

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

## FORM DEFR14A

Definitive revised proxy soliciting materials

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### FILER

#### HSBC MUTUAL FUNDS TRUST

CIK: **861106** | State of Incorpor.: **MA** | Fiscal Year End: **1231**  
Type: **DEFR14A** | Act: **34** | File No.: **811-06057** | Film No.: **99575053**

Mailing Address  
3435 STELZER ROAD  
SUITE 1000  
COLUMBUS OH 43219-8001

Business Address  
3435 STELZER ROAD  
SUITE1000  
COLUMBUS OH 43219-8001  
6144708000

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a)  
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to (S)240.14a-11(c) or (S)240.14a-12

HSBC MUTUAL FUNDS TRUST  
(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.
  - 1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
  - 2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
  - 3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11:
  - 4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
  - 5) Total fee paid
- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
  - 1) Amount Previously Paid:
  - 2) Form, Schedule or Registration No.:
  - 3) Filing Party:
  - 4) Date Filed:

HSBC MUTUAL FUNDS TRUST  
3435 Stelzer Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43219

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To Be Held on May 10, 1999

To the Shareholders:

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of Shareholders of the HSBC Mutual Funds Trust (the "Trust"), and each series of the Trust, the Growth and Income Fund, Fixed Income Fund, International Equity Fund and the New York Tax-Free Bond Fund (each a "Fund" and collectively the "Funds") will be held at the offices of the Trust at 3435 Stelzer Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, on May 10, 1999, for the following purposes:

1. To ratify the election of four existing members of the Board of Trustees of the Trust and elect four new members to the Board of Trustees of the Trust to serve until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

2. To approve the existing Investment Advisory Agreement between the Trust and HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc., the Investment Adviser to the Funds.

3. To ratify the selection of Ernst & Young, LLP as independent accountants for the Trust for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1999.

4. To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds to permit each Fund to make loans, including loans of its portfolio securities if, as a result, the aggregate of such loans does not exceed 33 1/3% of the value of a Fund's total assets.

5. To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds to permit each Fund to: (i) borrow from banks, for any purpose, up to 33 1/3% of the current value of its total assets; (ii) pledge up to 33 1/3% of its total assets to secure such borrowings; and (iii) to eliminate any limits on purchasing securities when borrowings exist.

6. To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds, except the International Equity Fund, to remove the restriction on each Fund purchasing securities of any company with a record of less than three years' continuous operation if such purchase would cause the Fund's investments in all such companies taken at cost to exceed 5% of the total assets of the Fund.

7. To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds, except the International Equity Fund, to remove the restriction on each Fund investing in warrants in excess of 5% of the Fund's net assets, and to remove the restriction on the Funds investing in warrants which are listed on the New York or American Stock Exchanges in excess of 2% of the Fund's net assets.

8. To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds, except the International Equity Fund, to permit each Fund to purchase or retain securities of any company which the officers and trustees of the trust, and officers and directors of the adviser, who individually own more than 1/2 of 1% of the securities of that company, together own beneficially more than 5% of such company.

9. To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds to remove the restriction on each Fund participating on a joint, or a joint and several basis, in any securities trading account.

10. To approve a change in the investment policies of the Growth and Income Fund and the New York Tax-Free Bond Fund to permit each Fund to invest up to 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities.

11. To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds, except the International Equity Fund, to provide that each Fund, with

respect to 75% of its total assets (taken at market value), may not purchase a security if as a result (1) more than 5% of its total assets (taken at market value) would be

invested in the securities (including securities subject to repurchase agreements), of any one issuer, other than obligations which are issued or guaranteed by the United States Government, its agencies or instrumentalities or (2) the Fund would own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer.

12. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting, or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Trustees of the Funds has fixed the close of business on March 24, 1999 as the record date for the determination of Shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

By Order of the Board of Trustees

Alaina V. Metz  
Assistant Secretary

March 29, 1999

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE MEETING, SHAREHOLDERS ARE REQUESTED TO COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THE PROXY CARD IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.

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HSBC MUTUAL FUNDS TRUST  
3435 Stelzer Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43219

SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

May 10, 1999

PROXY STATEMENT

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Trustees of the HSBC Mutual Funds Trust (the "Trust") to be voted at a Special Meeting of the Shareholders of the Trust ("Shareholders") to be held on May 10, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time at the offices of the Trust at 3435 Stelzer Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219, and at any adjournments thereof (collectively, the "Meeting"). A Notice of Special Meeting of Shareholders and proxy card accompany this Proxy Statement. This Proxy Statement is being mailed to the Shareholders of each series of the Trust, the Growth and Income Fund, Fixed Income Fund, International Equity Fund and the New York Tax-Free Bond Fund (each a "Fund" and collectively the "Funds") on or about March 29, 1999.

At the Meeting, Shareholders of all the Funds will be asked to consider and vote upon the following proposals affecting the management and administration of the Trust:

1. To ratify the election of four existing members of the Board of Trustees of the Trust and elect four new members to the Board of Trustees of the Trust to serve until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

2. To approve the existing Investment Advisory Agreement between the Trust and HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc., the Investment Adviser to the Funds.

3. To ratify the selection of Ernst & Young, LLP as independent accountants for the Trust for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1999.

Proposals 4 through 11 relate to amending and updating certain fundamental investment policies of certain of the Funds. Pursuant to the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, (the "1940 Act") approval of a change to a Fund's fundamental investment policy requires Shareholder approval. The specifics of Proposals 4 through 11 are as follows:

4. To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds to permit each Fund to make loans, including loans of its portfolio securities if, as a result, the aggregate of such loans does not exceed 33 1/3% of the value of a Fund's total assets.

5. To approve a change in the investment policies of all the Funds to permit each Fund to: (i) borrow from banks, for any purpose, up to 33 1/3% of the current value of its total assets; (ii) pledge up to 33 1/3% of its total assets to secure such borrowings; and (iii) to eliminate any limits on purchasing securities when borrowings exist.

6. To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds, except the International Equity Fund, to remove the restriction on each Fund purchasing securities of any company with a record of less than three years' continuous operation if such purchase would cause the Fund's investments in all such companies taken at cost to exceed 5% of the total assets of the Fund.

7. To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds, except the International Equity Fund, to remove the restriction on each Fund investing in warrants in excess of 5% of the Fund's net assets, and to remove the restriction on the Funds investing in warrants which are listed on the New York or American Stock Exchanges in excess of 2% of the Fund's net assets.

8. To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds, except the International Equity Fund, to permit each Fund to purchase or retain securities of any company which the officers and trustees of the trust, and officers and directors of the adviser, who individually own more than 1/2 of 1% of the securities of that company, together own beneficially more than 5% of such company.

9. To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds to remove the restriction on the Funds participating on a joint, or a joint and several basis, in any securities trading account.

10. To approve a change in the investment policies of the Growth and Income Fund and the New York Tax-Free Bond Fund to permit each Fund to invest up to 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities.

11. To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds, except the International Equity Fund, to provide that each Fund, with respect to 75% of its total assets (taken at market value), may not purchase a security if as a result (1) more than 5% of its total assets (taken at market value) would be invested in the securities (including securities subject to repurchase agreements), of any one issuer, other than obligations which are issued or guaranteed by the United States Government, its agencies or instrumentalities or (2) the Fund would own more than 10%

of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer.

12. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting, or any adjournment thereof.

Proxy solicitations will be made, beginning on or about March 29, 1999, primarily by mail, but proxy solicitations also may be made by telephone, facsimile via the internet or through personal interviews conducted by officers and employees of the Funds as well as by BISYS Fund Services ("BISYS"). BISYS acts as the distributor, administrator and transfer agent of the Funds. BISYS is located at 3435 Stelzer Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219. The costs of proxy solicitation and expenses incurred in connection with the preparation of this Proxy Statement and its enclosures will be paid by the Funds.

The Trust's Annual Report to Shareholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1998, containing audited financial statements, may be obtained, without charge, by calling 1-800-634-2536 or mailing your request to: HSBC Mutual Funds Trust, c/o BISYS Fund Services, 3435 Stelzer Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219.

Outstanding Shares

Except for the International Fund, each Fund offers only one class of shares. The International Fund has two classes of shares, a Service Class and an Institutional Class. The following table sets forth the net assets and approximate number of shares issued and outstanding for each class of each Fund as of the close of business on March 24, 1999, the record date.

<TABLE>

<CAPTION>

Fund	Outstanding Shares
----	-----
<S>	<C>
Growth and Income Fund	7,780,548.14
Fixed Income Fund	5,221,635.02
New York Tax-Free Bond Fund	2,869,411.18
International Equity Fund	
Institutional Class	5,606,574.90
Service Class	20,054.54

</TABLE>

Each class of shares has an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest in the Fund (the "Shares"), each Share having a par value of \$.001. Each Share outstanding on the record date is entitled to one vote on all matters submitted to Shareholders at the Meeting, with pro rata voting rights for any fractional shares.

The Funds' trustees and officers beneficially own (individually and as a group) less than 1% of the outstanding shares of each class of each Fund as of March 10, 1999.

5% Owners

The following table shows each party known to the Trust to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of any class of the Trust's voting securities as of March 24, 1999, the record date.

<TABLE>

<CAPTION>

Title of Fund -----	Name and Address -----	Total Shares	Percent of Class Owned -----
<S> Growth and Income Fund	<C> Marine Midland Bank One Marine Midland Center Buffalo, NY 14240	<C> 7,202,277.44	<C> 92.57%
Fixed Income Fund	Marine Midland Bank One Marine Midland Center Buffalo, NY 14240	5,080,700.95	97.30%
New York Tax-Free Bond Fund	Marine Midland Bank One Marine Midland Center Buffalo, NY 14240	679,033.90	23.66%
International Equity Fund Institutional Class	Marine Midland Bank One Marine Midland Center Buffalo, NY 14240	5,604,756.03	99.97%
International Equity Fund Service Class	Donaldson Lufkin Jenrette Securities Corporation Inc. P.O. Box 2052 Jersey City NJ	1,264.10	6.30%
International Equity Fund Service Class	Donaldson Lufkin Jenrette Securities Corporation Inc. P.O. Box 2052 Jersey City NJ	1,187.76	5.92%
International Equity Fund Service Class	Paul M. Dudney Tophill Crosskeys Seven Oaks Kent, England 205 TN13	4,772.97	23.80%

</TABLE>

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#### Voting

The following table summarizes each proposal to be presented at the Meeting and the Funds solicited with respect to such proposal:

<TABLE>  
<CAPTION>

Proposal -----	Affected Funds -----
<S>	<C>
1. Ratify the election of four existing members and elect four new members of the Board of Trustees.	All Funds
2. Approve the existing Investment Advisory Agreement.	All Funds
3. Ratify selection of independent accountants.	All Funds
4. Change the Funds' investment policies regarding their ability to make loans.	All Funds
5. Change the Funds' investment policies regarding borrowing and pledging up to 33 1/3% of their net assets and making purchases when borrowing exists.	All Funds

6. Change the Funds' investment policies regarding purchasing securities of a company with less than three years' continuous operation.	All Funds except International Equity Fund
7. Change the Funds' investment policies regarding purchasing warrants.	All Funds except International Equity Fund
8. Change the Funds' investment policies regarding purchasing securities of a company which the officers and trustees of the trust and officers and of the adviser own, in the aggregate, 5% of the company.	All Funds except International Equity Fund
9. Change the Funds' investment policies regarding their ability to participate on a joint basis in any securities trading account.	All Funds
10. Change the Funds' investment policies regarding investments in illiquid securities.	Growth and Income Fund New York Tax-Free Bond Fund
11. Change the Funds' investment policies regarding concentration in a single issuer.	All Funds except International Equity Fund

</TABLE>

The record date for determining Shareholders entitled to vote at the meeting is March 24, 1999.

