Advisers' programs for and resources devoted to risk management, including management of investment, enterprise, operational, liquidity, derivatives, valuation and compliance risks, and technology used to manage such risks. The Board received information regarding Invesco's methodology for compensating its investment professionals and the incentives and accountability it creates, as well as how it impacts Invesco's ability to attract and retain talent. The Board received a description of, and reports related to, Invesco Advisers' global security program and business continuity plans and of its approach to data privacy and cybersecurity, including related testing. The Board also considered non-advisory services that Invesco Advisers and its affiliates provide to the Invesco Funds, such as various middle office and back office support functions, third party oversight, internal audit, valuation, portfolio trading and legal and compliance. The Board observed that Invesco Advisers' systems preparedness and ongoing investment enabled Invesco Advisers to manage, operate and oversee the Invesco Funds with minimal impact or disruption through challenging environments. The Board reviewed and considered the benefits

to shareholders of investing in a Fund that is part of the family of funds under the umbrella of Invesco Ltd., Invesco Advisers' parent company, and noted Invesco Ltd.'s depth and experience in running an investment management business, as well as its commitment of financial and other resources to such business. The Board concluded that the nature, extent and quality of the services provided to the Fund by Invesco Advisers are appropriate and satisfactory.

The Board reviewed the services that may be provided to the Fund by the Affiliated Sub-Advisers under the sub-advisory contracts and the credentials and experience of the officers and employees of the Affiliated Sub-Advisers who provide these services. The Board noted the Affiliated Sub-Advisers' expertise with respect to certain asset classes and that the Affiliated Sub-Advisers have offices and personnel that are located in financial centers around the world. As a result, the Board noted that the Affiliated Sub-Advisers can provide research and investment analysis on the markets and economies of various countries and territories in which the Fund may invest, make recommendations regarding securities and assist with portfolio trading. The Board concluded that the sub-advisory contracts may benefit the Fund and its shareholders by permitting Invesco Advisers to use the resources and talents of the Affiliated Sub-Advisers in managing the Fund. The Board concluded that the nature, extent and quality of the services that may be provided to the Fund by the Affiliated Sub-Advisers are appropriate and satisfactory.

B. Fund Investment Performance

The Board considered Fund investment performance as a relevant factor in considering whether to approve the investment advisory agreement. The Board did not view Fund investment performance as a relevant factor in considering whether to approve the sub-advisory contracts for the Fund, as no Affiliated Sub-Adviser currently manages assets of the Fund.

The Board compared the Fund's investment performance over multiple time periods ending December 31, 2022 to the performance of funds in the Broadridge performance universe and against the Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield 2% Issuer Cap Index (Index). The Board noted that performance of Series II shares of the Fund was in the second quintile of its performance universe for the one year period and the fifth quintile for the three and five year periods (the first quintile being the best performing funds and the fifth quintile being the worst performing funds). The Board noted that performance of Series II shares of the Fund was above the performance of the Index for the one year period and below the performance of the Index for the three and five year periods. The Board considered that the Fund underwent a change in portfolio management and investment process in 2020, and that performance results prior to such date were those of the prior portfolio management team and investment process. The Board also considered that performance relative to its performance universe and benchmark had improved since that time. The Board further considered that the Fund's underperformance during the March 2020 sell-off in the market continued to negatively impact the Fund's long-term performance rankings. The Board recognized that the performance data reflects a snapshot in time as of a particular date and that selecting a different performance period could produce different results. The Board also reviewed more recent Fund performance as well as other performance metrics, which did not change its conclusions.

