

GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC

Form 424B2

December 27, 2018

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Registration Statement No. 333-219206

Subject to Completion. Dated December 27, 2018.

## GS Finance Corp.

\$

Leveraged Basket-Linked Notes due

guaranteed by

## The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

**The notes will not bear interest.** The amount that you will be paid on your notes on the stated maturity date (expected to be the third scheduled business day after the determination date) is based on the performance of a weighted basket comprised of the EURO STOXX 50® Index (60% weighting), the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF (20% weighting) and the Nikkei 225 (20% weighting) as measured from the trade date to and including the determination date (expected to be approximately 54 months after the trade date).

**The return on your notes is linked in part to the performance of the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF (ETF), and not to that of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (underlying index) on which the ETF is based. The ETF follows a strategy of representative sampling, which means the ETF's holdings are not the same as those of the underlying index. The performance of the ETF may significantly diverge from that of its underlying index.**

The initial basket level is 100 and the final basket level will equal the *sum* of the products, as calculated for each basket underlier, of: (i) the final underlier level *divided* by the initial underlier level (set on the trade date) *multiplied* by (ii) the applicable initial weighted value for each basket underlier. If the final basket level on the determination date is greater than the initial basket level, the return on your notes will be positive and will equal the upside participation rate (expected to be between 205% and 210%) *times* the basket return. If the final basket level declines by up to 40% from the initial basket level, you will receive the face amount of your notes. **If the final basket level declines by more than 40% from the initial basket level, the return on your notes will be negative and will equal the basket return. You could lose a significant portion of the face amount of your notes.**

To determine your payment at maturity, we will calculate the basket return, which is the percentage increase or decrease in the final basket level from the initial basket level. At maturity, for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, you will receive an amount in cash equal to:

- if the basket return is *positive* (the final basket level is *greater than* the initial basket level), the *sum* of (i) \$1,000 *plus* (ii) the *product* of (a) \$1,000 *times* (b) between 205% and 210% (set on the trade date) *times* (c) the basket return;
- if the basket return is *zero* or *negative* but *not below* -40% (the final basket level is *equal to or less than* the initial basket level but not by more than 40%), \$1,000; or

- if the basket return is *negative* and is *below* -40% (the final basket level is *less than* the initial basket level by more than 40%), the *sum* of (i) \$1,000 *plus* (ii) the *product* of (a) \$1,000 *times* (b) the basket return. **You will receive less than the face amount of your notes. Declines in one basket underlier may offset increases in the other basket underliers. Due to the unequal weighting of each basket underlier, the performance of the EURO STOXX 50® Index will have a significantly larger impact on your return on the notes than the performance of the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF or the Nikkei 225.**

You should read the disclosure herein to better understand the terms and risks of your investment, including the credit risk of GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. See page PS-13.

***The estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date is expected to be between \$920 and \$960 per \$1,000 face amount. For a discussion of the estimated value and the price at which Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC would initially buy or sell your notes, if it makes a market in the notes, see the following page.***

Original issue date:	, 2019	Original issue price:	100% of the face amount
Underwriting discount:	% of the face amount*	Net proceeds to the issuer:	% of the face amount

\*See Summary Information Key Terms Supplemental plan of distribution; conflicts of interest on page PS-5 for additional information regarding the fees comprising the underwriting discount.

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense. The notes are not bank deposits and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency, nor are they obligations of, or guaranteed by, a bank.**

## Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC

Pricing Supplement No.          dated          , 2019.



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The issue price, underwriting discount and net proceeds listed above relate to the notes we sell initially. We may decide to sell additional notes after the date of this pricing supplement, at issue prices and with underwriting discounts and net proceeds that differ from the amounts set forth above. The return (whether positive or negative) on your investment in notes will depend in part on the issue price you pay for such notes.

GS Finance Corp. may use this prospectus in the initial sale of the notes. In addition, Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC or any other affiliate of GS Finance Corp. may use this prospectus in a market-making transaction in a note after its initial sale. **Unless GS Finance Corp. or its agent informs the purchaser otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this prospectus is being used in a market-making transaction.**

**Estimated Value of Your Notes**

***The estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date (as determined by reference to pricing models used by Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC (GS&Co.) and taking into account our credit spreads) is expected to be between \$920 and \$960 per \$1,000 face amount, which is less than the original issue price. The value of your notes at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted; however, the price (not including GS&Co. s customary bid and ask spreads) at which GS&Co. would initially buy or sell notes (if it makes a market, which it is not obligated to do) and the value that GS&Co. will initially use for account statements and otherwise is equal to approximately the estimated value of your notes at the time of pricing, plus an additional amount (initially equal to \$     per \$1,000 face amount).***

***Prior to     , the price (not including GS&Co. s customary bid and ask spreads) at which GS&Co. would buy or sell your notes (if it makes a market, which it is not obligated to do) will equal approximately the sum of (a) the then-current estimated value of your notes (as determined by reference to GS&Co. s pricing models) plus (b) any remaining additional amount (the additional amount will decline to zero on a straight-line basis from the time of pricing through     ). On and after     , the price (not including GS&Co. s customary bid and ask spreads) at which GS&Co. would buy or sell your notes (if it makes a market) will equal approximately the then-current estimated value of your notes determined by reference to such pricing models.***

**About Your Prospectus**

The notes are part of the Medium-Term Notes, Series E program of GS Finance Corp. and are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. This prospectus includes this pricing supplement and the accompanying documents listed below. This pricing supplement constitutes a supplement to the documents listed below and should be read in conjunction with such documents:

- General terms supplement no. 1,734 dated July 10, 2017
  
- Prospectus supplement dated July 10, 2017
  
- Prospectus dated July 10, 2017

The information in this pricing supplement supersedes any conflicting information in the documents listed above. In addition, some of the terms or features described in the listed documents may not apply to your notes.

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**SUMMARY INFORMATION**

*We refer to the notes we are offering by this pricing supplement as the offered notes or the notes. Each of the offered notes has the terms described below. Please note that in this pricing supplement, references to GS Finance Corp., we, our and us mean only GS Finance Corp. and do not include its subsidiaries or affiliates, references to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., our parent company, mean only The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and do not include its subsidiaries or affiliates and references to Goldman Sachs mean The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. together with its consolidated subsidiaries and affiliates, including us. Also, references to the accompanying prospectus mean the accompanying prospectus, dated July 10, 2017, references to the accompanying prospectus supplement mean the accompanying prospectus supplement, dated July 10, 2017, for Medium-Term Notes, Series E, and references to the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734 mean the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734, dated July 10, 2017, in each case of GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. The notes will be issued under the senior debt indenture, dated as of October 10, 2008, as supplemented by the First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of February 20, 2015, each among us, as issuer, The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., as guarantor, and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee. This indenture, as so supplemented and as further supplemented thereafter, is referred to as the GSFC 2008 indenture in the accompanying prospectus supplement.*

*This section is meant as a summary and should be read in conjunction with the section entitled Supplemental Terms of the Notes on page S-16 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734. Please note that certain features described in the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734 are not applicable to the notes. This pricing supplement supersedes any conflicting provisions of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734.*

**Key Terms**

**Issuer:** GS Finance Corp.

**Guarantor:** The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

**Basket underliers:** the EURO STOXX 50® Index (Bloomberg symbol, SX5E Index) as sponsored and maintained by STOXX Limited; the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF (Bloomberg symbol, EEM UP Equity); and the Nikkei 225 (Bloomberg symbol, NKY Index), as published by Nikkei Inc.; see The Basket and the Basket Underliers on page PS-21

**Basket indices:** the EURO STOXX 50® Index and the Nikkei 225

**Basket fund:** the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF

**Underlying index of the basket fund:** the MSCI Emerging Markets Index

**Specified currency:** U.S. dollars ( \$ )

**Face amount:** each note will have a face amount of \$1,000; \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in the aggregate for all the offered notes; the aggregate face amount of the offered notes may be increased if the issuer, at its sole option, decides to sell an additional amount of the offered notes on a date subsequent to the date of this pricing supplement

**Purchase at amount other than face amount:** the amount we will pay you at the stated maturity date for your notes will not be adjusted based on the issue price you pay for your notes, so if you acquire notes at a premium (or discount) to face amount and hold them to the stated maturity date, it could affect your investment in a number of ways. The return on your investment in such notes will be lower (or higher) than it would have been had you purchased the notes at face amount. Also, the stated trigger buffer level would not offer the same measure of protection to your investment as would be the case if you had purchased the notes at face amount. See [Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes If You Purchase Your Notes at a Premium to Face Amount, the Return on Your Investment Will Be Lower Than the Return on Notes Purchased at Face Amount and the Impact of Certain Key Terms of the Notes Will Be Negatively Affected](#) on page PS-15 of this pricing supplement

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**Supplemental discussion of federal income tax consequences:** you will be obligated pursuant to the terms of the notes in the absence of a change in law, an administrative determination or a judicial ruling to the contrary to characterize each note for all tax purposes as a pre-paid derivative contract in respect of the basket underliers, as described under Supplemental Discussion of Federal Income Tax Consequences on page PS-34 of this pricing supplement. Pursuant to this approach, it is the opinion of Sidley Austin LLP that upon the sale, exchange or maturity of your notes, it would be reasonable for you to recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between the amount of cash you receive at such time and your tax basis in your notes.

**Cash settlement amount:** for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, we will pay you on the stated maturity date an amount in cash equal to:

- if the final basket level is *greater than* the initial basket level, the *sum* of (1) \$1,000 *plus* (2) the *product* of (i) \$1,000 *times* (ii) the upside participation rate *times* (iii) the basket return;
- if the final basket level is *equal to or less than* the initial basket level but *greater than or equal to* the trigger buffer level, \$1,000; or
- if the final basket level is *less than* the trigger buffer level, the *sum* of (1) \$1,000 *plus* (2) the product of (i) \$1,000 *times* (ii) the basket return

**Initial basket level:** 100

**Initial weighted value:** the initial weighted value for each of the basket underliers is expected to equal the *product* of the initial weight of such basket underlier *times* the initial basket level. The initial weight of each basket underlier is shown in the table below:

Basket Underlier	Initial Weight in Basket
EURO STOXX 50® Index	60%
iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	20%
Nikkei 225	20%

**Initial EURO STOXX 50® Index level (to be set on the trade date):**



**Initial iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF level (to be set on the trade date):**

**Initial Nikkei 225 level (to be set on the trade date):**

**Final EURO STOXX 50® Index level:** the closing level of such basket underlier on the determination date, except in the limited circumstances described under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day on page S-23 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734 and subject to adjustment as provided under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Discontinuance or Modification of an Underlier on page S-27 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

**Final iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF level:** the closing level of such basket underlier on the determination date, except in the limited circumstances described under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day on page S-23 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734, subject to anti-dilution adjustments as described under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Anti-dilution Adjustments for Exchange-Traded Funds on page S-28 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734 and subject to adjustment as provided under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Discontinuance or Modification of an Underlier on page S-27 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

**Final Nikkei 225 level:** the closing level of such basket underlier on the determination date, except in the limited circumstances described under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day on page S-23 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734 and subject to adjustment as provided under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Discontinuance or Modification of an Underlier on page S-27 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

**Final basket level:** the *sum* of the following: (1) the final EURO STOXX 50® Index level *divided* by the initial EURO STOXX 50® Index level, *multiplied* by the initial weighted value of the EURO STOXX 50® Index

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*plus* (2) the final iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF level *divided* by the initial iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF level, *multiplied* by the initial weighted value of the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF *plus* (3) the final Nikkei 225 level *divided* by the initial Nikkei 225 level, *multiplied* by the initial weighted value of the Nikkei 225

**Basket return:** the *quotient* of (1) the final basket level *minus* the initial basket level *divided* by (2) the initial basket level, expressed as a percentage

**Upside Participation Rate (to be set on the trade date):** expected to be between 205% and 210%

**Trigger Buffer level:** 60% of the initial basket level

**Trade date:**

**Original issue date (settlement date) (to be set on the trade date):** expected to be the third scheduled business day following the trade date

**Stated maturity date (to be set on the trade date):** a specified date that is expected to be the third scheduled business day following the determination date, subject to adjustment as described under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Stated Maturity Date on page S-16 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

**Determination date (to be set on the trade date):** a specified date that is expected to be approximately 54 months following the trade date, subject to adjustment as described under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Determination Date on page S-17 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

**No interest:** the offered notes will not bear interest

**No listing:** the offered notes will not be listed on any securities exchange or interdealer quotation system

**No redemption:** the offered notes will not be subject to redemption right or price dependent redemption right

**Closing level:** as described under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Special Calculation Provisions Closing Level on page S-31 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734.