Proposals 1 and 3 require the affirmative vote of a plurality of all outstanding Shares of the Trust represented in person or by proxy and entitled to vote. Proposals 2 and 4 through 11 require a vote of the "majority of the outstanding voting securities," which is defined in the 1940 Act as the affirmative vote of the lesser of (i) 67% or more of the voting shares of the Fund entitled to vote thereon present in person or represented by proxy, or (ii) more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund entitled to vote thereon. Any Shareholder giving a proxy has the power to revoke it prior to its exercise by submission of a later dated proxy, by voting in person or by letter to the Secretary of the Fund.

The Shareholders of all of the series of the Trust will vote together as a single class on Proposals 1 and 3. All Shares of each Fund will vote together as a single class on Proposals 2 and 4 through 11. An unfavorable vote on a proposal by the shareholders of one Fund will not affect the implementation of such a proposal by another Fund, if the proposal is approved by the shareholders of the other Fund. There is no cumulative voting with respect to the election of Trustees.

Shares represented by proxies that reflect abstentions and "broker non-votes" (i.e., Shares held by brokers or nominees as to which (i) instructions have not been received from the beneficial owners or the persons entitled

to vote and (ii) the broker or nominee does not have the discretionary voting power on a particular matter) will be counted as Shares that are present and entitled to vote on the matter for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. Votes cast by proxy or in person at the Meeting will be counted by persons appointed as tellers for the Meeting. The tellers will count the total number of votes cast "for" approval of the proposal or proposals for purposes of determining whether sufficient affirmative votes have been cast.



Abstentions and broker non-votes have the effect of a negative vote with respect to Proposals 2 and 4 through 11, but have no effect with respect to Proposals 1 and 3.

In the event that a quorum is not present at the Meeting or in the event that a quorum is present but sufficient votes to approve any of the proposals are not received, the persons named as proxies may propose one or more adjournments of the Meeting to permit further solicitation of proxies. Any such adjournment will require the affirmative vote of a majority of those Shares represented at the Meeting in person or by proxy. The persons named as proxies will vote those proxies which they are entitled to vote FOR any such proposal in favor of such an adjournment and will vote those proxies required to be voted AGAINST any such proposal against any such adjournment. A Shareholder vote may be taken on one of the proposals in this Proxy Statement prior to any such adjournment if sufficient votes have been received for approval. Under the by-laws of the Funds, a quorum is constituted by the presence in person or by proxy of the holders of a majority of the outstanding Shares of the Fund entitled to vote at the Special Meeting.

PROPOSAL 1. (All Funds)

To ratify the election of four existing members of the Board of Trustees of the Trust and elect four new members to the Board of Trustees of the Trust to serve until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

The first proposal to be considered at the Meeting is the ratification of four existing members of the Board of Trustees and the election of four new members to the Board of Trustees. Although not required to do so by the 1940 Act, the Trustees are asking that Shareholders ratify the election of each of the four existing Trustees. Messrs. Frankl, Pfann and Robinson were last approved by a vote of the Shareholders of the Trust on January 22, 1990. Mr. Paumgarten is being presented to Shareholders for their approval for the first time, although he has served on the Board since January 26, 1996.

Messrs. Hass, Loos, Maloney and Meditz were approved by the Board of Trustees on January 26, 1999 and will become Trustees upon Shareholder approval. The Trustees are to be elected to hold office until their successors are duly elected and qualified. All Shares represented by valid proxies will be voted in the election of Trustees for each nominee named below, unless authority to vote for a particular nominee is withheld. All of the nominees have consented to serve as Trustees of the Trust, if elected.

The following table sets forth the names, addresses, ages, principal occupations and other information regarding the Trustee nominees.

<TABLE>

<CAPTION>

Name and Age	Current Position With Trust	Principal Occupation For Past 5 Years
-----	-----	-----
<S> Wolfe J. Frankl, Age 78	<C> Trustee since 1989.	<C> Trustee, The Excelsior Funds; Director Deutsche Bank Financial, Inc.; Director, The Harbus Corporation; Trustee, HSBC Funds Trust.
Jeffrey J. Hass, Age 37	None	1996-present: Associate

Richard J. Loos, Age 65	Vice Chairman Emeritus since May 5, 1998.	Professor of Law, New York Law School; 1995-1996: Partner, Hass & Hass; 1993-1995: Associate, Latham & Watkins. 1995-1996: President, Aspen Capital Management; 1972-1994: Managing Director, HSBC Asset Management Americas, Inc.
Clifton H.W. Maloney, Age 61	None	1981-present: President, C.H.W. Maloney & Co., Inc.
John C. Meditz, Age 50	None	1994-present: Portfolio Manager/Vice Chairman, Horizon Asset Management; 1978-1994: Portfolio Manager/Vice President, Bankers Trust Company.
Harald Paumgarten, Age 60	Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Trustee since 1996.	1997-present: Managing Director, Adirondack Capital; 1991-present: President, Paumgarten and Company.
John P. Pfann, Age 69	Trustee since 1989.	1982-1995: Chairman and President, JPP Equities, Inc.; Trustee, HSBC Funds Trust.
Robert A. Robinson, Age 73	Trustee since 1989.	1984-present: Trustee, The Henrietta E. and Frederick H. Bugher Foundation; 1987-present: Director, Excelsior Funds, Inc., Excelsior Tax-Exempt Funds, Inc., and Excelsior Institutional Funds, Inc. (since 1996); 1995-present: Director, Infinity Mutual Funds, Inc.; 1980-present: Trustee, HSBC Mutual Funds Trust.

</TABLE>

The table on page 18 shows the compensation paid to the Trustees for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1998.

Required Vote and Recommendation

The election of the nominees to the Board of Trustees of the Trusts requires the affirmative vote of a plurality of all the Shares of such Trust present at the Meeting either in person or by proxy. The Shareholders of all of the series of the Trust will vote together as a single class to ratify and elect the Trustees. In the event a Trustee is not approved, the Board will consider alternatives consistent with the 1940 Act. It is the intention of the persons named in the enclosed proxy to vote the Shares represented by them for the election of each nominee listed above unless the proxy is marked otherwise.

THE TRUSTEES HAVE APPROVED PROPOSAL 1 AND RECOMMEND THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE TO APPROVE PROPOSAL 1.

PROPOSAL 2. (All Funds)

To approve the existing Investment Advisory Agreement between the Trust and HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc., the Investment Adviser to the Funds.

At the Meeting, Shareholders will be asked to approve the existing investment advisory agreement ("Advisory Agreement") between the Trust and HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc. (the "Adviser"). The Adviser has provided investment advisory services to the Trust since the Trust's commencement of operations on November 1, 1989. The Advisory Agreement was initially a two-year agreement and annual continuances have been approved every year since by the Trustees. Although not required to do so by the 1940 Act, the Trustees are requesting that Shareholders approve the Advisory Agreement which was last submitted to Shareholders for approval on January 22, 1990.

#### Trustees' Evaluation

At a meeting on January 26, 1999, the Trustees considered information with respect to whether the Advisory Agreement with the Adviser is in the best interests of the Trust and the Shareholders. The Board considered, as they have in the past, the nature and quality of services expected to be provided by the Adviser and information regarding fees, expense ratios and performance. In evaluating the Adviser's ability to provide services to the Trust, the Trustees considered information as to the Adviser's business organization, financial resources and personnel and other matters. Based upon its review, the Trustees unanimously concluded that the Advisory Agreement with the Adviser is reasonable, fair and in the best interests of the Trust and the Shareholders, and that the fees provided in the Advisory Agreement are fair and reasonable in light of the usual and customary charges made by others for services of similar nature and quality.

#### Adviser

The Adviser is the North American investment affiliate of HSBC Holdings plc (Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation) and Marine Midland Bank. HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc. is located at 140 Broadway, New York, New York 10005. HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc. is 100% owned by HSBC Investment Bank Holdings B.V. which is 100% owned by HSBC Holdings B.V. which is 100% owned by HSBC Finance (Netherlands) Ltd. which is ultimately owned by HSBC Holdings plc. HSBC Holdings plc is located at 10 Lower Thames, London, England EC3R 6AE. The Adviser currently manages over \$3.3 billion of assets of individuals, pension plans, corporations and institutions.

The Adviser has retained Delaware International, 80 Cheapside, Third Floor, London, England EC2V 6EE to serve as the investment sub-adviser to the International Equity Fund.

#### Advisory Agreement

The current Advisory Agreement between the Adviser and the Trust was first executed on May 1, 1990. The Advisory Agreement was initially a two-year agreement and annual continuances have been approved by the Board of Trustees of the Trust. As required by the 1940 Act, the Advisory Agreement is terminable without penalty on 60 days written notice by the Board of Trustees or by vote of the majority of shareholders of the Funds. The Advisory Agreement is attached to this Proxy Statement as Exhibit I, and the description of the Advisory Agreement set forth in this Proxy Statement is qualified in its entirety by reference to Exhibit I.

The Adviser, in return for its fees, and subject to the control and supervision of the Board of Trustees and in conformance with the investment objective and policies of the Funds set forth in the Trust's current registration statement and any other policies established by the Board of Trustees, manages the investment and reinvestment of assets of the Funds. In

this regard, it is the responsibility of the Adviser to make investment decisions for the Funds and to place the Funds' purchase and sale orders for investment securities. In addition to making investment decisions, the Adviser exercises voting rights in respect of portfolio securities for the Funds. The Adviser provides at its expense all necessary investment, management and administrative facilities, including salaries of personnel and equipment needed to carry out their duties under the Advisory Agreement. The Adviser also provides the Funds with investment research and whatever statistical information the Funds may reasonably request with respect to securities the Funds hold or contemplate purchasing.

#### Advisory Fees

Under the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser earns a monthly fee based upon the average daily value of the net assets of each of the Funds in the Trust during the preceding month, at the following annual rates:

For the International Equity Fund, the Adviser is paid a monthly advisory fee at an annual rate of 0.90% of the Fund's average daily net assets.

#### Growth and Income and Fixed Income Funds

<TABLE>

<CAPTION>

Portion of Average Daily Value of Net Assets of  
the Growth and Income Fund and Fixed Income Fund

Advisory Fee

<S>

Not exceeding \$400 million	0.550%
In excess of \$400 million but not exceeding \$800 million	0.505%
In excess of \$800 million but not exceeding \$1.2 billion	0.460%
In excess of \$1.2 billion but not exceeding \$1.6 billion	0.415%
In excess of \$1.6 billion but not exceeding \$2 billion	0.370%
In excess of \$2 billion	0.315%

</TABLE>

#### New York Tax-Free Bond Fund

<TABLE>

<CAPTION>

Portion of Average Daily Value of Net Assets  
of the New York Tax-Free Bond Fund

Advisory Fee

<S>

Not exceeding \$300 million	0.450%
In excess of \$300 million but not exceeding \$600 million	0.420%
In excess of \$600 million but not exceeding \$1 billion	0.385%
In excess of \$1 billion but not exceeding \$1.5 billion	0.350%
In excess of \$1.5 billion but not exceeding \$2 billion	0.315%
In excess of \$2 billion	0.280%

</TABLE>

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 1998, pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser earned \$88,170 from the Fixed Income Fund, \$518,499 from the Growth and Income Fund and \$309,890 from the New York Tax-Free Bond Fund in investment advisory fees. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 1998, pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser earned \$336,751 in investment advisory fees from the International Equity Fund, net of voluntary fee waivers of \$336,751.