C. Advisory and Sub-Advisory Fees and Fund Expenses

The Board compared the Fund's contractual management fee rate to the contractual management fee rates of funds in the Fund's Broadridge expense group. The Board noted that the contractual management fee rate for Series II shares of the Fund was below the median contractual management fee rate of funds in its expense group. The Board noted that the term "contractual management fee" for funds in the expense group may include both advisory and certain non-portfolio management administrative services fees, but that Broadridge is not able to provide information on a fund-by-fund basis as to what is included. The Board also reviewed the methodology used by Broadridge in calculating expense group information, which includes using each fund's contractual management fee schedule (including any applicable breakpoints) as reported in the most recent prospectus or statement of additional information for each fund in the expense group. The Board also considered comparative information regarding the Fund's total expense ratio and its various components. The Board noted that the Fund's total expense ratio was in the fifth quintile of its expense group and discussed with management reasons for such relative total expenses. The Board requested and considered additional information from management regarding such relative total expenses, including the differentiated client base associated with variable insurance products. As previously noted, the independent Trustees reviewed and considered information provided in response to follow-up requests for information submitted by the independent Trustees to management, including with respect to the Fund's total expense ratio relative to peer funds. The independent Trustees met and discussed those follow-up responses with legal counsel to the independent Trustees and the Senior Officer, and subsequently with representatives of management. The Board acknowledged limitations regarding the Broadridge data, in particular that differences may exist between a Fund's treatment of administrative services fees as compared to its peer funds.

The Board noted that Invesco Advisers has contractually agreed to waive fees and/or limit expenses of the Fund for the term disclosed in the Fund's registration statement in an amount necessary to limit total annual operating expenses to a specified percentage of average daily net assets for each class of the Fund.

The Board also considered the fees charged by Invesco Advisers and its affiliates to other client accounts that are similarly managed. Invesco Advisers reviewed with the Board differences in the scope of services it provides to the Invesco Funds relative to that provided by Invesco Advisers and its affiliates to certain other types of client accounts, including, among others: management of cash flows as a result of redemptions and purchases; necessary infrastructure such as officers, office space, technology, legal and distribution; oversight of service providers; costs and business risks associated with launching new funds and sponsoring and maintaining the product line; and compliance with federal and state laws and regulations. Invesco Advisers also advised the Board that many of the similarly managed client accounts have all-inclusive fee structures, which are not easily un-bundled.

The Board also considered the services that may be provided by the Affiliated Sub-Advisers pursuant to the sub-advisory contracts, as well as the fees payable by Invesco Advisers to the Affiliated Sub-Advisers pursuant to the sub-advisory contracts.

D. *Economies of Scale and Breakpoints*

The Board considered the extent to which there may be economies of scale in the provision of advisory services to the Fund and the Invesco Funds, and the extent to which such economies of scale are shared with the Fund and the Invesco Funds. The Board acknowledged the difficulty in calculating and measuring economies of scale at the individual fund level; noting that only indicative and estimated measures are available at the individual fund level and that such measures are subject to uncertainty. The Board considered that the Fund may benefit from economies of scale through contractual breakpoints in the Fund's advisory fee schedule, which generally operate to reduce the Fund's expense ratio as it grows in size. The Board noted that the Fund also shares in economies of scale through Invesco Advisers' ability to negotiate lower fee arrangements with third party service providers. The Board noted that the Fund may also benefit from economies of scale through initial fee setting, fee waivers and expense reimbursements, as well as Invesco Advisers' investment in its business, including investments in business infrastructure, technology and cybersecurity.

E. *Profitability and Financial Resources*

The Board reviewed information from Invesco Advisers concerning the costs of the advisory and other services that Invesco Advisers and its affiliates provide to the Fund and the Invesco Funds and the profitability of Invesco Advisers and its affiliates in providing these services in the aggregate and on an individual fund-by-fund basis. The Board considered the methodology used for calculating profitability and the periodic review and enhancement of such methodology. The Board noted that Invesco Advisers continues to operate at a net profit from services Invesco Advisers and its affiliates provide to the Invesco Funds in the aggregate and to most Invesco Funds individually. The Board considered that profits to Invesco Advisers can vary significantly depending on the particular Invesco Fund, with some Invesco Funds showing indicative losses to Invesco Advisers and others showing indicative profits at healthy levels, and that Invesco Advisers' support for and commitment to an Invesco Fund are not, however, solely dependent on the profits realized as to that Fund. The Board did not deem the level of profits realized by Invesco Advisers and its affiliates from providing such services to be excessive, given the nature, extent and quality of the services provided. The Board noted that Invesco Advisers provided information demonstrating that Invesco Advisers is financially sound and has the resources necessary to perform its obligations under the investment advisory agreement, and provided representations indicating that the Affiliated Sub-Advisers are financially sound and have the resources necessary to perform their obligations under the sub-advisory contracts. The Board noted the cyclical and competitive nature of the global asset management industry.