**Business day:** as described under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Special Calculation Provisions Business Day on page S-30 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

**Trading day:** as described under Supplemental Terms of the Notes— Special Calculation Provisions— Trading Day on page S-31 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

**Use of proceeds and hedging:** as described under Use of Proceeds and Hedging on page S-94 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

**ERISA:** as described under Employee Retirement Income Security Act on page S-95 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

**Supplemental plan of distribution; conflicts of interest:** as described under Supplemental Plan of Distribution on page S-96 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734 and Plan of Distribution Conflicts of Interest on page 94 of the accompanying prospectus; GS Finance Corp. estimates that its share of the total offering expenses, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$ .

GS Finance Corp. expects to agree to sell to Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC ( GS&Co. ), and GS&Co. expects to agree to purchase from GS Finance Corp., the aggregate face amount of the offered notes specified on the front cover of this pricing supplement. GS&Co. proposes initially to offer the notes to the public at the original issue price set forth on the cover page of this pricing supplement, and to certain securities dealers at such price less a concession not in excess of % of the face amount. GS&Co. will pay a fee of % from the concession to Axio Financial LLC in connection with its marketing efforts related to the offered notes. GS&Co. is an affiliate of GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and, as such, will have a conflict of interest in this offering of notes within the meaning of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA) Rule 5121. Consequently, this offering of notes will be conducted in compliance with the provisions of FINRA Rule 5121. GS&Co. will not be permitted to sell notes in this offering to an account

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over which it exercises discretionary authority without the prior specific written approval of the account holder.

We expect to deliver the notes against payment therefor in New York, New York on \_\_\_\_\_, 2019. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in two business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade notes on any date prior to two business days before delivery will be required to specify alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

We have been advised by GS&Co. that it intends to make a market in the notes. However, neither GS&Co. nor any of our other affiliates that makes a market is obligated to do so and any of them may stop doing so at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity or trading market for the notes.

**Calculation agent:** GS&Co.

**CUSIP no.:** 40056EPB8

**ISIN no.:** US40056EPB82

**FDIC:** the notes are not bank deposits and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency, nor are they obligations of, or guaranteed by, a bank

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**HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLES**

The following examples are provided for purposes of illustration only. They should not be taken as an indication or prediction of future investment results and are intended merely to illustrate the impact that the various hypothetical basket closing levels or hypothetical closing levels of the basket underliers, as applicable, on the determination date could have on the cash settlement amount at maturity assuming all other variables remain constant.

The examples below are based on a range of final basket levels and closing levels of the basket underliers that are entirely hypothetical; no one can predict what the level of the basket will be on any day throughout the life of your notes, and no one can predict what the final basket level will be on the determination date. The basket underliers have been highly volatile in the past meaning that the levels of the basket underliers have changed considerably in relatively short periods and their performances cannot be predicted for any future period.

The information in the following examples reflects hypothetical rates of return on the offered notes assuming that they are purchased on the original issue date at the face amount and held to the stated maturity date. If you sell your notes in a secondary market prior to the stated maturity date, your return will depend upon the market value of your notes at the time of sale, which may be affected by a number of factors that are not reflected in the examples below such as interest rates, the volatility of the basket underliers, the creditworthiness of GS Finance Corp., as issuer, and the creditworthiness of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., as guarantor. In addition, the estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date (as determined by reference to pricing models used by GS & Co.) is less than the original issue price of your notes. For more information on the estimated value of your notes, see *Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes – The Estimated Value of Your Notes At the Time the Terms of Your Notes Are Set On the Trade Date (as Determined By Reference to Pricing Models Used By GS & Co.) Is Less Than the Original Issue Price Of Your Notes* on page PS-13 of this pricing supplement. The information in the examples also reflects the key terms and assumptions in the box below.

<b>Key Terms and Assumptions</b>	
Face amount	\$1,000
Upside participation rate	205%
Initial basket level	100
Trigger Buffer level	60% of the initial basket level
Neither a market disruption event nor a non-trading day occurs on the originally scheduled determination date	
No change in or affecting (i) any of the underlier stocks, (ii) the methods by which any underlier sponsor calculates a basket index or the underlying index for the basket fund or (iii) the policies of the investment advisor of the basket fund	
Notes purchased on original issue date at the face amount and held to the stated maturity date	

Moreover, we have not yet set the initial EURO STOXX 50® Index level, the initial iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF level, or the initial Nikkei 225 level that will serve as the baselines for determining the basket return and the amount that we will pay on your notes at maturity. We will not do so until the trade date. As a result, the actual initial EURO STOXX 50® Index level, the actual initial iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF level and the actual initial Nikkei 225 level may differ substantially from the current level of such basket underlier prior to the trade date. They may also differ substantially from the level of such basket underlier at the time you purchase your notes.

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For these reasons, the actual performance of the basket over the life of your notes, as well as the amount payable at maturity, may bear little relation to the hypothetical examples shown below or to the historical level of each basket underlier shown elsewhere in this pricing supplement. For information about the historical level of each basket underlier during recent periods, see *The Basket and the Basket Underliers Historical Closing Levels of the Basket Underliers* below. Before investing in the offered notes, you should consult publicly available information to determine the level of the basket underliers between the date of this pricing supplement and the date of your purchase of the offered notes.

Also, the hypothetical examples shown below do not take into account the effects of applicable taxes. Because of the U.S. tax treatment applicable to your notes, tax liabilities could affect the after-tax rate of return on your notes to a comparatively greater extent than the after-tax return on the basket underliers.

The levels in the left column of the table below represent hypothetical final basket levels and are expressed as percentages of the initial basket level. The amounts in the right column represent the hypothetical cash settlement amounts, based on the corresponding hypothetical final basket level (expressed as a percentage of the initial basket level), and are expressed as percentages of the face amount of a note (rounded to the nearest one-thousandth of a percent). Thus, a hypothetical cash settlement amount of 100.000% means that the value of the cash payment that we would deliver for each \$1,000 of the outstanding face amount of the offered notes on the stated maturity date would equal 100.000% of the face amount of a note, based on the corresponding hypothetical final basket level (expressed as a percentage of the initial basket level) and the assumptions noted above.

Hypothetical Final Basket Level	Hypothetical Cash Settlement Amount
(as Percentage of Initial Basket Level)	(as Percentage of Face Amount)
200.000%	305.000%
175.000%	253.750%
150.000%	202.500%
125.000%	151.250%
<b>100.000%</b>	<b>100.000%</b>
90.000%	100.000%
80.000%	100.000%
70.000%	100.000%
<b>60.000%</b>	<b>100.000%</b>
59.999%	59.999%
40.000%	40.000%
25.000%	25.000%
<b>0.000%</b>	<b>0.000%</b>

If, for example, the final basket level were determined to be 25.000% of the initial basket level, the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be 25.000% of the face amount of your notes, as shown in the table above. As a result, if you purchased your notes on the original issue date at the face amount and held them to the stated maturity date, you would lose 75.000% of your investment (if you purchased your notes at a premium to face amount you would lose a correspondingly higher percentage of your investment).

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The following chart also shows a graphical illustration of the hypothetical cash settlement amounts (expressed as a percentage of the face amount of your notes) that we would pay on your notes on the stated maturity date, if the final basket level (expressed as a percentage of the initial basket level) were any of the hypothetical levels shown on the horizontal axis. The chart shows that any hypothetical final basket level (expressed as a percentage of the initial basket level) of less than 60.000% (the section left of the 60.000% marker on the horizontal axis) would result in a hypothetical cash settlement amount of less than 100.000% of the face amount of your notes (the section below the 100.000% marker on the vertical axis) and, accordingly, in a loss of principal to the holder of the notes.

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The following examples illustrate the hypothetical cash settlement amount at maturity for each note based on hypothetical final levels of the basket underliers, calculated based on the key terms and assumptions above. The levels in Column A represent hypothetical initial levels for each basket underlier, and the levels in Column B represent hypothetical final levels for each basket underlier. The percentages in Column C represent hypothetical final levels for each basket underlier in Column B expressed as percentages of the corresponding hypothetical initial levels in Column A. The amounts in Column D represent the applicable initial weighted value for each basket underlier, and the amounts in Column E represent the *products* of the percentages in Column C *times* the corresponding amounts in Column D. The final basket level for each example is shown beneath each example, and will equal the *sum* of the products shown in Column E. The basket return for each example is shown beneath the final basket level for such example, and will equal the *quotient* of (i) the final basket level for such example *minus* the initial basket level *divided* by (ii) the initial basket level, expressed as a percentage. The values below have been rounded for ease of analysis.



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iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	\$40.00	\$20.00	50.00%	20.00	10.00
Nikkei 225	20,000.00	10,000.00	50.00%	20.00	10.00

Final Basket Level: 50.00  
Basket Return: -50.00%

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In this example, the hypothetical final levels for all of the basket underliers are less than the applicable hypothetical initial levels, which results in the hypothetical final basket level being less than the initial basket level of 100.00. Since the hypothetical final basket level of 50.00 is less than the trigger buffer level of 60% of the initial basket level, the hypothetical cash settlement amount for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes will equal:

$$\text{Cash settlement amount} = \$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times -50\%) = \$500$$

The cash settlement amounts shown above are entirely hypothetical; they are based on levels of the basket underliers that may not be achieved on the determination date and on assumptions that may prove to be erroneous. The actual market value of your notes on the stated maturity date or at any other time, including any time you may wish to sell your notes, may bear little relation to the hypothetical cash settlement amounts shown above, and these amounts should not be viewed as an indication of the financial return on an investment in the offered notes. The hypothetical cash settlement amounts on notes held to the stated maturity date in the examples above assume you purchased your notes at their face amount and have not been adjusted to reflect the actual issue price you pay for your notes. The return on your investment (whether positive or negative) in your notes will be affected by the amount you pay for your notes. If you purchase your notes for a price other than the face amount, the return on your investment will differ from, and may be significantly lower than, the hypothetical returns suggested by the above examples. Please read *Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Notes – The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors* on page S-3 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734.

