

Annual Management Report of Fund Performance

# AGF Systematic Emerging Markets Equity ETF

September 30, 2023

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance

This management discussion of fund performance represents the portfolio management team's view of the significant factors and developments affecting the fund's performance and outlook.

### Investment Objective and Strategies

Pursuant to the Declaration of Trust, the investment objective of AGF Systematic Emerging Markets Equity ETF (formerly, AGFIQ Emerging Markets Equity ETF) (the "Fund") is to provide long-term capital appreciation with reduced volatility, over a full market cycle, by investing primarily in equity securities of emerging market issuers. AGF Investments Inc. ("AGFI"), as portfolio manager, uses a quantitative model to evaluate securities of emerging market large and mid-capitalization issuers in order to construct a portfolio that aims to balance portfolio volatility and return. The quantitative model evaluates emerging market securities based on factors that may include growth, value, quality, risk and other characteristics. Although the Fund's investments are selected based on the output of a quantitative model, the portfolio is also subject to constraints/controls (in relation to country, industry, group, sector and individual security concentrations) that are designed to foster portfolio diversification, liquidity and risk mitigation. An environmental, social and governance ("ESG") negative screening approach is also applied to determine the lowest ranked securities, which is factored into the portfolio construction process. If and where necessary, to gain exposure to global markets, the Fund may invest in a wide array of exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), including regional, country, market capitalization and/or sector based ETFs. The portfolio asset allocation is reconstituted and rebalanced on a monthly basis but has the latitude to rebalance on an ad hoc basis should market conditions dictate. During periods of market downturn or for other reasons, a significant portion of the Fund's assets may be held in cash or fixed income securities.

### Risk

The risks of investing in the Fund remain as disclosed in the current prospectus. Any changes to the Fund over the period have not affected the overall level of risk of the Fund.

The Fund continues to be suitable for investors with a medium tolerance for risk. The suitability of the Fund has not changed from what has been disclosed in the prospectus.

### Results of Operations

For the year ended September 30, 2023, the Fund returned 9.3% (net of expenses) while the MSCI Emerging Markets Index returned 10.3%.

The Fund under-performed the MSCI Emerging Markets Index due to stock selection and sectoral allocation decisions. The Consumer Discretionary sector was the biggest detractor owing to negative stock selection, which was partially offset by a favourable overweight allocation to the sector. The Consumer Staples sector also detracted as a result of unfavorable stock choices. The Financial sector was the biggest contributor to performance due to positive stock selection. The Utilities sector also contributed due to favorable stock choices and an underweight allocation to the sector.

From a country perspective, Poland and Brazil were the biggest detractors from relative performance primarily due to negative stock selection. On the other hand, India and China were the biggest contributors to relative return, owing to favourable stock selection.

The Fund had net redemptions of approximately \$11 million for the current period, as compared to net redemptions of approximately \$25 million in the prior period. Rebalancing by fund on fund programs resulted in net redemptions of approximately \$5 million in the Fund. The portfolio manager does not believe that redemption activity had a meaningful impact on the Fund's performance or the ability to implement its investment strategy.

### Recent Developments

Global equities gained ground during the reporting period, but also faced a year of volatility fueled by a high-stakes guessing game about global interest rates, China's faltering economic recovery and a short-lived banking crisis that freshened memories of 2008. The Information Technology sector stood out for the better part of 2023, as the rise of artificial intelligence ("AI") boosted investor sentiment and speculation was rife about the future of the technology. Inflation in Europe and the UK remained sticky throughout the reporting period. Furthermore, Russia backed out of the Black Sea grain trade agreement in July 2023, reviving concerns about global food inflation.

Emerging markets equities posted positive gains, but modestly under-performed developed markets equities during the reporting period. Despite this under-performance, emerging markets equities have shown remarkable resilience during truly testing times. Emerging markets equities posted strong returns over the last calendar quarter of 2022, helped primarily by a weaker U.S. dollar. Most of the returns were generated in November 2022 on optimism that as policy tightening from the U.S. Federal Reserve (the "Fed") slowed. In China, investors welcomed the relaxation of COVID regulations in December 2022, which helped boost optimism

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights, but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1 800 387-2563, by writing to us at AGF Investments Inc., CIBC SQUARE, Tower One, 81 Bay Street, Suite 3900, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5J 0G1, or by visiting our website at [www.AGF.com](http://www.AGF.com) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

Securityholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the investment fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

regarding an earlier than expected re-opening of the economy. Support for the housing sector also added to the positive sentiment.