F. *Collateral Benefits to Invesco Advisers and its Affiliates*

The Board considered various other benefits received by Invesco Advisers and its affiliates from the relationship with the Fund, including the fees received for providing administrative, transfer agency and distribution services to the Fund. The Board received comparative information regarding fees charged for these services, including information provided by Broadridge and other independent sources. The Board reviewed the performance of Invesco Advisers and its affiliates in providing these services and the organizational structure employed to provide these services. The Board noted that these services are provided to the

Fund pursuant to written contracts that are reviewed and subject to approval on an annual basis by the Board based on its determination that the services are required for the operation of the Fund.

The Board considered the benefits realized by Invesco Advisers and the Affiliated Sub-Advisers as a result of portfolio brokerage transactions executed through “soft dollar” arrangements. Invesco Advisers noted that the Fund does not execute brokerage transactions through “soft dollar” arrangements to any significant degree.

The Board considered that the Fund’s uninvested cash and cash collateral from any securities lending arrangements may be invested in registered money market funds or, with regard to securities lending cash collateral, unregistered funds that comply with Rule 2a-7 (collectively referred to as “affiliated money market funds”) advised by Invesco Advisers. The Board considered information regarding the returns of the affiliated money market funds relative to comparable overnight investments, as well as the fees paid by the affiliated money market funds to Invesco Advisers and its affiliates. In this regard, the Board noted that Invesco Advisers receives advisory fees from these affiliated money market funds attributable to the Fund’s investments. The Board also noted that Invesco Advisers has contractually agreed to waive through varying periods an amount equal to 100% of the net advisory fee Invesco Advisers receives from the affiliated money market funds with respect to the Fund’s investment in the affiliated money market funds of uninvested cash, but not cash collateral. The Board concluded that the advisory fees payable to Invesco Advisers from the Fund’s investment of cash collateral from any securities lending arrangements in the affiliated money market funds are for services that are not duplicative of services provided by Invesco Advisers to the Fund.

The Board considered that Invesco Advisers may serve as the Fund’s affiliated securities lending agent and evaluated the benefits realized by Invesco Advisers when serving in such role, including the compensation received. The Board considered Invesco Advisers’ securities lending platform and corporate governance structure for securities lending, including Invesco Advisers’ Securities Lending Governance Committee and its related responsibilities. The Board noted that to the extent the Fund utilizes Invesco Advisers as an affiliated securities lending agent, the Fund conducts its securities lending in accordance with, and in reliance upon, no-action letters issued by the SEC staff that provide guidance on how an affiliate may act as a direct agent lender and receive compensation for those services without obtaining exemptive relief. The Board considered information provided by Invesco Advisers related to the performance of Invesco Advisers as securities lending agent, including a summary of the securities lending services provided to the Fund by Invesco Advisers and the compensation paid to Invesco Advisers for such services, as well as any revenues generated for the Fund in connection with such securities lending activity and the allocation of such revenue between the Fund and Invesco Advisers.

The Board also received information about commissions that an affiliated broker may receive for executing certain trades for the Fund. Invesco Advisers and the Affiliated Sub-Advisers advised the Board of the benefits to the Fund of executing trades through the affiliated broker and that such trades were executed in compliance with rules under the federal securities laws and consistent with best execution obligations.