Payments on the notes are economically equivalent to the amounts that would be paid on a combination of other instruments. For example, payments on the notes are economically equivalent to a combination of an interest-bearing bond bought by the holder and one or more options entered into between the holder and us (with one or more implicit option premiums paid over time). The discussion in this paragraph does not modify or affect the terms of the notes or the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the notes, as described elsewhere in this pricing supplement.

*We cannot predict the actual final basket level on the determination date, nor can we predict the relationship between the level of each basket underlier and the market value of your notes at any time prior to the stated maturity date. The actual amount that a holder of the offered notes will receive on the stated maturity date and the rate of return on the offered notes will depend on the initial level of each basket underlier and upside participation rate, which we will set on the trade date, and the actual basket return determined by the calculation agent as described above. Moreover, the assumptions on which the hypothetical returns are based may turn out to be inaccurate. Consequently, the amount of cash to be paid in respect of your notes on the stated maturity date may be very different from the hypothetical cash settlement amounts shown in the examples above.*

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**ADDITIONAL RISK FACTORS SPECIFIC TO YOUR NOTES**

*An investment in your notes is subject to the risks described below, as well as the risks and considerations described in the accompanying prospectus, in the accompanying prospectus supplement and under Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Notes in the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734. You should carefully review these risks and considerations as well as the terms of the notes described herein and in the accompanying prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734. Your notes are a riskier investment than ordinary debt securities. Also, your notes are not equivalent to investing directly in the basket underlier stocks, i.e., with respect to a basket underlier to which your notes are linked, the stocks comprising such basket underlier. You should carefully consider whether the offered notes are suited to your particular circumstances.*

**The Estimated Value of Your Notes At the Time the Terms of Your Notes Are Set On the Trade Date (as Determined By Reference to Pricing Models Used By GS&Co.) Is Less Than the Original Issue Price Of Your Notes**

The original issue price for your notes exceeds the estimated value of your notes as of the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date, as determined by reference to GS&Co.'s pricing models and taking into account our credit spreads. Such estimated value on the trade date is set forth above under Estimated Value of Your Notes ; after the trade date, the estimated value as determined by reference to these models will be affected by changes in market conditions, the creditworthiness of GS Finance Corp., as issuer, and the creditworthiness of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., as guarantor, and other relevant factors. The price at which GS&Co. would initially buy or sell your notes (if GS&Co. makes a market, which it is not obligated to do), and the value that GS&Co. will initially use for account statements and otherwise, also exceeds the estimated value of your notes as determined by reference to these models. As agreed by GS&Co. and the distribution participants, this excess (i.e., the additional amount described under Estimated Value of Your Notes ) will decline to zero on a straight line basis over the period from the date hereof through the applicable date set forth above under Estimated Value of Your Notes . Thereafter, if GS&Co. buys or sells your notes it will do so at prices that reflect the estimated value determined by reference to such pricing models at that time. The price at which GS&Co. will buy or sell your notes at any time also will reflect its then current bid and ask spread for similar sized trades of structured notes.

In estimating the value of your notes as of the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date, as disclosed above under Estimated Value of Your Notes , GS&Co.'s pricing models consider certain variables, including principally our credit spreads, interest rates (forecasted, current and historical rates), volatility, price-sensitivity analysis and the time to maturity of the notes. These pricing models are proprietary and rely in part on certain assumptions about future events, which may prove to be incorrect. As a result, the actual value you would receive if you sold your notes in the secondary market, if any, to others may differ, perhaps materially, from the estimated value of your notes determined by reference to our models due to, among other things, any differences in pricing models or assumptions used by others. See Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Notes The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors on page S-3 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734.

The difference between the estimated value of your notes as of the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date and the original issue price is a result of certain factors, including principally the underwriting discount and commissions, the expenses incurred in creating, documenting and marketing the notes, and an estimate of the difference between the amounts we pay to GS&Co. and the amounts GS&Co. pays to us in connection with your notes. We pay to GS&Co. amounts based on what we would pay to holders of a non-structured note with a similar maturity. In return for such payment, GS&Co. pays to us the amounts we owe under your notes.

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In addition to the factors discussed above, the value and quoted price of your notes at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted. If GS&Co. makes a market in the notes, the price quoted by GS&Co. would reflect any changes in market conditions and other relevant factors, including any deterioration in our creditworthiness or perceived creditworthiness or the creditworthiness or perceived creditworthiness of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. These changes may adversely affect the value of your

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notes, including the price you may receive for your notes in any market making transaction. To the extent that GS&Co. makes a market in the notes, the quoted price will reflect the estimated value determined by reference to GS&Co.'s pricing models at that time, plus or minus its then current bid and ask spread for similar sized trades of structured notes (and subject to the declining excess amount described above).

Furthermore, if you sell your notes, you will likely be charged a commission for secondary market transactions, or the price will likely reflect a dealer discount. This commission or discount will further reduce the proceeds you would receive for your notes in a secondary market sale.

There is no assurance that GS&Co. or any other party will be willing to purchase your notes at any price and, in this regard, GS&Co. is not obligated to make a market in the notes. See "Your Notes May Not Have an Active Trading Market" below.

**The Notes Are Subject to the Credit Risk of the Issuer and the Guarantor**

Although the return on the notes will be based on the performance of the basket underliers, the payment of any amount due on the notes is subject to the credit risk of GS Finance Corp., as issuer of the notes, and the credit risk of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. as guarantor of the notes. The notes are our unsecured obligations. Investors are dependent on our ability to pay all amounts due on the notes, and therefore investors are subject to our credit risk and to changes in the market's view of our creditworthiness. Similarly, investors are dependent on the ability of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., as guarantor of the notes, to pay all amounts due on the notes, and therefore are also subject to its credit risk and to changes in the market's view of its creditworthiness. See "Description of the Notes We May Offer" Information About Our Medium-Term Notes, Series E Program "How the Notes Rank Against Other Debt" on page S-4 of the accompanying prospectus supplement and "Description of Debt Securities We May Offer Guarantee by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc." on page 42 of the accompanying prospectus.

**The Amount Payable on Your Notes Is Not Linked to the Level of Each Basket Underlier at Any Time Other than the Determination Date**

The final basket level will be based on the closing levels of the basket underliers on the determination date (subject to adjustment as described elsewhere in this pricing supplement). Therefore, if the closing levels of the basket underliers dropped precipitously on the determination date, the cash settlement amount for your notes may be significantly less than it would have been had the cash settlement amount been linked to the closing levels of the basket underliers prior to such drop in the levels of the basket underliers. Although the actual levels of the basket underliers on the stated maturity date or at other times during the life of your notes may be higher than the closing levels of the basket underliers on the determination date, you will not benefit from the closing levels of the basket underliers at any time other than on the determination date.

**You May Lose Your Entire Investment in the Notes**

You can lose your entire investment in the notes. The cash payment on your notes, if any, on the stated maturity date will be based on the performance of a weighted basket comprised of the EURO STOXX 50® Index, the iShares® MSCI Emerging

Markets ETF and the Nikkei 225 as measured from the initial basket level of 100 to the final basket level on the determination date. If the final basket level for your notes is *less than* the trigger buffer level, you will have a loss for each \$1,000 of the face amount of your notes equal to the *product* of the basket return *times* \$1,000. Thus, you may lose your entire investment in the notes, which would include any premium to face amount you paid when you purchased the notes.

Also, the market price of your notes prior to the stated maturity date may be significantly lower than the purchase price you pay for your notes. Consequently, if you sell your notes before the stated maturity date, you may receive far less than the amount of your investment in the notes.

#### **Your Notes Do Not Bear Interest**

You will not receive any interest payments on your notes. As a result, even if the cash settlement amount payable for your notes on the stated maturity date exceeds the face amount of your notes, the overall return you earn on your notes may be less than you would have earned by investing in a non-indexed debt security of comparable maturity that bears interest at a prevailing market rate.

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**The Lower Performance of One Basket Underlier May Offset an Increase in the Other Basket Underliers**

Declines in the level of one basket underlier may offset increases in the levels of the other basket underliers. As a result, any return on the basket and thus on your notes may be reduced or eliminated, which will have the effect of reducing the amount payable in respect of your notes at maturity. In addition, because the basket underliers are not equally weighted, increases in the lower weighted basket underliers may be offset by even small decreases in the more heavily weighted basket underliers. In particular, due to the weighting of the EURO STOXX 50® Index in the basket relative to the other basket underliers, any decrease in the EURO STOXX 50® Index will have a significantly larger impact on your return on the notes than any proportional increase in the other basket underliers.

**The Return on Your Notes Will Not Reflect Any Dividends Paid on the Basket Underliers or the Basket Underlier Stocks, as Applicable**

The underlier sponsors of the basket indices calculate the value of applicable basket index by reference to the prices of its basket underlier stocks, without taking account of the value of dividends paid on those stocks. Therefore, the return on your notes will not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned the basket underlier stocks and received the dividends paid on those stocks. In addition, the return on your notes will not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned the basket fund and received the dividends paid on the shares of such basket fund. You will not receive any dividends that may be paid on any of the basket underlier stocks by the basket underlier stock issuers or on the shares of the basket fund. See [You Have No Shareholder Rights or Rights to Receive Any Shares of a Basket Underlier or Any Basket Underlier Stocks](#) below for additional information.

**You Have No Shareholder Rights or Rights to Receive Any Shares of a Basket Underlier or Any Basket Underlier Stocks**

Investing in your notes will not make you a holder of any shares of any basket underlier or any basket underlier stocks. Neither you nor any other holder or owner of your notes will have any rights with respect to a basket underlier or its basket underlier stocks, including any voting rights, any right to receive dividends or other distributions, any rights to make a claim against the basket underlier or its basket underlier stocks or any other rights of a holder of any shares of a basket underlier or its basket underlier stocks. Your notes will be paid in cash and you will have no right to receive delivery of any basket underlier or any basket underlier stocks.

**We May Sell an Additional Aggregate Face Amount of the Notes at a Different Issue Price**

At our sole option, we may decide to sell an additional aggregate face amount of the notes subsequent to the date of this pricing supplement. The issue price of the notes in the subsequent sale may differ substantially (higher or lower) from the issue price you paid as provided on the cover of this pricing supplement.

**Your Notes May Not Have an Active Trading Market**

Your notes will not be listed or displayed on any securities exchange or included in any interdealer market quotation system, and there may be little or no secondary market for your notes. Even if a secondary market for your notes develops, it may not provide significant liquidity and we expect that transaction costs in any secondary market would be high. As a result, the difference between bid and asked prices for your notes in any secondary market could be substantial.