The first calendar quarter of 2023 continued the strong start from the previous quarter, but it also continued to trail the developed markets equities. The sudden and robust growth in AI gave a boost to almost all Asian markets. China posted gains again, as optimism about the re-opening of the economy and an apparent easing of regulatory pressure on the internet sector were positive for the market. South Africa's domestic financial regulation crisis and allegations against an Indian conglomerate of fraud and share price manipulation made South Africa and India the biggest detractors. In addition, the rising tensions between U.S. and China following the spy balloon scandal caused a stir but did not have much of an effect on the equity markets.

Emerging markets equities continued to make gains, although marginal, during the second calendar quarter of 2023 and into the year. Latin America was the clear leader during the second calendar quarter as well as the half-year period, led by Mexico and Brazil. Mexico and the Mexican peso have benefited from nearshoring, while Brazil has been helped by a stronger currency and the increased likelihood of policy rate cuts as inflation continues to moderate. However, this growth slowed as the fourth calendar quarter progressed, with new economic data demonstrating China's economic recovery from zero COVID policies had been disappointing and much-below expectations.

In July 2023, the market posted gains again after China announced sustained support for its troubled Real Estate sector, but these gains were reversed in August 2023 as news that the U.S. economy will keep interest rates higher for longer and India's persistent food inflation problem weighed on results. The only three markets that rose in August were Hungary, Turkey and Egypt. Turkey benefited from a bigger-than-expected cut in interest rates.

Despite the under-performance of emerging markets equities compared to developed markets in the first half of 2023, emerging markets economies have shown remarkable resilience. The weakness in emerging markets equities during the third calendar quarter of 2023 was primarily driven by China's under-performance, as its economic performance faltered. Inflation pressures in emerging markets economies have fallen more recently, while emerging markets Producer Price Index ("PPI") momentum is in deflation territory for the first time since the pandemic. If commodity prices remain under pressure if the U.S. economy continues to slow, PPI could be under renewed pressure, potentially weighing on consumer prices. The PPI measures the average change over time in the prices domestic producers receive for their output.

The portfolio manager expects an upswing in China's economic activity during the final calendar quarter of this year and into 2024. The portfolio manager believes this resurgence is likely to have positive spillover effects on other emerging markets economies and contribute to a widening gap between emerging markets and developed markets

economic growth. If the Fed continues to hold its stance on the monetary policy and does not hike rates any further, it could open up possibilities for central banks in emerging markets throughout Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and Africa to consider implementing policy rate cuts during the latter part of 2023.

## Related Party Transactions

AGFI is the manager ("Manager"), trustee and promoter of the Fund and is responsible for the day-to-day business of the Fund. AGFI also acts as the investment (portfolio) manager, managing the investment portfolio of the Fund. Effective January 27, 2023, AGFI entered into an investment sub-advisory agreement with AGF Investments LLC, which acts as a sub-advisor and provides investment sub-advisory services to the Fund. Under the Declaration of Trust, the Fund pays management fees (including fees for sub-advisory services), calculated based on the Net Asset Value of the Fund. Management fees of approximately \$203,000 were incurred by the Fund during the period ended September 30, 2023.

AGFI and AGF Investments LLC are indirect wholly-owned subsidiaries of AGF Management Limited.

## Caution Regarding Forward-looking Statements

This report may contain forward-looking statements about the Fund, including its strategy, expected performance and condition. Forward looking statements include statements that are predictive in nature, that depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that include words such as "expects", "anticipates", "intends", "plans", "believes", "estimates" or negative versions thereof and similar expressions.

In addition, any statement that may be made concerning future performance, strategies or prospects, and possible future Fund action, is also a forward-looking statement. Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and projections about future events and are inherently subject to, among other things, risks, uncertainties and assumptions about the Fund and economic factors.