During the year ended December 31, 1998, no commissions were paid to brokers affiliated with HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.

## Adviser's Principal Executive Officers and Directors

The name, address and principal occupation of the Adviser's principal executive officers and each director or general partner is set forth below.

&lt;TABLE&gt;

&lt;CAPTION&gt;

Name -----	Current Position -----	Principal Occupation -----
<C> Paul Guidone	<C> Chairman of the Board	<S> Group Chief, Executive Officer HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.
Frederic Lutcher	Director	Co-President, Co-Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.
Nigel Wood	Director	Co-President, Co-Chief Executive Officer and Treasurer of HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.
Susie Babani	Director	Global Head of Human Resources HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.
Ed Merkle	Director	Managing Director--Fixed Income of HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.
Jonathan Reynolds	Director	Investment Officer of Marine Midland Bank
Simon Moules	Director	Investment Officer of Marine Midland Bank
Joseph DeMarco	Managing Director--U.S. Equity Trading	Managing Director--U.S. Equity Trading of HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.
Stella Yiu	Managing Director--Head of Global Emerging Markets	Managing Director--Head of Global Emerging Markets of HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.
Joseph DiBartolo	Corporate Secretary--Local Compliance Officer	Corporate Secretary--Local Compliance Officer of HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.
Andrea Shaw Resnick	Vice President	Vice President, HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.
Thomas D'Auria	Vice President	Vice President, HSBC Asset

Management Americas Inc.

Thomas Lanza Vice President

Vice President, HSBC Asset  
Management Americas Inc.

Petra Kettler-Rein Vice President

Vice President, HSBC Asset  
Management Americas Inc.

</TABLE>

The address for the principal executive officers and directors of the  
Adviser is:

HSBC Asset Management Americas, Inc.  
140 Broadway  
New York, NY 10005

No officers or directors of the Adviser are also a director, officer or  
general partner of the Trust.

#### Required Vote and Recommendation

As provided in the 1940 Act, approval of the Funds' Advisory Agreement  
requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding voting  
securities of the Fund. Abstentions have the effect of a negative vote on this  
Proposal. In the event the Advisory Agreement is not approved, the Board will  
consider its alternatives consistent with the 1940 Act.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS APPROVED PROPOSAL 2 AND RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS  
VOTE TO APPROVE PROPOSAL 2.

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#### PROPOSAL 3. (All Funds)

To ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as independent accountants for  
the Trust for the fiscal year ending May 31, 1999.

Ernst & Young LLP has been selected by a unanimous vote of the Board of  
Trustees, including a majority of the independent trustees, as the independent  
accountants to audit the accounts of the Trust and each Fund for and during  
the fiscal year ending December 31, 1999. The ratification of the selection of  
the accountants is to be voted on at the Meeting.

Ernst & Young LLP currently serves as independent accountant to the Trust.  
Ernst & Young LLP has no material direct or indirect financial interest in the  
Trust or Adviser.

#### Required Vote and Recommendation

The ratification of the independent accountants requires the affirmative  
vote of a plurality of all the Shares of the Trust present at the Meeting  
either in person or by proxy. The Shareholders of all of the series of the  
Trust will vote together as a single class to ratify the accountants. It is  
the intention of the persons named in the enclosed proxy to vote the Shares  
represented by them for the ratification of the accountants.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS APPROVED PROPOSAL 3 AND RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS  
VOTE TO APPROVE PROPOSAL 3.

PROPOSALS 4 THROUGH 11: APPROVAL OF CHANGES  
TO THE FUNDS' INVESTMENT POLICIES

Proposals 4 through 11 relate to certain changes to the fundamental policies of the Funds. The Board of Trustees approved these changes in order to update the Funds' investment policies to reflect changes in the law and other regulatory developments and provide the Funds with flexibility to adapt to developments in the securities markets. The Board of Trustees has approved each of Proposals 4 through 11. The changes to the Funds' fundamental investment policies will become effective immediately upon Shareholder approval. If a Proposal is not approved by a vote of the Shareholders, the current policy as applied to the Fund will remain unchanged.

#### PROPOSAL 4. (All Funds)

To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds, to permit each Fund to make loans, including loans of its portfolio securities if, as a result, the aggregate of such loans does not exceed 33 1/3% of the value of its total assets.

At the Meeting, Shareholders of all of the Funds will vote on changing each Fund's investment policy to permit each Fund to make loans, including loans of its portfolio securities if, as a result, the aggregate of such loans does not exceed 33 1/3% of the value of its total assets. Currently, each Fund in the Trust is permitted to lend its portfolio securities, but not make other loans. Currently the Fixed Income Fund may not loan more than 10% of the value of its total assets.

This Proposal will permit the Funds to make other loans in addition to lending portfolio securities. While currently it is not expected that the Funds will engage in such activity to a significant extent, this change in investment policy will provide the Funds increased flexibility.

The primary purpose of this Proposal is to provide the Funds more flexibility in their investment strategies and decisions as they strive to meet their investment objectives. This Proposal will bring the Funds' policies in line with the limits allowed by federal and state law, thereby providing the Funds with maximum flexibility. This flexibility may provide more opportunities to enhance the Funds' performance, with the corresponding risks which accompany making loans, including loans of portfolio securities.

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Prior to making loans other than loans of portfolio securities, the Board of Trustees will adopt procedures to identify, monitor and control the risks which would be involved with such lending activities. Specifically, the credit risk of all counterparties would be evaluated prior to entering into transactions in an effort to minimize the risk of counterparty default.

This change in investment policy is not expected to materially affect, in the foreseeable future, the manner in which the Funds are managed, the investment performance of the Funds, or the instruments in which they invest.

#### Required Vote and Recommendation

As provided in the 1940 Act, approval of a change to a Fund's fundamental investment policies requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. Abstentions have the effect of a negative vote on this Proposal. If the Shareholders of a Fund fail to approve this Proposal, the current investment policy will be retained for that Fund.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS APPROVED PROPOSAL 4 AND RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE TO APPROVE PROPOSAL 4.

PROPOSAL 5. (All Funds)

To approve a change in the investment policies of all the Funds to permit each Fund to: (i) borrow from banks, for any purpose, up to 33 1/3% of the current value of its total assets; (ii) pledge up to 33 1/3% of its total assets to secure such borrowings; and (iii) to eliminate any limits on purchasing securities when borrowings exist.

At the Meeting, the Shareholders of each of the Funds will vote on approving a change in the investment policies of the Funds regarding borrowing.

Currently each Fund is restricted from borrowing money, except that each Fund may borrow from banks as a temporary measure for emergency purposes or to meet redemptions where such borrowings would not exceed 5% of the total assets (including amount borrowed) taken at market value (the Fixed Income Fund and New York Tax-Free Bond Fund may borrow up to 10% in order to meet redemptions only). This Proposal will permit each Fund to borrow up to 33 1/3% of total assets, and will allow each Fund to borrow for purposes other than for emergency purposes or to meet redemptions.

Currently each Fund may pledge only 10% of the current value of its total net assets to secure borrowings (the International Fund and the Growth and Income Fund are limited to 5%). This Proposal will permit each Fund to pledge up to 33 1/3% of its total assets to secure borrowings up to 33 1/3% of its total assets.

Currently each Fund is restricted from purchasing any investments if borrowings exceed 5% of the Fund's net assets. This Proposal will eliminate this restriction and will permit each Fund to purchase investments even when the Fund's borrowings exceed 5% of the Fund's net assets.

The primary purpose of this Proposal is to update each Fund's limitation on borrowing to provide the Funds with more flexibility. The Proposal allows each Fund to borrow up to the legal limit, whereas the current policy significantly restricts the Funds' borrowing abilities. As amended, the limitation will afford each Fund increased flexibility in making investment decisions, and may enable the Funds to take advantage of changing market conditions. Under positions established by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") staff, investment strategies which obligate a Fund to purchase securities at a future date or otherwise require that a Fund segregate assets, may be considered to be "borrowings." However, by segregating assets equal to the amount of such "borrowings" as required by Section 18 of the 1940 Act, these investment strategies will not result in the issuance of "senior securities" by the Fund.

Borrowing will involve the use of "leverage" when cash made available to a Fund through the borrowing is used to make additional portfolio investments. Use of leverage involves special risks and may involve speculative investment techniques. The Funds will use leverage only when the Adviser to the Funds believes that the leveraging and the returns available to a Fund from investing the cash will provide shareholders a potentially higher return.

Leverage exists when a Fund achieves the right to a return on a capital base that exceeds the investment the Fund has invested. Leverage creates the risk of magnified capital losses which occur when losses affect an asset base, enlarged by borrowings or the creation of liabilities, that exceeds the equity base of the Fund.

The risks of leverage include a higher volatility of the net asset value of



a Fund's shares and the relatively greater effect on the net asset value of the shares caused by favorable or adverse market movements or changes in the cost of cash obtained by leveraging and the yield obtained from investing the cash. So long as a Fund is able to realize a net return on its investment portfolio that is higher than interest expense incurred, if any, leverage will result in a higher current net investment income being realized by such Fund than if the Fund were not leveraged. On the other hand, interest rates change from time to time as does their relationship to each other depending upon such factors as supply and demand, monetary and tax policies and investor expectations. Changes in such factors could cause the relationship between the cost of leveraging and the yield to change so that rates involved in the leveraging arrangement may substantially increase relative to the yield on the obligations in which the proceeds of the leveraging have been invested. To the extent that the interest expense involved in leveraging approaches the net return on a Fund's investment portfolio, the benefit of leveraging will be reduced, and, if the interest expense on borrowings were to exceed the net return to shareholders, such Fund's use of leverage would result in a lower rate of return than if the Fund were not leveraged. Similarly, the effect of leverage in a declining market could be a greater decrease in net asset value per share than if a Fund were not leveraged. In an extreme case, if a Fund's current investment income were not sufficient to meet the interest expense of leveraging, it could be necessary for such Fund to liquidate certain of its investments at an inappropriate time. The use of leverage may be considered speculative.

Changing this policy will provide increased investment flexibility and may provide opportunities to enhance the Funds' performance, with the corresponding risk which accompanies increased borrowing. While changing the investment policy will permit each Fund to borrow up to 33 1/3% of its assets, the Adviser will exercise care, consistent with each Fund's investment objective and policies, before entering into any borrowing arrangements.

This change in investment policy is not expected to materially affect, in the foreseeable future, the manner in which the Funds are managed, the investment performance of the Funds, or the instruments in which they invest.

#### Required Vote and Recommendation

As provided in the 1940 Act, approval of a change to a Fund's fundamental investment policies requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. Abstentions have the effect of a negative vote on this Proposal. If the Shareholders of a Fund fail to approve this Proposal, the current investment policy will be retained for that Fund.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS APPROVED PROPOSAL 5 AND RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE TO APPROVE PROPOSAL 5.