**If You Purchase Your Notes at a Premium to Face Amount, the Return on Your Investment Will Be Lower Than the Return on Notes Purchased at Face Amount and the Impact of Certain Key Terms of the Notes Will Be Negatively Affected**

The cash settlement amount will not be adjusted based on the issue price you pay for the notes. If you purchase notes at a price that differs from the face amount of the notes, then the return on your investment in such notes held to the stated maturity date will differ from, and may be substantially less than, the return on notes purchased at face amount. If you purchase your notes at a premium to face amount and hold them to the stated maturity date the return on your investment in the notes will be lower than it would have been had you purchased the notes at face amount or a discount to face amount. In addition, the impact of the trigger buffer level on the return on your investment will depend upon the price you pay for your notes

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relative to the face amount. For example, if you purchase your notes at a premium to face amount, the trigger buffer level, while still providing some protection for the return on the notes, will allow a greater percentage decrease in your investment in the notes than would have been the case for notes purchased at face amount or a discount to face amount.

**The Policies of an Underlier Sponsor and Changes that Affect a Basket Index or An Underlying Index or the Underlier Stocks Comprising a Basket Underlier or an Underlying Index, Could Affect the Cash Settlement Amount on the Stated Maturity Date and the Market Value of Your Notes**

The policies of an underlier sponsor concerning the calculation of the level of a basket index and each underlying index, additions, deletions or substitutions of the underlier stocks comprising such basket index or underlying index, and the manner in which changes affecting the underlier stocks or their issuers, such as stock dividends, reorganizations or mergers, are reflected in the level of a basket index or underlying index, could affect the level of the applicable basket index or underlying index and, therefore, the amount payable on your notes on the stated maturity date and the market value of your notes before that date. The amount payable on your notes and their market value could also be affected if an underlier sponsor changes these policies, for example, by changing the manner in which it calculates the level of the applicable basket index or underlying index, or if any underlier sponsor discontinues or suspends calculation or publication of the level of the applicable basket index or underlying index, in which case it may become difficult to determine the market value of your notes. If events such as these occur on the determination date, the calculation agent which initially will be GS&Co., our affiliate may determine the closing level of the applicable basket index or underlying index on the determination date and thus the amount payable on the stated maturity date in a manner it considers appropriate, in its sole discretion. We describe the discretion that the calculation agent will have in determining the levels of the basket underliers on the determination date and the amount payable on your notes more fully under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Discontinuance or Modification of a Basket Underlier on page S-27 and Role of Calculation Agent on page S-28 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734.

**The Policies of the Investment Advisor of the Basket Fund, Blackrock Fund Advisors, and the Sponsor of the Underlying Index of the Basket Fund, MSCI, Could Affect the Amount Payable on Your Notes and Their Market Value**

The investment advisor of the basket fund, Blackrock Fund Advisors ( BFA ), may from time to time be called upon to make certain policy decisions or judgments with respect to the implementation of policies concerning the calculation of the net asset value of the basket fund, additions, deletions or substitutions of securities in the basket fund and the manner in which changes affecting the underlying index for the basket fund are reflected in the basket fund that could affect the market price of the shares of the basket fund, and therefore, the amount payable on your notes on the stated maturity date. The amount payable on your notes and their market value could also be affected if the investment advisor changes these policies, for example, by changing the manner in which it calculates the net asset value of the basket fund, or if the investment advisor discontinues or suspends calculation or publication of the net asset value of the basket fund, in which case it may become difficult or inappropriate to determine the market value of your notes.

If events such as these occur, the calculation agent which initially will be GS&Co. may determine the closing level of the basket fund on the determination date and thus the amount payable on the stated maturity date in a manner, in its sole discretion, it

considers appropriate. We describe the discretion that the calculation agent will have in determining the levels of the basket underliers on the determination date and the amount payable on your notes more fully under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Discontinuance or Modification of a Basket Underlier on page S-27 and Role of Calculation Agent on page S-28 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734.

In addition, MSCI, the underlier sponsor of the underlying index of the basket fund, owns the underlying index and is responsible for the design and maintenance of the underlying index. The policies of the underlier sponsor concerning the calculation of the underlying index, including decisions regarding the addition, deletion or substitution of the equity securities included in the underlying index, could affect the level of the underlying index and, consequently, could affect the market prices of shares of the basket fund and, therefore, the cash settlement amount payable on your notes and their market value.

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**There Are Risks Associated With the Basket Fund**

Although the basket fund's shares are listed for trading on the NYSE Arca, Inc. (the "NYSE Arca"), a number of similar products have been traded on the NYSE Arca or other securities exchanges for varying periods of time, and there is no assurance that an active trading market will continue for the shares of the basket fund or that there will be liquidity in the trading market.

In addition, the basket fund is subject to management risk, which is the risk that the basket fund investment advisor's investment strategy, the implementation of which is subject to a number of constraints, may not produce the intended results. For example, the basket fund investment advisor may select a portion of the basket fund's assets to be invested in securities that are not included in its underlying index. The basket fund is also not actively managed and may be affected by a general decline in market segments relating to the underlying index. The basket fund investment advisor invests in securities included in, or representative of, the underlying index regardless of their investment merits. The basket fund investment advisor does not attempt to take defensive positions in declining markets.

In addition, the basket fund is subject to custody risk, which refers to the risks in the process of clearing and settling trades and to the holding of securities by local banks, agents and depositories. Low trading volumes and volatile prices in less developed markets make trades harder to complete and settle, and governments or trade groups may compel local agents to hold securities in designated depositories that are not subject to independent evaluation. The less developed a country's securities market is, the greater the likelihood of custody problems.

Further, under continuous listing standards adopted by the NYSE Arca, the basket fund will be required to confirm on an ongoing basis that the components of its underlying index satisfy the applicable listing requirements. In the event that its underlying index does not comply with the applicable listing requirements, the basket fund would be required to rectify such non-compliance by requesting that the underlying index sponsor modify such underlying index, adopting a new underlying index or obtaining relief from the Securities and Exchange Commission. There can be no assurance that the underlying index sponsor would so modify the underlying index or that relief would be obtained from the Securities and Exchange Commission and, therefore, non-compliance with the continuous listing standards may result in the basket fund being delisted by the NYSE Arca.

**The Basket Fund and its Underlying Index are Different and the Performance of the Basket Fund May Not Correlate With the Performance of its Underlying Index**

The basket fund uses a representative sampling strategy (more fully described under "The Basket Underliers" iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF) to attempt to track the performance of its underlying index. The basket fund may not hold all or substantially all of the equity securities included in its underlying index and may hold securities or assets not included in its underlying index. Therefore, while the performance of the basket fund is generally linked to the performance of its underlying index, the performance of the basket fund is also linked in part to shares of equity securities not included in its underlying index and to the performance of other assets, such as futures contracts, options and swaps, as well as cash and cash equivalents, including shares of money market funds affiliated with its underlier investment advisor.

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Imperfect correlation between the basket fund's portfolio securities and those in its underlying index, rounding of prices, changes to its underlying index and regulatory requirements may cause tracking error, which is the divergence of the basket fund's performance from that of its underlying index.

In addition, the performance of the basket fund will reflect additional transaction costs and fees that are not included in the calculation of its underlying index and this may increase the tracking error of the basket fund. Also, corporate actions with respect to the sample of equity securities (such as mergers and spin-offs) may impact the performance differential between the basket fund and its underlying index. Finally, because the shares of the basket fund are traded on the NYSE Arca and are subject to market supply and investor demand, the market value of one share of the basket fund may differ from the net asset value per share of the basket fund.

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For all of the foregoing reasons, the performance of the basket fund may not correlate with the performance of its underlying index. Consequently, the cash settlement amount payable on your notes will not be the same as investing directly in the basket fund or in its underlying index or in any of the underlier stocks or in any of the underlying index stocks, and will not be the same as investing in a debt security with a payment at maturity linked to the performance of the underlying index.

**An Investment in the Offered Notes Is Subject to Risks Associated with Foreign Securities**

The value of your notes is linked in part to basket underliers that are comprised of stocks from one or more foreign securities markets. Investments linked to the value of foreign equity securities involve particular risks. Any foreign securities market may be less liquid, more volatile and affected by global or domestic market developments in a different way than are the U.S. securities market or other foreign securities markets. Both government intervention in a foreign securities market, either directly or indirectly, and cross-shareholdings in foreign companies, may affect trading prices and volumes in that market. Also, there is generally less publicly available information about foreign companies than about those U.S. companies that are subject to the reporting requirements of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Further, foreign companies are subject to accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards and requirements that differ from those applicable to U.S. reporting companies.

The prices of securities in a foreign country are subject to political, economic, financial and social factors that are unique to such foreign country's geographical region. These factors include: recent changes, or the possibility of future changes, in the applicable foreign government's economic and fiscal policies; the possible implementation of, or changes in, currency exchange laws or other laws or restrictions applicable to foreign companies or investments in foreign equity securities; fluctuations, or the possibility of fluctuations, in currency exchange rates; and the possibility of outbreaks of hostility, political instability, natural disaster or adverse public health developments. The United Kingdom has voted to leave the European Union (popularly known as Brexit). The effect of Brexit is uncertain, and Brexit has and may continue to contribute to volatility in the prices of securities of companies located in Europe and currency exchange rates, including the valuation of the euro and British pound in particular. Any one of these factors, or the combination of more than one of these factors, could negatively affect such foreign securities market and the price of securities therein. Further, geographical regions may react to global factors in different ways, which may cause the prices of securities in a foreign securities market to fluctuate in a way that differs from those of securities in the U.S. securities market or other foreign securities markets. Foreign economies may also differ from the U.S. economy in important respects, including growth of gross national product, rate of inflation, capital reinvestment, resources and self-sufficiency, which may have a positive or negative effect on foreign securities prices.

Because foreign exchanges may be open on days when the ETF is not traded, the value of the securities underlying the ETF may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or sell shares of the ETF.

In addition, the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF holds stocks traded in equity markets of emerging market countries. The countries whose markets are represented by the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF include Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and United Arab Emirates.

Countries with emerging markets may have relatively unstable governments, may present the risks of nationalization of businesses, restrictions on foreign ownership and prohibitions on the repatriation of assets, and may have less protection of property rights than more developed countries. The economies of countries with emerging markets may be based on only a few industries, may be

highly vulnerable to changes in local or global trade conditions, and may suffer from extreme and volatile debt burdens or inflation rates. Local securities markets may trade a small number of securities and may be unable to respond effectively to increases in trading volume, potentially making prompt liquidation of holdings difficult or impossible at times. It will also likely be more costly and difficult for the investment advisor to enforce the laws or regulations of a foreign country or trading facility, and it is possible that the foreign country or trading facility may not have laws or regulations which adequately protect the rights and interests of investors in the stocks included in the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF.

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**Your Investment in the Notes Will Be Subject to Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Risk**

The basket fund holds assets that are denominated in non-U.S. dollar currencies. The value of the assets held by the basket fund that are denominated in non-U.S. dollar currencies will be adjusted to reflect their U.S. dollar value by converting the price of such assets from the non-U.S. dollar currency to U.S. dollars. Consequently, if the value of the U.S. dollar strengthens against the non-U.S. dollar currency in which an asset is denominated, the level of the basket fund may not increase even if the non-dollar value of the asset held by the basket fund increases.