The forward-looking statements are by their nature based on numerous assumptions, which include, amongst other things, that (i) the Fund can attract and maintain investors and has sufficient capital under management to effect its investment strategies, (ii) the investment strategies will produce the results intended by the portfolio manager, and (iii) the markets will react and perform in a manner consistent with the investment strategies. Although the forward-looking statements contained herein are based upon what the portfolio manager believes to be reasonable assumptions, the portfolio manager cannot assure that actual results will be consistent with these forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and actual events and results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking statements made by the Fund. Any number of important factors could contribute to these digressions, including, but not limited to, general economic, political and

market factors in North America and internationally, interest and foreign exchange rates, global equity and capital markets, business competition, taxation, changes in government regulations, unexpected judicial or regulatory proceedings, technological changes, cybersecurity, the possible effects of war or terrorist activities, outbreaks of disease or illness that affect local, national or international economies (such as COVID-19), natural disasters and disruptions to public infrastructure, such as transportation, communications, power or water supply or other catastrophic events.

It should be stressed that the above-mentioned list of factors is not exhaustive. You are encouraged to consider these and other factors carefully before making any investment decisions and you are urged to avoid placing undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Further, you should be aware of the fact that the Fund has no specific intention of updating any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, prior to the release of the next Management Report of Fund Performance.

## Financial Highlights

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the past five years as applicable.

### Net Assets per Unit<sup>(1)</sup>

| For the periods ended  | Sept 30, 2023 (\$) | Sept 30, 2022 (\$) | Sept 30, 2021 (\$) | Sept 30, 2020 (\$) | Sept 30, 2019 (\$) |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Net Assets, beginning of period<sup>(1)</sup></b>           | <b>21.42</b>       | <b>29.18</b>       | <b>27.73</b>       | <b>27.24</b>       | <b>28.59</b>       |
| <b>Increase (decrease) from operations:</b>                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Total revenue  | 0.71               | 0.81               | 0.96               | 0.65               | 1.28               |
| Total expenses   | (0.41)             | (0.40)             | (0.34)             | (0.32)             | (0.35)             |
| Realized gains (losses)  | (0.30)             | (2.74)             | 0.39               | (1.27)             | (1.20)             |
| Unrealized gains (losses)                                      | 2.62               | (4.68)             | 0.28               | 2.20               | (1.10)             |
| <b>Total increase (decrease) from operations<sup>(2)</sup></b> | <b>2.62</b>        | <b>(7.01)</b>      | <b>1.29</b>        | <b>1.26</b>        | <b>(1.37)</b>      |
| <b>Distributions:</b>  |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| From income (excluding dividends)                              | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  |
| From dividends   | (0.68)             | (0.74)             | (0.60)             | (0.64)             | (0.74)             |
| From capital gains   | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  |
| Return of capital  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  | -                  |
| <b>Total annual distributions<sup>(3)</sup></b>                | <b>(0.68)</b>      | <b>(0.74)</b>      | <b>(0.60)</b>      | <b>(0.64)</b>      | <b>(0.74)</b>      |
| <b>Net Assets, end of period<sup>(4)</sup></b>                 | <b>22.74</b>       | <b>21.42</b>       | <b>29.18</b>       | <b>27.73</b>       | <b>27.24</b>       |

### Ratios/Supplemental Data<sup>(1)</sup>

| For the periods ended   | Sept 30, 2023 | Sept 30, 2022 | Sept 30, 2021 | Sept 30, 2020 | Sept 30, 2019 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total Net Asset Value (\$000's)                                       | 46,625        | 53,024        | 102,869       | 69,331        | 85,129        |
| Number of units outstanding (000's)                                   | 2,050         | 2,475         | 3,525         | 2,500         | 3,125         |
| Management expense ratio <sup>(5)</sup>                               | 0.45%         | 0.45%         | 0.45%         | 0.45%         | 0.45%         |
| Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>(6)</sup> | 0.50%         | 0.50%         | 0.48%         | 0.47%         | 0.45%         |
| Trading expense ratio <sup>(7)</sup>                                  | 0.77%         | 0.42%         | 0.27%         | 0.33%         | 0.30%         |
| Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(8)</sup>                                | 191.32%       | 87.78%        | 57.81%        | 78.71%        | 56.30%        |
| Net Asset Value per unit  | 22.74         | 21.42         | 29.18         | 27.73         | 27.24         |
| Closing market price <sup>(9)</sup>                                   | 22.68         | 21.37         | 29.22         | 27.94         | 27.28         |