#### PROPOSAL 6. (Growth and Income, Fixed Income and New York Tax-Free Bond Funds)

To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds, except the International Equity Fund, which does not have such policy, to remove the restriction on each Fund purchasing securities of any company with a record of less than three years' continuous operation if such purchase would cause the Fund's investments in all such companies taken at cost to exceed 5% of such Fund's the total assets taken at market value.

At the Meeting, Shareholders will be asked to vote to remove the Funds' fundamental investment policy regarding investments in securities of issuers which have been in operation for less than three years to 5% of its total assets. The current policy prohibits each Fund, except the International Equity Fund, from purchasing the securities of any company with a record of less than three years' continuous operation if such purchase would cause the

Fund's investments in all such companies taken at cost to exceed 5% of such Fund's total assets taken at market value.

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If this Proposal is adopted, this fundamental investment policy would be eliminated from the Funds' investment policies and each Fund will be permitted to invest more than 5% of its total assets in the securities of issuers which at the time of purchase had been in operation for less than three years.

The primary purpose of this Proposal is to update the Funds' investment policies in light of recent changes in the law. The Funds' fundamental policies were originally adopted to be consistent with state securities ("blue sky") regulations, which placed limits on the amounts of certain types of securities that a mutual fund could purchase. Recent federal legislation eliminated state regulatory requirements including the requirement embodied in these investment policies.

If the Proposal is approved, each Fund will be able to invest more than 5% of its total assets in newly formed or "unseasoned" issuers. Eliminating this fundamental policy will conform the Funds' investment policies to the requirements of current federal law. In addition, eliminating this policy will provide increased investment flexibility and may provide opportunities to enhance each Fund's performance, with the corresponding risk which accompanies investing in unseasoned issuers. While removal of the investment policy will permit the Funds to invest an unlimited amount of their respective assets in newly formed or "unseasoned companies," the Adviser will exercise care, consistent with each Fund's investment objectives and policies, in investing any of a Fund's assets in such securities.

Elimination of this fundamental policy is not expected to affect, in the foreseeable future, the manner in which the Funds are managed, the investment performance of the Fund, or the instruments in which they invest.

#### Required Vote and Recommendation

As provided in the 1940 Act, approval of a change to a Fund's fundamental investment policies requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. Abstentions have the effect of a negative vote on this Proposal. If the Shareholders of a Fund fail to approve this Proposal, the current investment policy will be retained for that Fund.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS APPROVED PROPOSAL 6 AND RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE TO APPROVE PROPOSAL 6.

#### PROPOSAL 7. (Growth and Income, Fixed Income and New York Tax-Free Bond Funds)

To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds, except the International Equity Fund, which does not have such policy, to remove the restriction on each Fund investing in warrants in excess of 5% of the Fund's net assets, and to remove the restriction on the Fund investing in warrants which are listed on the New York or American Stock Exchanges in excess of 2% of the Fund's net assets.

At the Meeting, Shareholders of all of the Funds, except the International Equity Fund, will vote on removing each Fund's fundamental investment policy which requires the Fund to limit its investments in warrants to 5% of the Fund's total assets, provided that within that amount, investments in warrants which are listed on the New York or American Stock Exchanges shall not exceed 2% of net assets. The current policy prohibits each Fund, except the International Equity Fund, from investing in warrants if, as a result more

than 5% of the Fund's net assets will be invested in warrants or if as a result more than 2% of the Fund's net assets will be invested in warrants listed on the New York or American Stock Exchanges.

Subject to Shareholder approval, this fundamental investment policy would be eliminated from the investment policies of the Funds.

The primary purpose of this Proposal is to update the Funds' investment policies in light of recent changes in the law. Each Fund's fundamental policy was originally adopted to be consistent with state securities ("blue sky") regulations, which placed limits on the amounts of certain types of securities that a mutual fund could purchase. Recent federal legislation eliminated state regulatory requirements including the requirement embodied in these investment policies. If the Proposal is approved, each Fund will be able to invest more than 5% of its

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total assets in warrants and will be able to invest more than 2% of its total assets in warrants listed on the New York or American Stock Exchange. Eliminating this fundamental policy will conform each Fund's investment policies to the requirements of current federal law. In addition, eliminating this policy will provide increased investment flexibility and may provide opportunities to enhance each Fund's performance, with the corresponding risks which accompany investments in warrants. While removal of the investment policy will permit each Fund to invest an unlimited amount of its assets in warrants, it is not anticipated that the level of assets currently invested in warrants will significantly increase.

Elimination of this fundamental policy is not expected to affect, in the foreseeable future, the manner in which the Funds are managed, the investment performance of the Funds, or the instruments in which they invest.

#### Required Vote and Recommendation

As provided in the 1940 Act, approval of a change to a Fund's fundamental investment policies requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. Abstentions have the effect of a negative vote on this Proposal. If the Shareholders of a Fund fail to approve this Proposal, the current investment policy will be retained for that Fund.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS APPROVED PROPOSAL 7 AND RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE TO APPROVE PROPOSAL 7.

#### PROPOSAL 8. (Growth and Income, Fixed Income and New York Tax-Free Bond Funds)

To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds, except the International Equity Fund, which does not have such policy, to permit each Fund to purchase or retain securities of any company which the Officers and Trustees of the Trust, and Officers and Directors of the Adviser, who individually own more than 1/2 of 1% of the securities of that company, together own beneficially more than 5% of such company.

At the Meeting, Shareholders of the Funds will vote on removing each Fund's fundamental investment policy regarding the Funds purchasing or retaining securities of issuers which the Officers and Trustees of the Trust, and the Officers and Directors of the Adviser, who individually own more than 1/2 of 1% of the securities of that company, together own beneficially more than 5% of such company. The current policy prohibits each Fund from purchasing or retaining the securities of any company if, to the knowledge of the Fund, Officers and Trustees of the Trust and Officers and Directors of the Adviser

who individually own more than 1/2 of 1% of the securities of that company together own beneficially more than 5% of such company.

Subject to Shareholder approval, this fundamental investment policy would be eliminated from the investment policies of the Funds.

The primary purpose of this Proposal is to update the Funds' investment policies in light of recent changes in the law. The Funds' fundamental policy was originally adopted to be consistent with state securities ("blue sky") regulations, which placed limits on the amounts of certain types of securities that a mutual fund could purchase. Recent federal legislation eliminated state regulatory requirements including the requirement embodied in these investment policies.

This proposal will eliminate the Funds' policy of avoiding investments in securities issued by companies whose securities are owned in certain amounts by the Officers and Trustees of the Trust and the Officers and Directors of the Adviser. Preventing conflicts of interest in fund management is a critically important objective. However, Fund management believes that the Funds' Code of Ethics is sufficient to accomplish this objective. The Funds maintain a Code of Ethics which has been adopted in accordance with SEC rules, to restrict the private investment activities of the Officers and Trustees of the Trust and the Officers and Directors of the Adviser. This Code of Ethics supplements Fund management's separate fiduciary obligation to act with the Funds' best interests at heart. It places the burden of avoiding potential conflicts by restricting the ability of the individuals in those key positions of Officer, Trustee or Director to purchase securities the Funds are invested in.

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Eliminating this fundamental policy will conform the Funds' investment policies to the requirements of current federal law. In addition, eliminating this policy will provide increased investment flexibility and may provide opportunities to enhance the Funds' performance. While removal of this investment restriction will allow each Fund to purchase securities of a company which the Trustees and Officers of the Trust and the Officers and Directors of the Adviser who individually own more than 1/2 of 1% together have ownership exceeding 5% of the company, the Adviser will exercise care, consistent with each Fund's investment objectives and policies, in investing any of a Fund's assets in such securities.

Elimination of this fundamental policy is not expected to affect, in the foreseeable future, the manner in which the Funds are managed, the investment performance of the Funds, or the instruments in which they invest.

#### Required Vote and Recommendation

As provided in the 1940 Act, approval of a change to a Fund's fundamental investment policies requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. Abstentions have the effect of a negative vote on this Proposal. If the Shareholders of a Fund fail to approve this Proposal, the current investment policy will be retained for that Fund.

The Board of Trustees has approved Proposal 8 and recommends that Shareholders vote to approve Proposal 8.

#### PROPOSAL 9. (All Funds)

To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds to remove the restriction on each Fund participating on a joint, or a joint and several,

basis in any securities trading account.

At the Meeting, Shareholders will vote on removing the Funds' investment policy which prohibits each Fund from participating on a joint, or a joint and several, basis in any securities trading account.

The 1940 Act currently prohibits investment companies from participating in certain joint activities. Management believes that the existing 1940 Act restrictions provide sufficient protection to Shareholders such that the additional fundamental restrictions are not required.

Most funds which establish joint accounts do so to facilitate the "bulk purchase" of short-term investments on behalf of the various funds participating in the account. Generally, funds may earn a higher rate of return on investments through joint accounts than the rate they could earn individually because, under most market conditions, it is possible to negotiate a higher rate of return on larger repurchase agreements and larger quantities of other short-term investments than the rate available in smaller transactions. Joint accounts may also increase the number of dealers and issuers willing to enter into short-term investments with the various funds participating in the accounts.

Eliminating this fundamental policy will conform each Fund's investment policies to the requirements of current federal law. In addition, eliminating this policy will provide increased investment flexibility and may provide opportunities to enhance each Fund's performance, with the corresponding risks which accompany participation on a joint, or a joint and several basis in any securities trading account.

Elimination of this fundamental policy is not expected to affect, in the foreseeable future, the manner in which the Funds are managed, the investment performance of the Funds, or the instruments in which they invest.

#### Required Vote and Recommendation

As provided in the 1940 Act, approval of a change to a Fund's fundamental investment policies requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. Abstentions have the effect of a negative vote on this Proposal. If the Shareholders of a Fund fail to approve this Proposal, the current investment policy will be retained for that Fund.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS APPROVED PROPOSAL 9 AND RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE TO APPROVE PROPOSAL 9.

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#### PROPOSAL 10. (Growth and Income Fund and New York Tax-Free Bond Fund)

To approve a change in the investment policies of the Growth and Income Fund and the New York Tax-Free Bond Fund to permit each Fund to invest up to 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities.

At the Meeting, Shareholders of the Growth and Income and New York Tax-Free Bond Fund will be asked to vote on amending the Funds' fundamental investment policy regarding investments in illiquid securities. Currently, these two Funds are permitted to invest only 10% of their net assets in illiquid securities, including those securities which do not have readily available market quotations and repurchase agreements having maturities of more than seven days. This Proposal would permit each of these two Funds to invest up to 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities.

Illiquid securities are assets which may not be sold or disposed of in the ordinary course of business within seven days at approximately the value at which a mutual fund has valued the investment. The SEC historically took the position that an open-end investment company should limit its investments in illiquid securities because such securities may present problems of accurate valuation and because it is possible that the investment company would have difficulty satisfying redemptions on a timely basis. The SEC and federal rules now permit all non-money market funds to invest up to 15% of their net assets in illiquid securities.