Foreign currency exchange rates vary over time, and may vary considerably during the term of your notes. Changes in a particular exchange rate result from the interaction of many factors directly or indirectly affecting economic and political conditions. Of particular importance are:

- existing and expected rates of inflation;
- existing and expected interest rate levels;
- the balance of payments among countries;
- the extent of government surpluses or deficits in the relevant foreign country and the United States; and
- other financial, economic, military and political factors.

All of these factors are, in turn, sensitive to the monetary, fiscal and trade policies pursued by the governments of the relevant foreign countries and the United States and other countries important to international trade and finance.

The market price of the notes and level of the basket fund could also be adversely affected by delays in, or refusals to grant, any required governmental approval for conversions of a local currency and remittances abroad or other de facto restrictions on the repatriation of U.S. dollars.

It has been reported that the U.K. Financial Conduct Authority and regulators from other countries are in the process of investigating the potential manipulation of published currency exchange rates. If such manipulation has occurred or is continuing, certain published exchange rates may have been, or may be in the future, artificially lower (or higher) than they would otherwise have been. Any such manipulation could have an adverse impact on any payments on, and the value of, your notes and the trading market for your notes. In addition, we cannot predict whether any changes or reforms affecting the determination or publication of exchange rates or the supervision of currency trading will be implemented in connection with these investigations. Any such changes or reforms could also adversely impact your notes.

**Your Notes Are Linked to the EURO STOXX 50® Index and the Nikkei 225, Which are Comprised of Underlier Stocks That Are Traded in a Foreign Currency But Not Adjusted to Reflect Their U.S. Dollar Value, And, Therefore, the Return on Your Notes Will Not Be Adjusted for Changes in the Foreign Currency Exchange Rate**

Your notes are linked, in part, to the EURO STOXX 50® Index and the Nikkei 225 whose underlier stocks are traded in a foreign currency but not adjusted to reflect their U.S. dollar value. The amount payable on your notes will not be adjusted for changes in the euro/U.S. dollar exchange rate or the Japanese yen/U.S. dollar exchange rate, respectively. The amount payable will be based solely upon the overall change in the level of the EURO STOXX 50® Index and the Nikkei 225. Changes in foreign currency exchange rates, however, may reflect changes in the economy of the foreign countries in which the EURO STOXX 50® Index and the Nikkei 225's component stocks are listed that, in turn, may affect the level of the EURO STOXX 50® Index and the Nikkei 225.

**Your Notes May Be Subject to an Adverse Change in Tax Treatment in the Future**

The tax consequences of an investment in your notes are uncertain, both as to the timing and character of any inclusion in income in respect of your notes.

The Internal Revenue Service announced on December 7, 2007 that it is considering issuing guidance regarding the proper U.S. federal income tax treatment of an instrument such as your notes, and any such guidance could adversely affect the tax treatment and the value of your notes. Among other things, the

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Internal Revenue Service may decide to require the holders to accrue ordinary income on a current basis and recognize ordinary income on payment at maturity, and could subject non-U.S. investors to withholding tax. Furthermore, in 2007, legislation was introduced in Congress that, if enacted, would have required holders that acquired instruments such as your notes after the bill was enacted to accrue interest income over the term of such instruments even though there will be no interest payments over the term of such instruments. It is not possible to predict whether a similar or identical bill will be enacted in the future, or whether any such bill would affect the tax treatment of your notes. We describe these developments in more detail under Supplemental Discussion of Federal Income Tax Consequences United States Holders Possible Change in Law below. You should consult your tax advisor about this matter. Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, GS Finance Corp. intends to continue treating the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes in accordance with the treatment described under Supplemental Discussion of Federal Income Tax Consequences on page PS-34 below unless and until such time as Congress, the Treasury Department or the Internal Revenue Service determine that some other treatment is more appropriate. Please also consult your tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax and any other applicable tax consequences to you of owning your notes in your particular circumstances.

**Your Notes May Be Subject to the Constructive Ownership Rules**

There exists a risk that the constructive ownership rules of Section 1260 of the Internal Revenue Code could apply to all or a portion of your notes. If all or a portion of your notes were subject to the constructive ownership rules, then all or a portion of any long-term capital gain that you realize upon the sale, exchange or maturity of your notes would be re-characterized as ordinary income (and you would be subject to an interest charge on deferred tax liability with respect to such re-characterized capital gain) to the extent that such capital gain exceeds the amount of net underlying long-term capital gain (as defined in Section 1260 of the Internal Revenue Code). Because the application of the constructive ownership rules is unclear you are strongly urged to consult your tax advisor with respect to the possible application of the constructive ownership rules to your investment in the notes.

**Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding May Apply to Payments on Your Notes, Including as a Result of the Failure of the Bank or Broker Through Which You Hold the Notes to Provide Information to Tax Authorities**

Please see the discussion under United States Taxation Taxation of Debt Securities Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding in the accompanying prospectus for a description of the applicability of FATCA to payments made on your notes.

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**THE BASKET AND THE BASKET UNDERLIERS**

**The Basket**

The basket is comprised of the following basket underliers with the following initial weights within the basket: the EURO STOXX 50® Index (60% weighting), the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF (20% weighting) and the Nikkei 225 (20% weighting).

**The EURO STOXX 50® Index**

The EURO STOXX 50® Index is a free-float market capitalization-weighted index of 50 European blue-chip stocks and was created by and is sponsored and maintained by STOXX Limited. Publication of the EURO STOXX 50® Index began on February 26, 1998, based on an initial index value of 1,000 at December 31, 1991. The level of the EURO STOXX 50® Index is disseminated on the STOXX Limited website. STOXX Limited is under no obligation to continue to publish the index and may discontinue publication of it at any time. Additional information regarding the EURO STOXX 50® Index may be obtained from the STOXX Limited website: [stoxx.com](http://stoxx.com). We are not incorporating by reference the website or any material it includes in this pricing supplement.

The top ten constituent stocks of the EURO STOXX 50® Index as of December 17, 2018, by weight, are: Total S.A. (5.87%), SAP SE (4.34%), Sanofi (3.98%), Siemens AG (3.84%), LINDE PLC (3.51%), Allianz SE (3.42%), Unilever N.V. (3.33%), LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE (3.03%), Banco Santander S.A. (2.95%) and ASML Holding N.V. (2.83%); constituent weights may be found at [stoxx.com/download/indices/factsheets/SX5GT.pdf](http://stoxx.com/download/indices/factsheets/SX5GT.pdf) under Factsheets and Methodologies and are updated periodically.

As of December 17, 2018, the sixteen industry sectors which comprise the EURO STOXX 50® Index represent the following weights in the index: Automobiles & Parts (4.21%), Banks (10.76%), Chemicals (4.53%), Construction & Materials (2.68%), Food & Beverage (4.22%), Health Care (10.25%), Industrial Goods & Services (10.43%), Insurance (6.48%), Media (0.93%), Oil & Gas (7.48%), Personal & Household Goods (10.13%), Real Estate (0.89%), Retail (3.82%), Technology (9.73%), Telecommunications (5.23%) and Utilities (4.73%); industry weightings may be found at [stoxx.com/download/indices/factsheets/SX5GT.pdf](http://stoxx.com/download/indices/factsheets/SX5GT.pdf) under Factsheets and Methodologies and are updated periodically. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Sector designations are determined by the underlier sponsor using criteria it has selected or developed. Index sponsors may use very different standards for determining sector designations. In addition, many companies operate in a number of sectors, but are listed in only one sector and the basis on which that sector is selected may also differ. As a result, sector comparisons between indices with different

index sponsors may reflect differences in methodology as well as actual differences in the sector composition of the indices.

As of December 17, 2018, the eight countries which comprise the EURO STOXX 50® Index represent the following weights in the index: Belgium (2.36%), Finland (1.33%), France (38.38%), Germany (27.88%), Ireland (4.37%), Italy (4.83%), Netherlands (10.53%) and Spain (10.32%); country weightings may be found at [stoxx.com/download/indices/factsheets/SX5GT.pdf](http://stoxx.com/download/indices/factsheets/SX5GT.pdf) under Factsheets and Methodologies and are updated periodically.

The above information supplements the description of the underlier found in the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734. This information was derived from information prepared by the underlier sponsor, however, the percentages we have listed above are approximate and may not match the information available on the underlier sponsor's website due to subsequent corporate actions or other activity relating to a particular stock. For more details about the underlier, the underlier sponsor and license agreement between the underlier sponsor and the issuer, see The Underliers EURO STOXX 50® Index on page S-75 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734.

The EURO STOXX 50® is the intellectual property of STOXX Limited, Zurich, Switzerland and/or its licensors (Licensors), which is used under license. The securities or other financial instruments based on the index are in no way sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by STOXX and its Licensors and neither STOXX nor its Licensors shall have any liability with respect thereto.

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**The iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF**

The shares of the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF are issued by iShares, Inc., a registered investment company. The iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF seeks investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index. The iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF trades on the NYSE Arca under the ticker symbol EEM . BlackRock Fund Advisors ( BFA ) serves as the investment advisor to the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF.

The following tables display the top holdings and weighting by sector and country of the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF. A list of constituent stocks can be found at [us.ishares.com/product\\_info/fund/overview/EEM.htm](http://us.ishares.com/product_info/fund/overview/EEM.htm). We are not incorporating by reference the website or any material it includes in this pricing supplement. This information has been obtained from the iShares® website without independent verification.

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Table of Contents**iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF Top Ten Holdings as of December 7, 2018**

<b><u>ETF Stock Issuer</u></b>	<b><u>Percentage (%)</u></b>
TENCENT HOLDINGS LTD	4.64%
ALIBABA GROUP HOLDING ADR REPRESENTATIVE	4.05%
TAIWAN SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING	3.60%
SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS LTD	3.59%
NASPERS LIMITED N LTD	1.80%
CHINA CONSTRUCTION BANK CORP H	1.62%
CHINA MOBILE LTD	1.24%
BAIDU ADR REPTG INC CLASS A	1.02%
PING AN INSURANCE (GROUP) CO OF CH	1.01%
INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL BANK OF	0.98%
Total	23.55%

**iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF Weighting by Country as of December 7, 2018\***

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Percentage (%)</u></b>
China	31.02%
Korea (South)	13.84%
Taiwan	11.09%
India	8.91%
Brazil	7.46%
South Africa	6.11%
Russian Federation	3.89%
Mexico	2.68%
Thailand	2.48%
Malaysia	2.37%
Indonesia	2.25%
Poland	1.23%
Chile	1.11%
Qatar	1.09%
Philippines	1.08%
Cash and/or Derivatives	0.35%
Other	3.06%
Total	100.02%

\* Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table of Contents**iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF Weighting by Sector as of December 7, 2018\***

<b><u>Sector</u></b>	<b><u>Percentage (%)</u></b>
Financials	24.44%
Information Technology	14.24%
Communication	13.97%
Consumer Discretionary	10.70%
Energy	8.28%
Materials	7.58%
Consumer Staples	6.55%
Industrials	5.44%
Health Care	2.88%
Real Estate	2.96%
Utilities	2.61%
Cash and/or Derivatives	0.35%
Other	0.00%
Total	100.00%

\* Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

The Global Industry Classification Structure, which MSCI utilizes to classify the constituents of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index was updated in September 2018. Please see below for additional information about these updates.

