

## **GRAMERCY EMERGING MARKETS DEBT FUND**

## **MONTHLY COMMENTARY**

Markets navigated a volatile yet ultimately constructive August, with investor sentiment shaped by dovish signals from the Federal Reserve, softening U.S. labor market data, and growing questions about Fed independence. The 10-year U.S. Treasury yield tightened 15 basis points (bps) to close the month at 4.23%, while the 10s30s curve steepened 17bps amid persistent long-end pressure tied to concerns over fiscal trajectory and political influence over monetary policy. Despite this backdrop, risk assets proved resilient. The S&P 500 rose 1.91% on the month, supported by a market increasingly confident in a September rate cut – reinforced by Chair Powell's dovish tone at Jackson Hole and benign inflation data. Even as stagflation worries flickered in the background, investor appetite for risk remained intact. Meanwhile, political developments – including Fed Board reshuffling and pressure from the White House – contributed to rate volatility but did little to shake overall sentiment. A weaker dollar, stable oil prices, and signs of progress on global trade tensions added to a constructive tone. While the macro environment remains complex, August demonstrated the market's ability to look through short-term noise in favor of easing policy and a still-supportive global backdrop.

Emerging market (EM) fixed income delivered strong performance across all sub-sectors in August. The GBI-EM Global Diversified Index led returns with a gain of 2.15% for the month. EM hard currency sovereign bonds also performed well, with the EMBI Global Diversified Index rising 1.63%, supported by continued strength in high-yield issuers, which returned 1.93% compared to 1.34% for investment grade. EM hard currency corporate bonds posted solid gains as well, with the CEMBI Broad Diversified Index up 1.29%. Performance was broadly consistent across rating segments, with investment-grade corporates returning 1.22% and high-yield corporates returning 1.37%. Spreads remained relatively stable, with only marginal tightening in sovereign credit and slight widening in corporate credit.

Fund performance in August was primarily driven by three key factors. First, our selection within local currency sovereign bonds added significant value, particularly in Brazil, South Africa, and Thailand, which outperformed during the month. Second, our allocation to and selection of BB-rated sovereign and corporate credit benefited from strong risk appetite. Third, our overweight exposure to Saudi Arabia via quasi-sovereign issuers contributed positively, supported by robust cross-over demand. Conversely, our underweight positions in select local currency sovereign bonds — namely Mexico, Indonesia, and Malaysia — modestly detracted from performance.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Index performance is not indicative of fund performance. For current standardized performance of the Fund, please see the Fact Sheet, the Fund's website, or call 800-207-7108.

## **IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES**

Before investing you should carefully consider the Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. This and other information about the Fund is in the prospectus and summary prospectus, a copy of which may be obtained by calling 800-207-7108 or by visiting the Fund's website at <a href="www.libertystreetfunds.com">www.libertystreetfunds.com</a>. Please read the Fund's prospectus or summary prospectus carefully before investing.

An investment in the Fund is subject to risk, including the possible loss of principal amount invested and including, but not limited to, the following risks, which are more fully described in the prospectus: Market Risk: the market prince of a security my decline, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably, due to general market conditions that are not specifically related to a particular issuer, company, or asset class. Fixed income/interest rate: generally, fixed income securities decrease in value if interest rates rise, and increase in value if interest rates fall. Foreign investment: the prices of oreign securities may be more volatile than the prices of securities of U.S. issuers because of economic and social conditions abroad, political developments, changes in the regulatory environments of foreign countries, and changes in U.S. laws regarding such countries. Emerging Markets: many of the risks with respect to foreign investments are more pronounced for investments in issuers in developing or emerging market countries. Emerging market countries tend to have more government exchange controls, more volatile interest and currency exchange rates, less market regulation, and less developed and less stable economic, political and legal systems than those of more developed countries. High Yield ("Junk") bond: involve greater risk of default, downgrade, or price declines, can be more volatile and less liquid than investment-grade securities. Tredit: if an issuer or guarantor of a debt security held by the Fund or a counterparty to a financial contract with the Fund defaults or is downgraded or is perceived to be less creditivorthy, the value of the Fund's portfolio will typically decline. Convertible Securities: and subject to market and interest rate risk and credit risk. Contingent Convertible Securities: subject to the risk of a triggering event occurring which may result in the issuer converting the security to a nequity interest, canceling interest payments, or writing down the principal value of such securities

The JPM Emerging Market Bond Index Global Diversified (EMBI Global Diversified) is a uniquely weighted USD-denominated emerging markets sovereign index. It has a diversified allocation scheme which allows a more even distribution of weights among the countries in the index. The JPM Corporate Emerging Market Bond Index (CEMBI) Broad Diversified is a comprehensive USD-denominated corporate emerging markets bond index, with broad issuer coverage (including small and short-dated bonds) and a diversified weighting scheme. The GBI-EM Global Diversified Index is a widely used benchmark for emerging market local currency government bonds. It tracks a broad range of countries, excluding those with explicit capital controls, and is designed to be investable for international investors. The Standard and Poor's 500, or simply the S&P 500, is a stock market index tracking the stock performance of 500 leading companies listed on stock exchanges in the United States. One cannot invest directly in an index.

**U.S. Treasury yields** represent the interest rates at which the U.S. government borrows money by selling Treasury securities (like bonds, notes, and bills). **Basis Point** is one hundredth of 1 percentage point. **Spreads** are the difference between two related prices, rates, or yields, such as the bid-ask spread on a stock, the yield spread between two bonds, or the interest rate spread in a loan. **10s30s Curve** is the difference between the yield on the 30-year U.S. Treasury bond and the 10-year U.S. Treasury note. It is a segment of the overall U.S. Treasury yield curve, and its slope provides insight into long-term inflation, economic growth expectations, and investor risk appetite.

Bond ratings are grades given to bonds that indicate their credit quality as determined by private independent rating services such as Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch. These firms evaluate a bond issuer's financial strength, or its ability to pay a bond's principal and interest in a timely fashion. Ratings are expressed as letters ranging from `AAA', which is the highest grade, to 'D', which is the lowest grade.

The views expressed in this material reflect those of the Fund's Sub-Advisor as of the date this is written and may not reflect its views on the date this material is first published or anytime thereafter. These views are intended to assist in understanding the Fund's investment methodology and do not constitute investment advice. This material may contain discussions about investments that may or may not be held by the Fund. All current and future holdings are subject to risk and to change.

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