The Board of Trustees believes that the current fundamental investment restriction set forth above is more restrictive than is necessary. In order to permit maximum flexibility in investing each Fund's assets, the Trustees recommend that the proposed amendments to the Funds' fundamental restriction be adopted by shareholders to increase the current limit from 10% to 15% of the Fund's net assets that may be invested in illiquid securities.

Fund Management has recommended the proposed change to the Trustees because it believes that the increased flexibility will assist each Fund in achieving its investment objective.

Eliminating this fundamental policy will conform each Fund's investment policies to the requirements of current federal law. In addition, eliminating this policy will provide increased investment flexibility and may provide opportunities to enhance each Fund's performance, with the corresponding risks which accompany investments in illiquid securities. If the proposed amendment is approved, this investment practice could have the effect of increasing the level of illiquidity of the Funds' portfolio securities. While removal of the restrictive investment policy will permit each Fund to invest a larger percentage of their assets in illiquid securities, it is not anticipated that the level of assets currently invested in illiquid securities will significantly increase.

Elimination of this fundamental policy is not expected to affect, in the foreseeable future, the manner in which the Funds are managed, the investment performance of the Funds, or the instruments in which they invest.

#### Required Vote and Recommendation

As provided in the 1940 Act, approval of a change to a Fund's fundamental investment policies requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Funds. Abstentions have the effect of a negative vote on this Proposal. If the Shareholders of a Fund fail to approve this Proposal, the current investment policy will be retained for that Fund.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS APPROVED PROPOSAL 10 AND RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE TO APPROVE PROPOSAL 10.

PROPOSAL 11. (Growth and Income, Fixed Income and New York Tax-Free Bond Funds)

To approve a change in the investment policies of all of the Funds, except the International Equity Fund, to provide that each Fund, with respect to 75% of its total assets (taken at market value), may not purchase a security if as a result (1) more than 5% of its total assets (taken at market value) would be invested in the securities (including securities subject to repurchase agreements), of any one issuer, other than obligations which are issued or guaranteed by the United States Government, its agencies or instrumentalities or (2) the Fund would own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer.

This proposal would permit the Funds to invest a larger portion of their assets in fewer issuers, while still meeting the requirement to be diversified under the 1940 Act. The 1940 Act divides mutual funds into "diversified" and "non-diversified" investment companies based on a mathematical test that measures the degree of diversification of a fund's portfolio. The two components taken into account ("diversification elements") are (i) holding more than 5% of the fund's assets in a single issuer and (ii) holding more than 10% of a single issuer's voting securities. In order for a fund to be considered a "diversified investment company," the diversification elements must apply to a minimum of 75% of the Fund's total assets.

Currently, the investment policies of the Growth and Income Fund apply the diversification elements to 100% of its assets. While the investment policy of the Fixed Income and New York Tax-Free Bond Funds applies the diversification elements to 75% of each Fund's assets, the policy then further restricts the Funds as to the remaining 25% of total assets from purchasing a security if as a result it would invest more than 10% of its total assets in the securities of any one issuer or own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any one issuer.

Under this Proposal, each Fund will have a basket of 25% of its total assets which will not be subject to the diversification elements. Each Fund will be permitted to invest up to 25% of its assets in a single issuer, or in a more likely scenario, invest its 25% basket in a combination of ways (6% of its assets in four different issuers or 7% in three different issuers).

This Proposal will bring the Funds' investment policies in line with what is permitted by the 1940 Act. In addition, eliminating this policy will provide increased investment flexibility and may provide opportunities to enhance the Funds' performance. Changing this policy will provide increased investment flexibility and may provide opportunities to enhance the Funds' performance, with the corresponding risk which accompanies a less diversified portfolio. While changing this investment policy will make it so that the diversification elements only apply to 75% of each Fund's total assets, the Adviser will exercise care, consistent with each Fund's investment objectives and policies, in investing any of a Fund's assets in a way that exceeds the diversification elements.

Elimination of this fundamental policy is not expected to affect, in the foreseeable future, the manner in which the Funds are managed, the investment performance of the Funds, or the instruments in which they invest.

#### Required Vote and Recommendation

As provided in the 1940 Act, approval of a change to a Fund's fundamental investment policies requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. Abstentions have the effect of a negative vote on this Proposal. If the Shareholders of a Fund fail to approve this Proposal, the current investment policy will be retained for that Fund.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS APPROVED PROPOSAL 11 AND RECOMMENDS THAT  
SHAREHOLDERS VOTE TO APPROVE PROPOSAL 11.

#### MANAGEMENT OF THE FUNDS

During the year ended December 31, 1998, the Board of Trustees held 7 meetings. The Trust's Audit Committee held one meeting, the Foreign Custody Committee held one meeting and the Nominating Committee held two meetings. All

of the Trustees (with the exception of Mr. Pfann) attended at least 75% of the meetings of the Board of Trustees and all committee meetings thereof of which such trustee was a member during the year ended December 31, 1998. Each of the Trustees hold the same position with each of the Funds in the Trust.

Trustees of the Trust who are not affiliated with the Distributor or the Adviser received from the Trust an annual fee of \$4,000 and a fee for each Board of Trustees and Board committee meeting attended of \$1,000. Trustees who are affiliated with the Distributor or the Adviser do not receive compensation from the Trust. The following table lists the compensation paid to each of the Trustees by the Trust during the year ended December 31, 1998. No executive officer or person affiliated with the Trust received compensation from the Trust for the year ended December 31, 1998 in excess of \$60,000.

<TABLE>  
<CAPTION>

Trustee -----	Total Compensation from Trust -----
<S>	<C>
Harald Paumgarten, Chairman of the Board	\$13,960
Wolfe J. Frankl, Trustee	\$12,830
John P. Pfann, Trustee	\$ 4,499
Robert A. Looson, Trustee	\$13,638
Richard J. Loos, Vice Chairman Emeritus*	\$11,027

</TABLE>

The Trustees did not and have not accrued pension or retirement benefits from the Funds for their service to the Trust.

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\* Mr. Loos was elected Vice Chairman Emeritus of the Trust on May 5, 1998. Mr. Loos is not a voting member of the Board.

The following table lists the executive officers of the Trust.

<TABLE>  
<CAPTION>

Name ----	Position -----	Principal Occupations and Other Affiliations During the Past Five Years -----
<C>	<C>	<S>
Walter Grimm	President	Executive Vice President Fund Services Division of BISYS Fund Services, Inc.--June 1992 to present
Eric F. Almquist	Senior Vice President	Senior Marketing Strategist--Fund Services Division of BISYS Fund Services, Inc.-- August 1996 to Present; Director of Process Management, Coopers & Lybrand L.L.P. 1988 to 1994
Charles Booth	Vice President and Assistant Secretary	Chief Compliance Officer and Vice President of Fund Administration, Fund Services Division of BISYS Fund Services, Inc.--1988 to present
Anthony J. Fischer	Vice President	Vice President, Client Services, Fund Services Division of BISYS Fund Services, Inc.--1998 to present; SEI--1997-1998
Paul T. Kane	Assistant Treasurer	Vice President, Fund Services of BISYS Fund Services, Inc.--December 1997 to present; Director Shareholder Reporting, Fidelity Accounting and Custody Services--1995-1997
Steven R. Howard	Secretary	Partner--Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton &



Alaina V. Metz      Assistant Secretary

Garrison--April 1998 to present; Partner--  
Baker & McKenzie--1991-1998  
Chief Administrator, Administration and  
Regulatory Services of BISYS Fund Services,  
Inc.--June 1995 to present; Supervisor of  
Mutual Fund Legal Department; Alliance  
Capital Management--May 1989 to June 1995

</TABLE>

As of the date of this proxy statement, the trustees and officers of the Trust as a group beneficially owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares of the Trust.

HSBC MUTUAL FUNDS TRUST  
GROWTH AND INCOME FUND

PROXY SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The undersigned hereby appoints James Smith or Charles Booth, and each of them, attorneys and proxies for the undersigned, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to represent the undersigned and to vote on behalf of the undersigned all shares of the HSBC Mutual Funds Trust (the "Fund") which the undersigned is entitled to vote at the Special Meeting of Shareholders of the Fund to be held at the office of the Fund, 3435 Stelzer Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219, on May 3, 1999 at 10:00 a.m., and any adjournments thereof. The undersigned hereby acknowledges receipt of the Notice of Special Meeting and Proxy Statement and hereby instructs said attorneys and proxies to vote said shares as indicated hereon. In their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the Meeting. A majority of the proxies present and acting at the Meeting in person or by substitute (or, if only one shall be so present, then that one) shall have and may exercise all of the power and authority of said proxies hereunder. The undersigned hereby revokes any proxy previously given.

PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN PROMPTLY  
IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED

NOTE: Please sign exactly as your name appears on this Proxy. If joint owners, EITHER may sign this Proxy. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee, guardian or corporate officer, please give your full title.

Date

-----  
-----  
-----

Signature(s), (Title(s), if applicable)

Please indicate your vote by an "X" in the appropriate boxes below.

This Proxy, if properly executed, will be voted in the manner directed by the undersigned Shareholder.

IF NO DIRECTION IS MADE, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR PROPOSAL 1. Please refer

to the Proxy Statement for a discussion of the Proposals.

1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS FOR all nominees listed below WITHHOLD AUTHORITY  
(except as marked to the to vote for all nominees  
contrary below) [ ] listed below [ ]

WOLFE J. FRANKL      JEFFREY J. HASS      RICHARD J. LOOS      CLIFTON H. W. MALONEY  
JOHN C. MEDITZ      HARALD PAUMGARTEN      JOHN P. PFANN      ROBERT A. ROBINSON

(INSTRUCTION: To withhold authority for any individual, write his or her name on the line provided below.)

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2. To approve the existing Investment [ ]  
Advisory Agreement between the Trust APPROVE [ ] DISAPPROVE [ ] ABSTAIN  
and HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.,  
the Investment Adviser to the Funds.

3. To ratify the selection of Ernst & Young, [ ]  
LLP as independent accountants for the APPROVE [ ] DISAPPROVE [ ] ABSTAIN  
Trust for the fiscal year ending  
December 31, 1999.

4. To approve a change in the investment [ ]  
policies of the Fund to permit the Fund APPROVE [ ] DISAPPROVE [ ] ABSTAIN  
to make loans, including loans of its  
portfolio securities if, as a result,  
the aggregate of such loans does not  
exceed 33 1/3% of the value of the  
Fund's total assets.

5. To approve a change in the investment [ ]  
policies of the Fund to permit the Fund APPROVE [ ] DISAPPROVE [ ] ABSTAIN  
to (i) borrow from banks, for any  
purpose, up to 33 1/3% of the current  
value of its total assets; (ii) pledge  
up to 33 1/3% of its total assets to  
secure such borrowings; and (iii) to  
eliminate any limits on purchasing  
securities when borrowings exist.

6. To approve a change in the investment [ ]  
policies of the Fund to remove the APPROVE [ ] DISAPPROVE [ ] ABSTAIN  
restriction on purchasing securities  
of any company with a record of less  
than three years' continuous operation  
if such purchase would cause the  
fund's investments in all such  
companies taken at cost to exceed 5%  
of the total assets of the Fund.