As of November 30, 2018, iShares® reported the following average annual returns on the market price of the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF s shares and the MSCI Emerging Markets Index. The market price of the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF s shares takes into account distributions on the shares and the returns shown account for changes in the mid-point of the bid and ask prices at 4:00 p.m., Eastern time on the relevant date. iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF shares: 1 year, -9.11%; 3 years, 8.67%; 5 years, 1.37%; 10 years, 8.05%; since inception, 10.44%; MSCI Emerging Markets Index: 1 year, -9.09%; 3 years, 9.41%; 5 years, 1.90%; 10 years, 9.13%; since ETF inception, 10.89%.

Notwithstanding the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF s investment objective, the return on your notes will not reflect any dividends paid on the shares of the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, on the securities purchased by the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF or on the securities that comprise the MSCI Emerging Markets Index.

As of the close on May 31, 2018, MSCI began a multi-step process to include, in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, large cap China A shares that are not in trading suspension. As part of the first step of the inclusion process, which resulted from the May 2018 quarterly index review, MSCI added such large cap China A shares to the MSCI Emerging Markets Index at 2.5% of their foreign inclusion factor-adjusted market capitalization. In connection with the August 2018 quarterly index review, MSCI implemented the second step of the inclusion process by increasing the foreign inclusion factor-adjusted market capitalization of

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those existing China A share constituents from 2.5% to 5%. With the implementation of this second step, and the inclusion of additional China A shares in connection with the August 2018 quarterly index review, China A shares were initially expected to represent approximately 0.75% of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index.

MSCI divides the companies included in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index into eleven Global Industry Classification Sectors: Communication Services, Consumer Discretionary, Consumer Staples, Energy, Financials, Health Care, Industrials, Information Technology, Materials, Real Estate and Utilities.

MSCI has announced that, beginning in June 2019, it expects to include the MSCI Saudi Arabia Index in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, representing on a pro forma basis a weight of approximately 2.6% of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index with 32 securities, following a two-step inclusion process. The first inclusion step is expected to coincide with the May 2019 semi-annual review and the second inclusion step is expected to take place as part of the August 2019 quarterly index review. In addition, MSCI has announced the reclassification of the MSCI Argentina Index from a frontier market to an emerging

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market, and the MSCI Argentina Index is expected to be included in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index coinciding with the May 2019 semi-annual index review. MSCI expects to continue to restrict the inclusion in the MSCI Argentina Index to only foreign listings of Argentinian companies, such as American depositary receipts.

As of the close of business on September 21, 2018, MSCI and S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC updated the Global Industry Classification Sector structure. Among other things, the update broadened the Telecommunications Services sector and renamed it the Communication Services sector. The renamed sector includes the previously existing Telecommunication Services Industry group, as well as the Media Industry group, which was moved from the Consumer Discretionary sector and renamed the Media & Entertainment Industry group. The Media & Entertainment Industry group contains three industries: Media, Entertainment and Interactive Media & Services. The Media industry continues to consist of the Advertising, Broadcasting, Cable & Satellite and Publishing sub-industries. The Entertainment industry contains the Movies & Entertainment sub-industry (which includes online entertainment streaming companies in addition to companies previously classified in such industry prior to September 21, 2018) and the Interactive Home Entertainment sub-industry (which includes companies previously classified in the Home Entertainment Software sub-industry prior to September 21, 2018 (when the Home Entertainment Software sub-industry was a sub-industry in the Information Technology sector)), as well as producers of interactive gaming products, including mobile gaming applications). The Interactive Media & Services industry and sub-industry includes companies engaged in content and information creation or distribution through proprietary platforms, where revenues are derived primarily through pay-per-click advertisements, and includes search engines, social media and networking platforms, online classifieds and online review companies. The Global Classification Sector structure changes are effective for the MSCI Emerging Markets Index as of the open of business on December 3, 2018 to coincide with the November 2018 semi-annual index review.

**The above information supplements the description of the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF found in the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734. This information was derived from information prepared by the investment advisor, however, the percentages we have listed above are approximate and may not match the information available on the investment advisor's website due to subsequent corporation actions or other activity relating to a particular stock. For more details about the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, the investment advisor and license agreement between the investment advisor and the issuer, see The Underliers The iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF on page S-91 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734.**

iShares® is a registered trademark of BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A. ( BITC ). The securities are not sponsored, endorsed, sold, or promoted by BITC. BITC makes no representations or warranties to the owners of the securities or any member of the public regarding the advisability of investing in the securities. BITC has no obligation or liability in connection with the operation, marketing, trading or sale of the securities.

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The MSCI Indexes are the exclusive property of MSCI Inc. ( MSCI ). The securities referred to herein are not sponsored, endorsed, or promoted by MSCI, and MSCI bears no liability with respect to any such securities.

### **The Nikkei 225**

The Nikkei Stock Average, more commonly known as the Nikkei 225, is a price-weighted equity index calculated, published and disseminated daily by Nikkei Inc. The Nikkei 225 is comprised of 225 highly liquid stocks of the Tokyo Stock Exchange First Section and aims to maintain long-term continuity and reflect changes in industry structure. The real-time price return Japanese yen value of the Nikkei 225 is reported by Bloomberg under the ticker symbol NKY . Publication of the Nikkei 225 began on September 7, 1950 and was originally calculated by the Tokyo Stock Exchange but has been calculated by Nikkei Inc. since 1970. According to Nikkei Inc., the Nikkei 225 has been widely followed throughout its history as a barometer of the Japanese equity markets and the Japanese economy following World War II. Additional information about the Nikkei 225 can be found on Nikkei Inc.'s website at: [indexes.nikkei.co.jp/en/nkave](http://indexes.nikkei.co.jp/en/nkave). We are not incorporating by reference the website or any material it includes in this document. Nikkei Inc. is

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under no obligation to continue to publish the Nikkei 225 and may discontinue the Nikkei 225 at any time as further described below.

Nikkei Inc. maintains an industry classification system of 36 industries, which it reclassifies into six industry sectors for purposes of the Nikkei 225. The six industry sectors, and the underlying 36 industry classifications, are as follows:

- *Technology* Pharmaceuticals, Electric Machinery, Automobiles and Automobile Parts, Precision Instruments and Communications;
- *Financials* Banking, Other Financial Services, Securities and Insurance;
- *Consumer Goods* Fishery, Foods, Retail and Services;
- *Materials* Mining, Textiles and Apparel, Pulp and Paper, Chemicals, Petroleum, Rubber, Glass and Ceramics, Steel, Nonferrous Metals and Trading Companies;
- *Capital Goods/Others* Construction, Machinery, Shipbuilding, Transportation Equipment, Other Manufacturing and Real Estate; and
- *Transportation and Utilities* Railway and Bus, Land Transport, Marine Transport, Air Transport, Warehousing, Electric Power and Gas.

As of December 5, 2018, the following sectors had the following weights in the Nikkei 225: Communication Services (9.80%), Consumer Discretionary (20.18%), Consumer Staples (11.51%), Energy (0.48%), Financials (2.67%), Health Care (11.79%), Industrials (19.72%), Information Technology (14.15%), Materials (7.19%), Real Estate (2.28%) and Utilities (0.24%). Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding. (Sector designations are determined by the basket underlier sponsor using criteria it has selected or developed. Index sponsors may use very different standards for determining sector designations. In addition, many companies operate in a number of sectors, but are listed in only one sector and the basis on which that sector is selected may also differ. As a result, sector comparisons between indices with different index sponsors may reflect differences in methodology as well as actual differences in the sector composition of the indices.)

As of December 5, 2018, the top ten constituents of the Nikkei 225 and their respective weights were:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Weight (%)</u>
Fast Retailing Co., Ltd.	9.73%
Softbank Group Corp.	4.86%
Fanuc Corp.	3.04%
KDDI Corp.	2.68%
FamilyMart UNY Holdings Co., Ltd.	2.64%
Tokyo Electron Ltd.	2.59%
Terumo Corp.	2.23%
Daikin Industries, Ltd.	2.08%
Kyocera Corp.	2.03%
Eisai Co. Ltd.	1.74%

The information in the table and paragraph above was derived from sources we deem reputable but without independent verification by us. The other information regarding the index methodology described herein was derived from English language documents on Nikkei Inc.'s website but without independent

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verification. Please note that in any case where differences arise between the English version of Nikkei Inc.'s index guide and the original Japanese version, the original Japanese document will prevail.

**Construction of the Nikkei 225**

In order to be eligible for the Nikkei 225, a stock must be an ordinary share of a domestic company listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange First Section. Non-ordinary shares such as exchange-traded funds, real estate investment trusts, preferred stock, preferred securities and tracking stocks are not eligible. The constituents of the Nikkei 225 are reviewed once each year at the beginning of October (the annual review) and changes are typically implemented on the first trading day of October. There is no limit to the number of additions or deletions that may result from the annual review. The annual review focuses on 1) a stock's liquidity in the market and 2) industry sector balance. The purpose of the annual review is to maintain market representativeness of the constituents.

First, Nikkei Inc. assesses the liquidity of all eligible stocks by considering two factors: trading value of the preceding 5 years and magnitude of price fluctuation by volume of the preceding 5 years. Magnitude of price fluctuation by volume is calculated as the quotient of (1) the quotient of (i) the stock's high price divided by (ii) such stock's low price divided by (2) such stock's trading volume. After performing the liquidity assessment, the stocks are then ranked in descending order of liquidity and the top 450 stocks constitute the high liquidity group and remain eligible for inclusion in the Nikkei 225. Any current constituents falling outside of the high liquidity group (ranked 451 or lower based on liquidity) are deleted from the Nikkei 225. Of those stocks in the high liquidity group, the top 75 with the highest liquidity and not already a constituent are added to the Nikkei 225.

Second, the 450 stocks within the high liquidity group are categorized into the six industrial sectors described above: technology, financials, consumer goods, industrial materials, capital goods/others and transportation/utilities. Once the number of stocks in each sector is determined, such number is divided in half to determine the target number of stocks from each sector that shall constitute the 225 constituents in the Nikkei 225. If any of the sectors are over-represented at that stage (i.e., there are a greater number of actual constituents in the Nikkei 225 for the sector relative to the target number of stocks for such sector), current constituents in the Nikkei 225 are deleted in order of ascending liquidity so those constituents with the lowest liquidity are removed from the Nikkei 225 until the overage is corrected. If any of the sectors are under-represented (i.e., there are a lesser number of actual constituents in the Nikkei 225 for the sector relative to the target number of stocks for such sector), non-constituent stocks within the high liquidity group are added in order of descending liquidity so those stocks with the highest liquidity are added to the Nikkei 225 until the shortage is corrected. This process is performed to achieve a group of 225 constituents that reflect the intended sector balance.

**Calculation of the Nikkei 225**

The Nikkei 225 is a weighted price average index in which the level of the Nikkei 225 is calculated as the *quotient* of (i) the *sum* of all constituents' adjusted stock prices *divided* by (ii) the divisor (as described below). A constituent's adjusted stock price is its stock price as adjusted by the presumed par value and such adjusted stock price is equal to the *quotient* of (i) the *product* of (a) the stock's price *times* (b) 50 yen *divided* by (ii) the presumed par value of such stock (in yen). The Nikkei 225 level is rounded to the nearest hundredth and is calculated and published every 5 seconds beginning at 9 am (Tokyo time) daily.