## Explanatory Notes

- (1) a) This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements. Under International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), investments that are traded in an active market are generally valued at closing price, which is determined to be within the bid-ask spread and most representative of fair value. As a result, there is no difference between the net assets per unit presented in the financial statements ("Net Assets") and the net asset value per unit calculated for fund pricing purposes ("Net Asset Value").
  - b) The Fund commenced operations in January 2017, which represents the date upon which securities were first made available for purchase by investors.
- (2) Net Assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.
- (3) Distributions were paid in cash/reinvested in additional units of the Fund, or both. The characterization of the distributions is based on management's estimate of the actual income for the year.
- (4) This is not a reconciliation of the beginning and ending Net Assets per unit.
- (5) The management expense ratio ("MER") is calculated in accordance with National Instrument 81-106, based on all the expenses of the Fund (including Harmonized Sales Tax, Goods and Services Tax and interest, but excluding foreign withholding taxes, commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) and the Fund's proportionate share of the MER, if applicable, of the underlying funds and ETFs in which the Fund has invested, expressed as an annualized percentage of average daily Net Asset Value during the period.
- (6) AGFI waived certain fees or absorbed certain expenses otherwise payable by the Fund. The amount of expenses waived or absorbed is determined annually at the discretion of AGFI and AGFI can terminate the waiver or absorption at any time.
- (7) The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs, including the Fund's proportionate share of the commissions, if applicable, of the underlying funds and ETFs in which the Fund has invested, expressed as an annualized percentage of average daily Net Asset Value during the period.
- (8) The Fund's portfolio turnover rate ("PTR") indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio advisor manages its portfolio investments. A PTR of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's PTR in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable

(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9) see Explanatory Notes

capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund.

PTR is calculated based on the lesser of the cumulative cost of purchases or cumulative proceeds of sales divided by the average market value of the portfolio, excluding short-term investments.

- (9) Closing market price on the last trading day of the period, as applicable, as reported on the TSX. Mid price is disclosed if no transaction took place on the last business day of the period.

## Management Fees

The Fund is managed by AGFI. AGFI is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Fund, which include providing investment and management services as well as other administrative services required by the Fund. As compensation for such services, AGFI receives a monthly management fee (including fees for sub-advisory services) at the annual rate of 0.45%, which includes applicable taxes, based on the Net Asset Value of the Fund, calculated daily and payable monthly. AGFI bears all operating expenses of the Fund except for management fees, brokerage expenses and commissions, costs associated with the use of derivatives (if applicable), income and withholding taxes as well as all other applicable taxes, costs of complying with any new governmental or regulatory requirement introduced after the Fund was established, costs associated with the establishment and on-going operation of the Independent Review Committee, and extraordinary expenses.

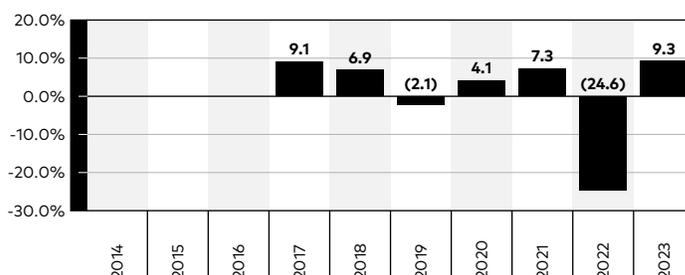
## Past Performance\*

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional securities of the Fund. Note that the performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges that would have reduced returns or performance. How the Fund has performed in the past does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

All rates of return are calculated based on the Net Asset Value.

### Year-By-Year Returns

The following bar chart shows the Fund's annual performance for each of the past 10 years to September 30, 2023 as applicable, and illustrates how the Fund's performance has changed from year to year. The chart shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial period would have grown or decreased by the last day of each financial period.



Performance for 2017 represents returns for the period from January 30, 2017 to September 30, 2017.

## Annual Compound Returns

The following table compares the historical annual compound returns for the Fund with the index, for each of the periods ended September 30, 2023.

| Percentage Return:          | 1 Year | 3 Years | 5 Years | 10 Years | Since Inception |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|---------|----------|-----------------|
| Fund                        | 9.3    | (4.0)   | (2.1)   | N/A      | 0.7             |
| MSCI Emerging Markets Index | 10.3   | (0.7)   | 2.0     | N/A      | 4.1             |

The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance of emerging markets.

For a discussion of the relative performance of the Fund as compared to the index, see Results of Operations in the Management Discussion of Fund Performance.

## Summary of Investment Portfolio

As at September 30, 2023

The major portfolio categories and top holdings (up to 25) of the Fund at the end of the period are indicated in the following tables. The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund and the next quarterly update will be in the Quarterly Portfolio Disclosure as at December 31, 2023.

\* The indicated rates of return shown here are the historical annual compounded total returns including changes in security value and reinvestment of all distributions and do not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or other optional charges by any securityholder that would have reduced returns or performance. ETFs are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.

# AGF Systematic Emerging Markets Equity ETF

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

| Portfolio by Country           | Percentage of Net Asset Value (%) |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| China                          | 27.5                              |
| India                          | 15.0                              |
| Taiwan                         | 14.1                              |
| South Korea                    | 14.0                              |
| Mexico                         | 4.9                               |
| Thailand                       | 4.3                               |
| United Arab Emirates           | 3.5                               |
| Brazil                         | 3.2                               |
| Poland                         | 2.8                               |
| Malaysia                       | 2.7                               |
| The Philippines                | 2.5                               |
| South Africa                   | 2.5                               |
| Turkey                         | 1.8                               |
| Greece                         | 1.5                               |
| Cash & Cash Equivalents        | 1.3                               |
| Indonesia                      | 0.9                               |
| Hong Kong                      | 0.5                               |
| Hungary                        | 0.4                               |
| Czech Republic                 | 0.3                               |
| United Kingdom                 | 0.2                               |
| Luxembourg                     | 0.2                               |
| Russia                         | 0.0                               |
| Other Net Assets (Liabilities) | (4.1)                             |

| Portfolio by Sector            | Percentage of Net Asset Value (%) |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Financials                     | 26.0                              |
| Information Technology         | 22.9                              |
| Consumer Discretionary         | 15.1                              |
| Communication Services         | 11.5                              |
| Consumer Staples               | 7.2                               |
| Energy                         | 6.2                               |
| Industrials                    | 4.3                               |
| Materials                      | 4.2                               |
| Health Care                    | 4.2                               |
| Cash & Cash Equivalents        | 1.3                               |
| Utilities                      | 0.9                               |
| Real Estate                    | 0.3                               |
| Other Net Assets (Liabilities) | (4.1)                             |

| Portfolio by Asset Mix         | Percentage of Net Asset Value (%) |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| International Equity           | 102.8                             |
| Cash & Cash Equivalents        | 1.3                               |
| Other Net Assets (Liabilities) | (4.1)                             |

| Top Holdings  | Percentage of Net Asset Value (%) |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company Limited  | 6.7                               |
| Samsung Electronics Company Limited                 | 6.2                               |
| Alibaba Group Holding Limited                       | 3.7                               |
| Tencent Holdings Limited                            | 3.5                               |
| ICICI Bank Limited                                  | 1.9                               |
| Infosys Limited                                     | 1.7                               |
| HDFC Bank Limited                                   | 1.6                               |
| Hyundai Motor Company                               | 1.6                               |
| Reliance Industries Limited                         | 1.4                               |
| Fomento Economico Mexicano SAB de CV                | 1.3                               |
| Cash & Cash Equivalents                             | 1.3                               |
| Ping An Insurance (Group) Company of China Limited  | 1.3                               |
| Xiaomi Corporation                                  | 1.2                               |
| Delta Electronics Inc.                              | 1.1                               |
| PTT Public Company Limited                          | 1.1                               |
| Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Limited                    | 1.1                               |
| Larsen & Toubro Limited                             | 1.1                               |
| CP ALL Public Company Limited                       | 1.1                               |
| Ultrapar Participacoes SA                           | 1.1                               |
| SM Investments Corporation                          | 1.0                               |
| China Tower Corporation Limited                     | 1.0                               |
| China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation              | 1.0                               |
| Hellenic Telecommunications Organization SA         | 1.0                               |
| Cyfrowy Polsat SA                                   | 1.0                               |
| Cemex SAB de CV                                     | 1.0                               |
| <b>Total Net Asset Value (thousands of dollars)</b> | <b>\$ 46,625</b>                  |



For more information contact your investment advisor or:

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There is no guarantee that AGF ETFs will achieve their stated objectives and there is risk involved in investing in the ETFs. Before investing you should read the prospectus or relevant ETF Facts and carefully consider, among other things, each ETF's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. A copy of the prospectus and ETF Facts is available on AGF.com.

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