7. To approve a change in the investment [ ] [ ] [ ]

policies of the Fund to remove the restriction on investing in warrants in excess of 5% of the Fund's net assets, and to remove the restriction on the Fund investing in warrants which are listed on the New York or American Stock Exchanges in excess of 2% of the Fund's net assets.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

ABSTAIN

8. To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to permit the Fund to purchase or retain securities of any company which the officers and trustees of the trust, and officers and directors of the adviser, who individually own more than 1/2 of 1% of the securities of that company, together own beneficially more than 5% of such company.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

ABSTAIN

9. To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to remove the restriction on the Fund's participating on a joint, or a joint and several basis, in any securities trading account.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

ABSTAIN

10. To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to permit the Fund to invest up to 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

ABSTAIN

11. To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to provide that the Fund, with respect to 75% of its total assets (taken at market value), may not purchase a security if as a result (1) more than 5% of its total assets (taken at market value) would be invested in the securities (including securities subject to repurchase agreements), of any one issuer, other than obligations which are issued or guaranteed by the United States Government, its agencies or instrumentalities or (2) the Fund would own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

ABSTAIN

HSBC MUTUAL FUNDS TRUST  
FIXED INCOME FUND

PROXY SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The undersigned hereby appoints James Smith or Charles Booth, and each of them, attorneys and proxies for the undersigned, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to represent the undersigned and to vote on behalf of the undersigned all shares of the HSBC Mutual Funds Trust (the "Fund") which the undersigned is entitled to vote at the Special Meeting of Shareholders of

the Fund to be held at the office of the Fund, 3435 Stelzer Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219, on May 3, 1999 at 10:00 a.m., and any adjournments thereof. The undersigned hereby acknowledges receipt of the Notice of Special Meeting and Proxy Statement and hereby instructs said attorneys and proxies to vote said shares as indicated hereon. In their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the Meeting. A majority of the proxies present and acting at the Meeting in person or by substitute (or, if only one shall be so present, then that one) shall have and may exercise all of the power and authority of said proxies hereunder. The undersigned hereby revokes any proxy previously given.

PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN PROMPTLY  
IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED

NOTE: Please sign exactly as your name appears on this Proxy. If joint owners, EITHER may sign this Proxy. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee, guardian or corporate officer, please give your full title.

Date

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Signature(s), (Title(s), if applicable)

Please indicate your vote by an "X" in the appropriate boxes below.

This Proxy, if properly executed, will be voted in the manner directed by the undersigned Shareholder.

IF NO DIRECTION IS MADE, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR PROPOSAL 1. Please refer to the Proxy Statement for a discussion of the Proposals.

1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS FOR all nominees listed below WITHHOLD AUTHORITY  
(except as marked to the contrary below)  to vote for all nominees listed below

WOLFE J. FRANKL	JEFFREY J. HASS	RICHARD J. LOOS	CLIFTON H. W. MALONEY
JOHN C. MEDITZ	HARALD PAUMGARTEN	JOHN P. PFANN	ROBERT A. ROBINSON

(INSTRUCTION: To withhold authority for any individual, write his or her name on the line provided below.)

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2. To approve the existing Investment Advisory Agreement between the Trust and HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc., the Investment Adviser to the Funds.  APPROVE  DISAPPROVE  ABSTAIN

- |    |  |                                     |  |                                     |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 3. | To ratify the selection of Ernst & Young, LLP as independent accountants for the Trust for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1999.   | <input type="checkbox"/><br>APPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>DISAPPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>ABSTAIN |
| 4. | To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to permit the Fund to make loans, including loan of its portfolio securities if, as a result, the aggregate of such loans does not exceed 33 1/3% of the value of a Fund's total assets.  | <input type="checkbox"/><br>APPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>DISAPPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>ABSTAIN |
| 5. | To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to permit the Fund to: (i) borrow from banks, for any purpose, up to 33 1/3% of the current value of its total assets; (ii) pledge up to 33 1/3% of its total assets to secure such borrowings; and (iii) to eliminate any limits on purchasing securities when borrowings exist.               | <input type="checkbox"/><br>APPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>DISAPPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>ABSTAIN |
| 6. | To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to remove the restriction on purchasing securities of any company with a record of less than three years' continuous operation if such purchase would cause the Fund's investments in all such companies taken at cost to exceed 5% of the total assets of the Fund.                            | <input type="checkbox"/><br>APPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>DISAPPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>ABSTAIN |
| 7. | To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to remove the restriction on investing in warrants in excess of 5% of the Fund's net assets, and to remove the restriction on the Fund investing in warrants which are listed on the New York or American Stock Exchanges in excess of 2% of the Fund's net assets.                             | <input type="checkbox"/><br>APPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>DISAPPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>ABSTAIN |
| 8. | To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to permit the Fund to purchase or retain securities of any company which the officers and trustees of the trust, and officers and directors of the adviser, who individually own more than 1/2 of 1% of the securities of that company, together own beneficially more than 5% of such company. | <input type="checkbox"/><br>APPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>DISAPPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>ABSTAIN |
| 9. | To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to remove the restriction on participating on a joint,  | <input type="checkbox"/><br>APPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>DISAPPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>ABSTAIN |

or a joint and several basis, in any securities trading account.

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|---|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 11. To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to provide that the Fund, with respect to 75% of its total assets (taken at market value), may not purchase a security if as a result (1) more than 5% of its total assets (taken at market value) would be invested in the securities (including securities subject to repurchase agreements), of any one issuer, other than obligations which are issued or guaranteed by the United States Government, its agencies or instrumentalities or (2) the Fund would own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer. | [ ]<br>APPROVE | [ ]<br>DISAPPROVE | [ ]<br>ABSTAIN |
|---|----------------|-------------------|----------------|

HSBC MUTUAL FUNDS TRUST

NEW YORK TAX-FREE BOND FUND

PROXY SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The undersigned hereby appoints James Smith or Charles Booth, and each of them, attorneys and proxies for the undersigned, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to represent the undersigned and to vote on behalf of the undersigned all shares of the HSBC Mutual Funds Trust (the "Fund") which the undersigned is entitled to vote at the Special Meeting of Shareholders of the Fund to be held at the office of the Fund, 3435 Stelzer Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219, on May 3, 1999 at 10:00 a.m., and any adjournments thereof. The undersigned hereby acknowledges receipt of the Notice of Special Meeting and Proxy Statement and hereby instructs said attorneys and proxies to vote said shares as indicated hereon. In their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the Meeting. A majority of the proxies present and acting at the Meeting in person or by substitute (or, if only one shall be so present, then that one) shall have and may exercise all of the power and authority of said proxies hereunder. The undersigned hereby revokes any proxy previously given.

PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN PROMPTLY  
IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED

NOTE: Please sign exactly as your name appears on this Proxy. If joint owners, EITHER may sign this Proxy. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee, guardian or corporate officer, please give your full title.

Date

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Signature(s), (Title(s), if applicable)

Please indicate your vote by an "X" in the appropriate boxes below.

This Proxy, if properly executed, will be voted in the manner directed by the undersigned Shareholder.

IF NO DIRECTION IS MADE, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR PROPOSAL 1. Please refer to the Proxy Statement for a discussion of the Proposals.

1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS FOR all nominees listed below WITHHOLD AUTHORITY  
(except as marked to the to vote for all nominees  
contrary below) [\_] listed below [\_]

WOLFE J. FRANKL	JEFFREY J. HASS	RICHARD J. LOOS	CLIFTON H. W. MALONEY
JOHN C. MEDITZ	HARALD PAUMGARTEN	JOHN P. PFANN	ROBERT A. ROBINSON

(INSTRUCTION: To withhold authority for any individual, write his or her name on the line provided below.)

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2. To approve the existing Investment Advisory Agreement between the Trust and HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc., the Investment Adviser to the Funds.       APPROVE       DISAPPROVE       ABSTAIN

3. To ratify the selection of Ernst & Young, LLP as independent accountants for the Trust for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1999.       APPROVE       DISAPPROVE       ABSTAIN

4. To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to permit the Fund to make loans, including loans of its portfolio securities ABSTAIN if, as a result, the aggregate of such loans does not exceed 33 1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets.       APPROVE       DISAPPROVE       ABSTAIN

5. To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to permit the Fund to: (i) borrow from banks, for any purpose, up to 33 1/3% of the current value of its total assets; (ii) pledge up to 33 1/3% of its total assets to secure such borrowings; and (iii) to eliminate any limits on purchasing securities when borrowings exist.       APPROVE       DISAPPROVE       ABSTAIN

6. To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to remove the restriction on purchasing securities of any company with a record of less than three years' continuous operation       APPROVE       DISAPPROVE       ABSTAIN

if such purchase would cause the Fund's investments in all such companies taken at cost to exceed 5% of the total assets of the Fund.

- |     |   |                                     |  |                                     |
|-----|---|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 7.  | To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to remove the restriction on investing in warrants in excess of 5% of the Fund's net assets, and to remove the restriction on the Fund investing in warrants which are listed on the New York or American Stock Exchanges in excess of 2% of the Fund's net assets.  | <input type="checkbox"/><br>APPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>DISAPPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>ABSTAIN |
| 8.  | To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to permit the Fund to purchase or retain securities of any company which the officers and trustees of the trust, and officers and directors of the adviser, who individually own more than 1/2 of 1% of the securities of that company, together own beneficially more than 5% of such company.  | <input type="checkbox"/><br>APPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>DISAPPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>ABSTAIN |
| 9.  | To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to remove the restriction on the Fund participating on a joint, or a joint and several basis, in any securities trading account.   | <input type="checkbox"/><br>APPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>DISAPPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>ABSTAIN |
| 10. | To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to permit the Fund to invest up to 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities.   | <input type="checkbox"/><br>APPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>DISAPPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>ABSTAIN |
| 11. | To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to provide that the Fund, with respect to 75% of its total assets (taken at market value), may not purchase a security if as a result (1) more than 5% of its total assets (taken at market value) would be invested in the securities (including securities subject to repurchase agreements), of any one issuer, other than obligations which are issued or guaranteed by the United States Government, its agencies or instrumentalities or (2) the Fund would own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer. | <input type="checkbox"/><br>APPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>DISAPPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>ABSTAIN |

HSBC MUTUAL FUNDS TRUST  
INTERNATIONAL EQUITY FUND

PROXY SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The undersigned hereby appoints James Smith or Charles Booth, and each of



them, attorneys and proxies for the undersigned, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to represent the undersigned and to vote on behalf of the undersigned all shares of the HSBC Mutual Funds Trust (the "Fund") which the undersigned is entitled to vote at the Special Meeting of Shareholders of the Fund to be held at the office of the Fund, 3435 Stelzer Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219, on May 3, 1999 at 10:00 a.m., and any adjournments thereof. The undersigned hereby acknowledges receipt of the Notice of Special Meeting and Proxy Statement and hereby instructs said attorneys and proxies to vote said shares as indicated hereon. In their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the Meeting. A majority of the proxies present and acting at the Meeting in person or by substitute (or, if only one shall be so present, then that one) shall have and may exercise all of the power and authority of said proxies hereunder. The undersigned hereby revokes any proxy previously given.

PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN PROMPTLY  
IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED

NOTE: Please sign exactly as your name appears on this Proxy. If joint owners, EITHER may sign this Proxy. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee, guardian or corporate officer, please give your full title.

Date

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Signature(s), (Title(s), if applicable)

Please indicate your vote by an "X" in the appropriate boxes below.

This Proxy, if properly executed, will be voted in the manner directed by the undersigned Shareholder.