The stock price used in the calculation is typically the last traded price of the constituent. In some cases, however, the Tokyo Stock Exchange publishes a special quote for the constituent, and the special quote price will be used. When this occurs, the special quote tends to be, but is not always, an intraday price. If neither a special quote price nor a traded price is available, Nikkei Inc. will use the base price, which is usually the price used in calculating the Nikkei 225 on the prior day. In the case of a stock that is trading ex-rights (e.g., after a stock split) for the first time on that day, however, Nikkei Inc. calculates an ex-rights theoretical price based on the price used for calculation on the preceding day and the appropriate adjustment to reflect the change in the stock. Nikkei Inc. does not adjust for dividends in calculating the Nikkei 225.

The presumed par value of the constituent is intended to reflect the historical basis on which the stock is traded. Japanese law abolished the concept of par value for stocks in 2001, but many stock prices reflect the former par value, such as 50, 500 or 50,000 yen. For example, stocks traded in units of 1 share (ex-par

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value of 50,000 yen) and stocks traded in units of 100 or 1000 shares have different price levels. Therefore, in order to calculate the Nikkei 225 on a consistent basis, Nikkei Inc. adjusts the constituent prices, usually to a presumed par value of 50 yen. Most of the constituents have a presumed par value of 50 yen, which means their original prices are simply used for purposes of calculating the Nikkei 225. However, not all constituents have a presumed par value of 50 yen. Presumed par values of current constituents range from 25 yen to 500 yen. The presumed par value for each constituent is published on Nikkei Inc.'s website.

The presumed par value also may be adjusted to reflect large scale stock splits or reverse splits. In these situations, Nikkei Inc. believes a divisor adjustment will not ensure continuity of the Nikkei 225. Instead of adjusting the divisor, Nikkei Inc. adjusts the presumed par value or, in some cases, the constituent price. For example, if a stock with a presumed par value of 50 yen splits 1 to 2, the presumed par value will be changed to 25 yen. In calculating the Nikkei 225, the constituent price will be doubled to reflect the 50 par yen basis for calculating the Nikkei 225. In the case of a small scale split (such as a split of 1 to 1.1), the divisor will be adjusted instead of the presumed par value.

*Divisor Adjustments*

As noted above, the Nikkei 225 is calculated as an adjusted price average index, where the weight is based on the presumed par value. The divisor is intended to maintain continuity of the Nikkei 225 and is the denominator of the fraction used to calculate the average. The divisor was initially the number of constituents, but has been changed over time to reflect stock splits, reverse splits, paid-in capital increases and other changes in the constituents.

When a stock splits or reverse splits, the level of paid-in capital increases, or there are other non-market corporate events affecting the constituents, the level of stock price changes. Also, when constituents are changed, the sum of stock prices (the numerator of the fraction prior to adjustment) changes based upon the prices of additions and deletions to the Nikkei 225. Therefore, the divisor is changed except in the case of large scale splits and reverse splits, in which the presumed par value is changed as discussed above.

The divisor for the next index day is calculated as the *product* of (i) the current day's divisor *times* (ii) the *quotient* of (a) the *sum* of the base prices for the next day's constituents *divided by* (b) the *sum* of the closing prices of the current day's constituents used to calculate the Nikkei 225 level for the current day. For purposes of calculating the divisor, the base prices for the next day's constituents are calculated as follows:

- The base price for stocks the prices of which are *not* changed based on non-market events will be the same as the current day's price used in calculating the Nikkei 225.
- The base price for stocks the presumed par value of which are changed will be the same as the current day's price used in calculating the Nikkei 225 (and as a result of the presumed par value change, no change in the divisor will occur).

- The base price for stocks the prices of which will change for non-market corporate events will be a theoretical price calculated based on the current day's prices and the ex-rights change in the stock.
- The base price for stocks becoming new index constituents on the next day will be the prices calculated for those stocks as if they were current constituents as discussed above.

As of January 30, 2018, the divisor of the Nikkei 225 was 27. The divisor is published on Nikkei Inc.'s website on each Tokyo Stock Exchange trading day and is rounded to the nearest one-thousandth. For additional information about the divisor, as well as calculation examples of divisor changes, please see the index guide on Nikkei Inc.'s website.

### **Maintenance of the Nikkei 225**

#### *Extraordinary Replacement*

In addition to additions and deletions of constituents resulting from the annual review, changes to index constituents may also be made as a result of certain extraordinary events. Stocks delisted from the Tokyo Stock Exchange First Section as a result of bankruptcy, stocks designated by the Tokyo Stock Exchange as a security to be delisted, stocks of companies in bankruptcy, liquidation and similar events, stocks affected by corporate restructuring (including mergers, share exchanges and share transfers), stocks delisted due to excess debt, or stocks transferred to the Tokyo Stock Exchange Second Section will be deleted from the

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Nikkei 225. Constituents that are designated by the Tokyo Stock Exchange as securities under supervision become deletion candidates, but deletion is not automatic and the sustainability and probability of delisting from the exchange will be considered in determining whether to delete the constituent from the Nikkei 225.

If a constituent has been deleted from the Nikkei 225 based on an event described above, a stock will be added to replace the deleted constituent by selecting the highest liquidity stock in the same sector as the deleted constituent from the high liquidity group determined during the last annual review. However, if a deletion is scheduled close to an annual review, additional stocks may be selected as part of the applicable annual review process. Additionally, if there are multiple deletions in a short period of time not close to a scheduled annual review, the standard annual review process assessing liquidity and sector balance will be followed to select new constituents rather than referring to the last annual review list.

*Special Rules for Additions Resulting from Other Corporate Actions*

Notwithstanding the process above, the following procedures may be applied in certain cases of corporate restructuring. Application of these special rules is determined for each particular case. Where (i) a constituent is merged and delisted or (ii) a newly established listed parent company receives its shares by transfer or exchange from another constituent, the delisted stock may be replaced by the successor company's stock if it is or will be listed within a short period on the Tokyo Stock Exchange First Section. In the case of spin-offs where multiple companies remain listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange First Section, the stock of the company that succeeds to the major operations of the former company will become a constituent of the Nikkei 225.

Except for constituent changes resulting from the annual review and from the circumstances described above under Extraordinary Replacement and Special Rules for Additions Resulting from Other Corporate Actions, there is no process for adding new constituents to the Nikkei 225. After consultation with academics and market professionals, Nikkei Inc. decides and announces the list of deletions and additions. As discussed above under Calculation of the Nikkei 225, the divisor is adjusted accordingly to maintain continuity when constituents are added or deleted from the Nikkei 225. Deletions and additions to the Nikkei 225 resulting from either the annual review or extraordinary events are generally effective on the same day in an effort to maintain the number of constituents at 225. However, when necessary, additions may be made after the deletions take effect and during the interim period, the Nikkei 225 may be calculated with less than 225 constituents. For example, in the case of sudden events, such as bankruptcy, there may be a short announcement period before the deletion is effective or if such constituent is promptly deleted, the new constituent may be added after a short period of notice.

*Changes to the Nikkei 225 Methodology*

Although the Nikkei 225 is calculated and maintained in accordance with the information provided in the methodology maintained on Nikkei Inc.'s website, Nikkei Inc. has discretion to take measures it deems appropriate upon the occurrence of events which are not covered in the methodology or in circumstances where it is difficult to continue to calculate the Nikkei 225 using the rules described in such methodology.

**License Agreement between Nikkei Inc. and GS Finance Corp.**

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Goldman Sachs has entered into a non-exclusive license agreement with Nikkei Inc. ( NKI ) whereby GS Finance Corp., in exchange for a fee, will be permitted to use the Nikkei 225 in connection with the offer and sale of your security. Any intellectual property rights relating to the Nikkei 225 belong to NKI. Goldman Sachs is not affiliated with NKI; the only relationship between NKI and Goldman Sachs is the licensing of the use of the Nikkei 225 and trademarks relating to the Nikkei 225.

NKI is under no obligation to continue the calculation and dissemination of the Nikkei 225. Your security is not sponsored, endorsed, sold or otherwise promoted by NKI. No inference should be drawn from the information contained herein that NKI makes any representation or warranty, express or implied, to us or any holder of your security or any member of the public regarding the advisability of investing in securities generally or in your security in particular or the ability of the Nikkei 225 to track generally stock market performance.

NKI determines, composes and calculates the Nikkei 225 without regard to your security. NKI has no obligation to take into account your interest, or that of anyone else having an interest, in your security in

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determining, composing or calculating the Nikkei 225 or any successor index. NKI is not responsible for and has not participated in the determination of the terms, prices or amount of your security and will not be responsible for or participate in any determination or calculation regarding the principal amount of your security payable at the stated maturity date. NKI has no obligation or liability in connection with the administration, marketing or trading of your security.

Neither NKI nor any of its affiliates accepts any responsibility for the calculation, maintenance or publication of the Nikkei 225. NKI disclaims all responsibility for any errors or omissions in the calculation and dissemination of the Nikkei 225 or the manner in which the Nikkei 225 is applied in determining the level of the Nikkei 225 or any amount payable upon maturity of your security.

NKI DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE ACCURACY OR THE COMPLETENESS OF THE NIKKEI 225 OR ANY DATA INCLUDED IN THE NIKKEI 225. NKI ASSUMES NO LIABILITY FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS.

#### **Historical Closing Levels of the Basket Underliers**

The respective closing level of the basket underliers have fluctuated in the past and may, in the future, experience significant fluctuations. Any historical upward or downward trend in the level of any of the basket underliers during the period shown below is not an indication that the basket underliers are more or less likely to increase or decrease at any time during the life of your notes.

**You should not take the historical levels of the basket or the basket underliers as an indication of the future performances of the basket underliers.** We cannot give you any assurance that the future performance of the basket, basket underliers or the basket underlier stocks will result in your receiving an amount greater than the outstanding face amount of your notes on the stated maturity date.

Neither we nor any of our affiliates make any representation to you as to the performance of the basket or the basket underliers. Before investing in the offered notes, you should consult publicly available information to determine the level of the basket underliers between the date of this pricing supplement and the date of your purchase of the offered notes. The actual performance of the basket and the basket underliers over the life of the offered notes, as well as the cash settlement amount at maturity, may bear little relation to the historical levels shown below.

The graphs below show the daily historical closing levels of each basket underlier from December 24, 2008 through December 24, 2018. We obtained the closing levels in the graphs below from Bloomberg Financial Services, without independent verification.



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**Historical Performance of the EURO STOXX 50® Index**

**Historical Performance of the iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF**



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**Historical Performance of the Nikkei 225**

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**Historical Basket Levels**

The following graph is based on the basket closing level for the period from December 24, 2008 through December 24, 2018 assuming that the basket closing level was 100 on December 24, 2008. We derived the basket closing levels based on the method to calculate the basket closing level as described in this pricing supplement and on actual closing levels of the relevant basket underliers on the relevant date. The basket closing level has been normalized such that its hypothetical level on December 24, 2008 was 100. As noted in this pricing supplement, the initial basket level will be set at 100 on the trade date. The basket closing level can increase or decrease due to changes in the levels of the basket underliers.

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**SUPPLEMENTAL DISCUSSION OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES**

The following section supplements the discussion of U.S. federal income taxation in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

The following section is the opinion of Sidley Austin LLP, counsel to GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. In addition, it is the opinion of Sidley Austin LLP that the characterization of the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes that will be required under the terms of the notes, as discussed below, is a reasonable interpretation of current law.

This section does not apply to you if you are a member of a class of holders subject to special rules, such as:

- a dealer in securities or currencies;
  
- a trader in securities that elects to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities holdings;
  
- a bank;
  
- a life insurance company;
  
- a tax exempt organization;
  
- a partnership;
  
- a regulated investment company;
  
- an accrual method taxpayer subject to special tax accounting rules as a result of its use of financial statements;

- a person that owns a note as a hedge or that is hedged against interest rate risks;
- a person that owns a note as part of a straddle or conversion transaction for tax purposes; or
- a United States holder (as defined below) whose functional currency for tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar.

Although this section is based on the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, its legislative history, existing and proposed regulations under the Internal Revenue Code, published rulings and court decisions, all as currently in effect, no statutory, judicial or administrative authority directly addresses how your notes should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and as a result, the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in your notes are uncertain. Moreover, these laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis.

*You should consult your tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax and any other applicable tax consequences of your investments in the notes, including the application of state, local or other tax laws and the possible effects of changes in federal or other tax laws.*

#### **United States Holders**

This section applies to you only if you are a United States holder that holds your notes as a capital asset for tax purposes. You are a United States holder if you are a beneficial owner of each of your notes and you are:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a domestic corporation;
- an estate whose income is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source; or
- a trust if a United States court can exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more United States persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

*Tax Treatment.* You will be obligated pursuant to the terms of the notes in the absence of a change in law, an administrative determination or a judicial ruling to the contrary to characterize your notes for all tax purposes as pre-paid derivative contracts in respect of the basket underliers. Except as otherwise stated below, the discussion herein assumes that the notes will be so treated.

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Upon the sale, exchange or maturity of your notes, you should recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between the amount of cash you receive at such time and your tax basis in your notes. Your tax basis in the notes will generally be equal to the amount that you paid for the notes. If you hold your notes for more than one year, the gain or loss generally will be long-term capital gain or loss. If you hold your notes for one year or less, the gain or loss generally will be short-term capital gain or loss. Short-term capital gains are generally subject to tax at the marginal tax rates applicable to ordinary income.

In addition, the constructive ownership rules of Section 1260 of the Internal Revenue Code could possibly apply to all or a portion of your notes. If all or a portion of your notes were subject to the constructive ownership rules, then all or a portion of any long-term capital gain that you realize upon the sale, exchange or maturity of your notes would be re-characterized as ordinary income (and you would be subject to an interest charge on deferred tax liability with respect to such re-characterized capital gain) to the extent that such capital gain exceeds the amount of net underlying long-term capital gain (as defined in Section 1260 of the Internal Revenue Code). Because the application of the constructive ownership rules is unclear you are strongly urged to consult your tax advisor with respect to the possible application of the constructive ownership rules to your investment in the notes.

**No statutory, judicial or administrative authority directly discusses how your notes should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in the notes are uncertain and alternative characterizations are possible. Accordingly, we urge you to consult your tax advisor in determining the tax consequences of an investment in your notes in your particular circumstances, including the application of state, local or other tax laws and the possible effects of changes in federal or other tax laws.**

*Alternative Treatments.* There is no judicial or administrative authority discussing how your notes should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Therefore, the Internal Revenue Service might assert that a treatment other than that described above is more appropriate. For example, the Internal Revenue Service could treat your notes as a single debt instrument subject to special rules governing contingent payment debt instruments. Under those rules, the amount of interest you are required to take into account for each accrual period would be determined by constructing a projected payment schedule for the notes and applying rules similar to those for accruing original issue discount on a hypothetical noncontingent debt instrument with that projected payment schedule. This method is applied by first determining the comparable yield i.e., the yield at which we would issue a noncontingent fixed rate debt instrument with terms and conditions similar to your notes and then determining a payment schedule as of the issue date that would produce the comparable yield. These rules may have the effect of requiring you to include interest in income in respect of your notes prior to your receipt of cash attributable to that income.

If the rules governing contingent payment debt instruments apply, any gain you recognize upon the sale, exchange or maturity of your notes would be treated as ordinary interest income. Any loss you recognize at that time would be ordinary loss to the extent of interest you included as income in the current or previous taxable years in respect of your notes, and, thereafter, capital loss.

If the rules governing contingent payment debt instruments apply, special rules would apply to a person who purchases notes at a price other than the adjusted issue price as determined for tax purposes.

It is also possible that your notes could be treated in the manner described above, except that any gain or loss that you recognize at maturity would be treated as ordinary gain or loss. You should consult your tax advisor as to the tax consequences of such characterization and any possible alternative characterizations of your notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

It is possible that the Internal Revenue Service could seek to characterize your notes in a manner that results in tax consequences to you that are different from those described above. You should consult your tax advisor as to the tax consequences of any possible alternative characterizations of your notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

***Possible Change in Law***

On December 7, 2007, the Internal Revenue Service released a notice stating that the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department are actively considering issuing guidance regarding the proper U.S. federal income tax treatment of an instrument such as the offered notes, including whether holders should be required to accrue ordinary income on a current basis and whether gain or loss should be

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ordinary or capital. It is not possible to determine what guidance they will ultimately issue, if any. It is possible, however, that under such guidance, holders of the notes will ultimately be required to accrue income currently and this could be applied on a retroactive basis. The Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department are also considering other relevant issues, including whether foreign holders of such instruments should be subject to withholding tax on any deemed income accruals and whether the special constructive ownership rules of Section 1260 of the Internal Revenue Code might be applied to such instruments. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisors concerning the significance, and the potential impact, of the above considerations. Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, we intend to continue treating the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes in accordance with the treatment described above under Tax Treatment unless and until such time as Congress, the Treasury Department or the Internal Revenue Service determine that some other treatment is more appropriate. You are urged to consult your tax advisor as to the possibility that any legislative or administrative action may adversely affect the tax treatment and the value of your notes.

Furthermore, in 2007, legislation was introduced in Congress that, if enacted, would have required holders that acquired instruments such as your notes after the bill was enacted to accrue interest income over the term of such instruments even though there will be no interest payments over the term of such instruments. It is not possible to predict whether a similar or identical bill will be enacted in the future, or whether any such bill would affect the tax treatment of your notes.

It is impossible to predict what any such legislation or administrative or regulatory guidance might provide, and whether the effective date of any legislation or guidance will affect notes that were issued before the date that such legislation or guidance is issued. You are urged to consult your tax advisor as to the possibility that any legislative or administrative action may adversely affect the tax treatment of your notes.

***Backup Withholding and Information Reporting***

Please see the discussion under United States Taxation Taxation of Debt Securities Backup Withholding and Information Reporting United States Holders in the accompanying prospectus for a description of the applicability of the backup withholding and information reporting rules to payments made on your notes.

**United States Alien Holders**

This section applies to you only if you are a United States alien holder. You are a United States alien holder if you are the beneficial owner of notes and are, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- a nonresident alien individual;
  
- a foreign corporation; or

- an estate or trust that in either case is not subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis on income or gain from the notes.

You will be subject to generally applicable information reporting and backup withholding requirements as discussed in the accompanying prospectus under United States Taxation Taxation of Debt Securities Backup Withholding and Information Reporting United States Alien Holders with respect to payments on your notes at maturity and, notwithstanding that we do not intend to treat the notes as debt for tax purposes, we intend to backup withhold on such payments with respect to your notes unless you comply with the requirements necessary to avoid backup withholding on debt instruments (in which case you will not be subject to such backup withholding) as set forth under United States Taxation Taxation of Debt Securities United States Alien Holders in the accompanying prospectus.

As discussed above, alternative characterizations of the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes are possible. Should an alternative characterization of the notes, by reason of a change or clarification of the law, by regulation or otherwise, cause payments at maturity with respect to the notes to become subject to withholding tax, we will withhold tax at the applicable statutory rate and we will not make payments of any additional amounts. Prospective United States alien holders of the notes should consult their tax advisors in this regard.

Furthermore, on December 7, 2007, the Internal Revenue Service released Notice 2008-2 soliciting comments from the public on various issues, including whether instruments such as your notes should be subject to withholding. It is therefore possible that rules will be issued in the future, possibly with retroactive

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effect, that would cause payments on your notes at maturity to be subject to withholding, even if you comply with certification requirements as to your foreign status.

In addition, the Treasury Department has issued regulations under which amounts paid or deemed paid on certain financial instruments ( 871(m) financial instruments ) that are treated as attributable to U.S.-source dividends could be treated, in whole or in part depending on the circumstances, as a dividend equivalent payment that is subject to tax at a rate of 30% (or a lower rate under an applicable treaty), which in the case of any amounts you receive upon sale, exchange or maturity of your notes, could be collected via withholding. If these regulations were to apply to the notes, we may be required to withhold such taxes if any U.S.-source dividends are paid on the basket fund or on the stocks included in the basket indices during the term of the notes. We could also require you to make certifications (e.g., an applicable Internal Revenue Service Form W-8) prior to the maturity of the notes in order to avoid or minimize withholding obligations, and we could withhold accordingly (subject to your potential right to claim a refund from the Internal Revenue Service) if such certifications were not received or were not satisfactory. If withholding was required, we would not be required to pay any additional amounts with respect to amounts so withheld. These regulations generally will apply to 871(m) financial instruments (or a combination of financial instruments treated as having been entered into in connection with each other) issued (or significantly modified and treated as retired and reissued) on or after January 1, 2021, but will also apply to certain 871(m) financial instruments (or a combination of financial instruments treated as having been entered into in connection with each other) that have a delta (as defined in the applicable Treasury regulations) of one and are issued (or significantly modified and treated as retired and reissued) on or after January 1, 2017. In addition, these regulations will not apply to financial instruments that reference a qualified index (as defined in the regulations). We have determined that, as of the issue date of your notes, your notes will not be subject to withholding under these rules. In certain limited circumstances, however, you should be aware that it is possible for United States alien holders to be liable for tax under these rules with respect to a combination of transactions treated as having been entered into in connection with each other even when no withholding is required. You should consult your tax advisor concerning these regulations, subsequent official guidance and regarding any other possible alternative characterizations of your notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

**Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding**

Pursuant to Treasury regulations, Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) withholding (as described in United States Taxation Taxation of Debt Securities Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding in the accompanying prospectus) will generally apply to obligations that are issued on or after July 1, 2014; therefore, the notes will generally be subject to the FATCA withholding rules.

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We have not authorized anyone to provide any information or to make any representations other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this pricing supplement, the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734, the accompanying prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. This pricing supplement, the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is an offer to sell only the notes offered hereby, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained in this pricing supplement, the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is current only as of the respective dates of such documents.

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**GS Finance Corp.**

Leveraged Basket-Linked Notes due

guaranteed by

**The Goldman Sachs  
Group, Inc.**

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