IF NO DIRECTION IS MADE, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR PROPOSAL 1. Please refer to the Proxy Statement for a discussion of the Proposals.

1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS FOR all nominees listed below WITHHOLD AUTHORITY  
(except as marked to the to vote for all nominees  
contrary below) [ ] listed below [ ]

WOLFE J. FRANKL      JEFFREY J. HASS      RICHARD J. LOOS      CLIFTON H. W. MALONEY

JOHN C. MEDITZ      HARALD PAUMGARTEN      JOHN P. PFANN      ROBERT A. ROBINSON

(INSTRUCTION: To withhold authority for any individual, write his or her name on the line provided below.)

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2. To approve the existing Investment      [ ]      [ ]      [ ]

Advisory Agreement between the Trust and HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc., the Investment Adviser to the Funds.

APPROVE      DISAPPROVE      ABSTAIN

- |    |  |                                     |  |                                     |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 3. | To ratify the selection of Ernst & Young, LLP as independent accountants for the Trust for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1999.   | <input type="checkbox"/><br>APPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>DISAPPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>ABSTAIN |
| 4. | To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to permit the Fund to make loans, including loans of its portfolio securities if, as a result, the aggregate of such loans does not exceed 33 1/3% of the value of a Fund's total assets.   | <input type="checkbox"/><br>APPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>DISAPPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>ABSTAIN |
| 5. | To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to permit the Fund to: (i) borrow from banks, for any purpose, up to 33 1/3% of the current value of its total assets; (ii) pledge up to 33 1/3% of its total assets to secure such borrowings; and (iii) to eliminate any limits on purchasing securities when borrowings exist. | <input type="checkbox"/><br>APPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>DISAPPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>ABSTAIN |
| 9. | To approve a change in the investment policies of the Fund to remove the restriction on participating on a joint, or a joint and several basis, in any securities trading account.   | <input type="checkbox"/><br>APPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>DISAPPROVE | <input type="checkbox"/><br>ABSTAIN |

[PASTE-UP LETTERHEAD HERE]

March 26, 1999

Dear Valued Shareholder:

The enclosed proxy materials relate to a Special Meeting of Shareholders of the HSBC Mutual Funds Trust (the "Trust"), and each series of the Trust, the Growth and Income Fund, Fixed Income Fund, International Equity Fund and the New York Tax-Free Bond Fund (each a "Fund" and collectively the "Funds") to be held on May 10, 1999 at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, at the Funds' offices at 3435 Stelzer Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219 (the "Meeting").

At the Meeting, Shareholders will be asked to ratify the election of four existing trustees and to elect four new trustees to the Board of Trustees of the Trust. Shareholders will also be asked to approve the Trust's existing investment advisory contract, to ratify the selection of the independent accountants to the Trust and to approve changes to certain of the investment policies and restrictions of the Funds. The Trustees are recommending that Shareholders (i) ratify the four trustees and elect the four nominees to the Board of Trustees, (ii) approve the Trust's advisory contract, (iii) ratify the selection of independent accountant and (iv) approve each of the changes to the Funds' investment policies.

Although the Trustees would like very much to have you attend the Meeting, they realize that this is not always possible. Whether or not you plan to be present at the Meeting, Your vote is needed. Please complete, sign and return the enclosed Proxy Card promptly in the postage-paid envelope provided.

Your Trustees look forward to seeing you at the Meeting or receiving your proxy so your shares may be voted at the Meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Grimm  
President

Shareholders are urged to sign and return the enclosed proxy in the enclosed envelope so as to be represented at the Meeting.

Thank you for your cooperation and prompt attention to this matter.

AMENDED AND RESTATED  
ADVISORY CONTRACT

HSBC MUTUAL FUNDS TRUST  
3435 Stelzer Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43219

May 1, 1998

HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.  
140 Broadway  
New York, New York 10005

MASTER ADVISORY CONTRACT

Dear Sirs:

WHEREAS, the Master Investment Advisory Contract dated May 1, 1990 has been amended and restated to reflect the name change of the Trust and the Trust's Adviser, as well as a change in law that no longer limits expenses paid by the Funds;

WITNESSETH

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and mutual covenants herein contained, it is agreed between HSBC Mutual Funds Trust (the "Trust") and HSBC Asset Management Americas, Inc. (the "Adviser") as follows:

1. Definitions and Delivery of Documents. The Trust has been organized as a business trust under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is an open-end management investment company. The Trust's shares of beneficial interest may be classified into series in which each series represents the entire undivided interests of a separate portfolio of assets. For all purposes of this Contract, a "Fund" shall mean a separate portfolio of assets of the Trust which has entered into an Advisory Contract Supplement, and a "Series" shall mean the series of shares of beneficial interest representing undivided interests in a Fund. All references herein to this Contract shall be deemed to be references to this Contract as it may from time to time be supplemented by Advisory Contract Supplements. The Trust engages in the business of investing and reinvesting the assets of each Fund in the manner and in accordance with the investment objective and restrictions specified in the Trust's Declaration of Trust, dated November 1, 1989 (the "Declaration of Trust"), and the currently effective Prospectus (the "Prospectus") relating to the Trust and the Funds included in the Trust's Registration Statement, as amended from time to time (the "Registration Statement"), filed by the Trust under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "1940 Act") and the Securities Act of 1933 (the "1933 Act"). Copies of the documents referred to in the preceding sentence have been furnished to the Adviser. Any amendments to those documents

shall be furnished to the Advisor promptly.

2. Administrative Services and Distribution Contracts. Pursuant to a Distribution Contract (the "Distribution Contract") and an Administrative Services Contract (the "Administrative Services Contract") between the Trust and the Distributor and Administrator, respectively (as those terms are defined in the Prospectus) the Trust has employed the Distributor and the Administrator to act as principal underwriter for each Series and to provide management and other services.

3. Expenses. (a) the Adviser shall, at its expense, (i) employ or associate with itself such persons as it believes appropriate to assist in performing its obligations under this Contract and (ii) provide all advisory, administrative, management services and shareholder services, equipment, facilities and personnel necessary to perform its obligations under this Contract. The Trust recognizes that in those cases where the Adviser makes

arrangements with its correspondent banks to maintain subaccounts for certain of their customers who invest in shares of a Series, such correspondent banks may also agree to provide services to subaccount holders of the type provided by the Adviser to shareholders of record.

(b) Except as provided in subparagraph (a) and in the Administrative Services Contract, the Trust shall be responsible for all of its expenses and liabilities, including compensation of its directors who are not affiliated with the Distributor, Administrator or the Adviser or any of their affiliates; taxes and governmental fees; interest charges; fees and expenses of the Trust's independent accountants and legal counsel; trade association membership dues; fees and expenses of any custodian (including for keeping books and accounts and calculating the net asset value of shares of each Series), transfer agent, registrar and dividend disbursing agent of the Trust; expenses of issuing, selling, redeeming, registering and qualifying for sale the Trust's shares of beneficial interest; expenses of preparing and printing share certificates, prospectuses, shareholders' reports, notices, proxy statements and reports to regulatory agencies; the cost of office supplies; travel expenses of all officers, directors and employees; insurance premiums; brokerage and other expenses of executing portfolio transactions; expenses of shareholders' meetings; organizational expenses; and extraordinary expenses.

4. Investment Advisory and Management Services. (a) The Adviser shall provide to the Trust investment guidance and policy direction in connection with the management of the portfolio of each Fund, including oral and written money market research, analysis, advice, statistical and economic data and information and judgments, of both a macroeconomic and microeconomic character, concerning, among other things, interest rate trends, money market portfolio composition, credit conditions of both a general and specific nature and the average maturity of the portfolio of each Fund.

(b) The Adviser shall also provide to the Trust's officers administrative assistance in connection with the operation of the Trust and each of the

Funds. Administrative services provided by the Adviser shall include (i) data processing, clerical bookkeeping services required in connection with maintaining the financial accounts and records for the Trust and each of the Funds, (ii) the compilation of statistical and research data required for the preparation of periodic reports and statements of each of the Funds which are distributed to the Trust's officers and Board of Trustees, (iii) handling, or causing to be handled, general shareholder relations with Fund investors, such as advice as to the status of their accounts, the current yield and dividends declared to date and assistance with other questions related to their accounts, (iv) the compilation of information required in connection with the Trust's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission and (v) such other services as the Adviser shall from time to time determine, upon consultation with the Sponsor, to be necessary or useful to the administration of the Trust and each of the Funds.

(c) As a manager of the assets of each Fund, the Adviser shall make investments for the account of each Fund in accordance with the Adviser's best judgment and within the investment objective and restrictions of each such Fund set forth in the Trust's Declaration of Trust, the Prospectus of each such Fund, the 1940 Act and the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code relating to regulated investment companies, subject to policy decisions adopted by the Trust's Board of Trustees. The Adviser shall advise the Trust's Officers and Board of Trustees, at such times as the Board of Trustees may specify, of investments made for each of the Funds and shall, when requested by the Trust's Officers or Board of Trustees, supply the reasons for making particular investments.

(d) The Adviser shall furnish to the Board of Trustees periodic reports on the investment performance of each Fund and on the performance of its obligations under this Contract and shall supply such additional reports and information as the Trust's Officers or Board of Trustees shall reasonably request.

5. Limitation of Liability of Adviser. The Adviser shall give the Trust the benefit of the Adviser's best judgment and efforts in rendering services under this Contract. As an inducement to the Adviser's undertaking to render these services, the Trust agrees that the Adviser shall not be liable under this Contract for any mistake in judgment or in any other event whatsoever except for lack of good faith, provided that nothing in this Contract shall be deemed to protect or purport to protect the Adviser against any liability to the Trust or its shareholders to which the Adviser would otherwise be subject by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence

in the performance of the Adviser's duties under this Contract or by reason of the Adviser's reckless disregard of its obligations and duties hereunder.

6. Compensation of the Adviser. In consideration of the services to be rendered, facilities furnished and expenses paid or assumed by the Adviser

under this Contract, the Trust shall pay the Adviser a fee with respect to each Fund in accordance with the applicable Advisory Contract Supplement.

If the fees payable to the Adviser pursuant to this paragraph 6 and the applicable Advisory Contract Supplement begin to accrue before the end of any month or if this Contract terminates before the end of any month, the fees for the period from that date to the end of that month or from the beginning of that month to the date of termination, as the case may be, shall be prorated according to the proportion which the period bears to the full month in which the effectiveness or termination occurs. For purposes of calculating the monthly fees, the value of the net assets of each Fund shall be computed in the manner specified in the Prospectus for the computation of net asset value. For purposes of this Contract, a "business day" is any day the New York Stock Exchange is open for trading.

7. Duration and Termination of this Contract. This Contract shall become effective upon May 1, 1998 and shall thereafter continue in the effect; provided, that this Contract shall continue in effect for a period of more than one year with respect to a Fund only so long as the continuance is specifically approved at least annually (a) by the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of that Fund (as defined in the 1940 Act) or by the Trust's Board of Trustees and (b) by the vote, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose, of a majority of the Trust's Trustees who are not parties to this Contract or "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of any such party. This Contract may be terminated with respect to a Fund at any time, without the payment of any penalty, by a vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of that Fund (as defined in the 1940 Act) or by a vote of a majority of the Trust's Board of Trustees on 60 days' written notice to the Adviser or by the Adviser on 60 days' written notice to the Trust. If this Contract is terminated with respect to any Fund, it shall nonetheless remain in effect with respect to any remaining Funds. This Contract shall terminate automatically in the event of its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act).

8. Amendment of this Contract. No provision of this Contract may be changed, waived, discharged or terminated orally, but only by an instrument in writing signed by the party against which enforcement of the change, waiver, discharge or termination is sought and no amendment, transfer, assignment, sale, hypothecation or pledge of this Contract shall be effective until approved by (a) the vote, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose, of a majority of the Trustees who are not parties to this Contract or "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of any such party, and (b) with respect to any Fund affected by such change, waiver, discharge or termination, by the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Series relating to such Fund, provided that no approval shall be required pursuant to this clause (b) in respect of an Advisory Contract Supplement entered into to add a Fund to those covered by this Contract (or any amendment or termination of such Supplement) by the holders of the outstanding voting securities of any Series other than that of such Fund.

9. Other Activities of the Adviser. Except to the extent necessary to

perform the Adviser's obligations under this Contract, nothing herein shall be deemed to limit or restrict the right of the Adviser, or any affiliate of the Adviser, or any employee of the Adviser, to engage in any other business or to devote time and attention to the management of other aspects of any other business, whether of a similar or dissimilar nature, or to render services of any kind to any other corporation, firm, individual or association.

10. Miscellaneous. The captions in this Contract are included for convenience of reference only and in no way define or delimit any of the provisions hereof or otherwise affect their construction or effect. This Contract may be executed simultaneously in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. The Declaration of Trust has been filed with the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The obligations of the Trust are not personally binding upon, nor shall resort be had to the private property of, any of the Trustees, shareholders, officers, employees or agents of the Trust, but only the Trust's property shall be bound.

3

If the foregoing correctly sets forth the agreement between the Trust and the Adviser please so indicate by signing and returning to the Trust the enclosed copy hereof.

Very truly yours,

HSBC Mutual Funds Trust

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: President

ACCEPTED:

HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title:

4

NEW YORK TAX-FREE BOND FUND

A Fund of HSBC Mutual Funds Trust  
3435 Stelzer Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43219

May 1, 1998

HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.



Amended and Restated Advisory Contract Supplement

Dear Sirs:

This will confirm the agreement between HSBC Mutual Funds Trust (the "Trust") and HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc. (the "Adviser") as follows:

The New York Tax-Free Bond Fund (the "Fund") is a series portfolio of the Trust which has been organized as a business trust under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is an open-end management investment company. The Trust and the Adviser have entered into an Amended and Restated Master Advisory Contract, dated May 1, 1998 (as from time to time amended and supplemented, the "Master Advisory Contract"), pursuant to which the Adviser has undertaken to provide or make provision for the Trust for the certain investment advisory and management services identified therein and to provide certain other services, as more fully set forth therein. Certain capitalized terms used without definition in this Advisory Contract Supplement have the meaning specified in the Master Advisory Contract.

The Trust agrees with the Adviser as follows:

1. Adoption of Master Advisory Contract. The Master Advisory Contract is hereby adopted for the Fund. The Fund shall be one of the "Funds" referred to in the Master Advisory Contract; and its shares shall be a "Series" of shares as referred to therein.

2. Payment of Fees. For all services to be rendered, facilities furnished and expenses paid or assumed by the Adviser as provided in the Master Advisory Contract and herein, the Fund shall pay a monthly fee on the first business day of each month, based upon the average daily value (as determined on each business day at the time set forth in the Prospectus for determining net asset value per share) of the net assets of the Fund during the preceding month, at the following annual rates:

<TABLE>

<CAPTION>

Portion of average daily value of net assets of the Fund	Fee Rate
-----	-----
<S>	<C>
Not exceeding \$300 million	0.450%
In excess of \$300 million but not exceeding \$600 million	0.420%
In excess of \$600 million but not exceeding \$1 billion	0.385%
In excess of \$1 billion but not exceeding \$1.5 billion	0.350%
In excess of \$1.5 billion but not exceeding \$2 billion	0.315%
In excess of \$2 billion	0.280%

</TABLE>

If the foregoing correctly sets forth the agreement between the Trust and the Adviser, please so indicate by signing and returning to the Trust the enclosed copy hereof.

Very truly yours,

New York Tax-free Bond Fund, a Fund  
of HSBC Mutual Funds Trust

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title:

The foregoing Contract is hereby agreed to as of the date hereof:

HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title:

FIXED INCOME FUND

A FUND OF HSBC MUTUAL FUNDS TRUST  
3435 Stelzer Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43219

May 1, 1998

HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.  
140 Broadway  
New York, New York 10005

AMENDED AND RESTATED ADVISORY CONTRACT SUPPLEMENT

Dear Sirs:

This will confirm the agreement between HSBC Mutual Funds Trust (the "Trust") and HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc. (the "Adviser") as follows:

The Fixed Income Fund (the "Fund") is a series portfolio of the Trust which has been organized as a business trust under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is an open-end management investment company. The Trust and the Adviser have entered into an Amended and Restated Master Advisory Contract, dated May 1, 1998 (as from time to time amended and supplemented, the "Master Advisory Contract"), pursuant to which the Adviser has undertaken

to provide or make provision for the Trust for the certain investment advisory and management services identified therein and to provide certain other services, as more fully set forth therein. Certain capitalized terms used without definition in this Advisory Contract Supplement have the meaning specified in the Master Advisory Contract.

The Trust agrees with the Adviser as follows:

1. Adoption of Master Advisory Contract. The Master Advisory Contract is hereby adopted for the Fund. The Fund shall be one of the "Funds" referred to in the Master Advisory Contract; and its shares shall be a "Series" of shares as referred to therein.

2. Payment of Fees. For all services to be rendered, facilities furnished and expenses paid or assumed by the Adviser as provided in the Master Advisory Contract and herein, the Fund shall pay a monthly fee on the first business day of each month, based upon the average daily value (as determined on each business day at the time set forth in the Prospectus for determining net asset value per share) of the net assets of the Fund during the preceding month, at the following annual rates:

<TABLE>

<CAPTION>

Portion of average daily value of net assets of the Fund -----	Fee Rate -----
<S>	<C>
Not exceeding \$400 million	0.550%
In excess of \$400 million but not exceeding \$800 million	0.505%
In excess of \$800 million but not exceeding \$1.2 billion	0.460%
In excess of \$1.2 billion but not exceeding \$1.6 billion	0.415%
In excess of \$1.6 billion but not exceeding \$2 billion	0.370%
In excess of \$2 billion	0.315%

</TABLE>

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If the foregoing correctly sets forth the agreement between the Trust and the Adviser, please so indicate by signing and returning to the Trust the enclosed copy hereof.

Very truly yours,

Fixed Income Fund, A Fund of HSBC  
Mutual Funds Trust

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

The foregoing Contract is hereby agreed to as of the date hereof:

HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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GROWTH AND INCOME FUND

A FUND OF HSBC MUTUAL FUNDS TRUST

3435 Stelzer Road

Columbus, Ohio 43219

May 1, 1998

HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.

140 Broadway

New York, New York 10005

AMENDED AND RESTATED ADVISORY CONTRACT SUPPLEMENT

Dear Sirs:

This will confirm the agreement between HSBC Mutual Funds Trust (the "Trust") and HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc. (the "Adviser") as follows:

The Growth and Income Fund (the "Fund") is a series portfolio of the Trust which has been organized as a business trust under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is an open-end management investment company. The Trust and the Adviser have entered into an Amended and Restated Master Advisory Contract, dated May 1, 1998 (as from time to time amended and supplemented, the "Master Advisory Contract"), pursuant to which the Adviser has undertaken to provide or make provision for the Trust for the certain investment advisory and management services identified therein and to provide certain other services, as more fully set forth therein. Certain capitalized terms used without definition in this Advisory Contract Supplement have the meaning specified in the Master Advisory Contract.

The Trust agrees with the Adviser as follows:

1. Adoption of Master Advisory Contract. The Master Advisory Contract is hereby adopted for the Fund. The Fund shall be one of the "Funds" referred to in the Master Advisory Contract; and its shares shall be a "Series" of shares as referred to therein.

2. Payment of Fees. For all services to be rendered, facilities furnished and expenses paid or assumed by the Adviser as provided in the Master Advisory

Contract and herein, the Fund shall pay a monthly fee on the first business day of each month, based upon the average daily value (as determined on each business day at the time set forth in the Prospectus for determining net asset value per share) of the net assets of the Fund during the preceding month, at the following annual rates:

<TABLE>

<CAPTION>

Portion of average daily value of net assets of the Fund -----	Fee Rate -----
<S>	<C>
Not exceeding \$400 million	0.550%
In excess of \$400 million but not exceeding \$800 million	0.505%
In excess of \$800 million but not exceeding \$1.2 billion	0.460%
In excess of \$1.2 billion but not exceeding \$1.6 billion	0.415%
In excess of \$1.6 billion but not exceeding \$2 billion	0.370%
In excess of \$2 billion	0.315%

</TABLE>

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If the foregoing correctly sets forth the agreement between the Trust and the Adviser, please so indicate by signing and returning to the Trust the enclosed copy hereof.

Very truly yours,

Growth and Income Fund, A Fund of  
HSBC Mutual Funds Trust

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title:

The foregoing Contract is hereby agreed to as of the date hereof:

HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title:

10

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY FUND

A FUND OF HSBC MUTUAL FUNDS TRUST  
3435 Stelzer Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43219

May 1, 1998

HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.  
140 Broadway  
New York, New York 10005

AMENDED AND RESTATED ADVISORY CONTRACT SUPPLEMENT

Dear Sirs:

This will confirm the agreement between HSBC Funds Trust (the "Trust") and HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc. (the "Adviser") as follows:

The International Equity Fund (the "Fund") is a series portfolio of the Trust which has been organized as a business trust under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is an open-end management investment company. The Trust and the Adviser have entered into an Amended and Restated Master Advisory Contract, dated May 1, 1998 (as from time to time amended and supplemented, the "Master Advisory Contract"), pursuant to which the Adviser has undertaken to provide or make provision for the Trust for the certain investment advisory and management services identified therein and to provide certain other services, as more fully set forth therein. Certain capitalized terms used without definition in this Advisory Contract Supplement have the meaning specified in the Master Advisory Contract.

The Trust agrees with the Adviser as follows:

1. Adoption of Master Advisory Contract. The Master Advisory Contract is hereby adopted for the Fund. The Fund shall be one of the "Funds" referred to in the Master Advisory Contract; and its shares shall be a "Series" of shares as referred to therein.

2. Payment of Fees. For all services to be rendered, facilities furnished and expenses paid or assumed by the Adviser as provided in the Master Advisory Contract and herein, the Fund shall pay a monthly fee on the first business day of each month, based upon the average daily value (as determined on each business day at the time set forth in the Prospectus for determining net asset value per share) of the net assets of the Fund during the preceding month, at an annual rate of 0.90% of the Fund's average daily net assets.

If the foregoing correctly sets forth the agreement between the Trust and the Adviser, please so indicate by signing and returning to the Trust the enclosed copy hereof.

Very truly yours,

International Equity Fund, A Fund of  
Hsbc Mutual Funds Trust

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title:

The foregoing Contract is hereby agreed to as of the date hereof:

HSBC Asset Management Americas Inc.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: