

GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC

Form 424B2

December 10, 2018

[Table of Contents](#)

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)

Registration Statement No. 333-219206

Subject to Completion. Dated December 7, 2018.

GS Finance Corp.

\$

Basket-Linked Notes due

guaranteed by

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

The notes will not bear interest. The amount that you will be paid on your notes on the stated maturity date (expected to be January 2, 2024) is based on the performance of a weighted basket comprised of the S&P 500® Index (50% weighting), the iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF (30% weighting) and the Russell 2000® Index (20% weighting) as measured from the trade date (expected to be December 27, 2018) to and including the determination date (expected to be December 27, 2023). The initial basket level is 100 and the final basket level will equal the *sum* of the products, as calculated for each basket underlier, of: (i) the final underlier level *divided by* the initial underlier level (set on the trade date), *multiplied by* (ii) the applicable initial weighted value for each basket underlier.

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

If the final basket level on the determination date is greater than the initial basket level, the return on your notes will be positive and will equal the basket return, subject to the maximum settlement amount of \$1,580 for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes. **If the final basket level is less than the initial basket level, you will receive the face amount of your notes.**

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

- if the basket return is *positive* (the final basket level is *greater than* the initial basket level), the *sum* of (i) \$1,000 *plus* (ii) the *product* of (a) \$1,000 *times* (b) the basket return, subject to the maximum settlement amount; or
- if the basket return is *zero* or *negative* (the final basket level is *equal to* or *less than* the initial basket level), \$1,000.

Declines in one basket underlier may offset increases in the other basket underliers. Due to the unequal weighting of each basket underlier, the performance of the S&P 500® Index will have a significantly larger impact on your return on the notes than the performance of the iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF or the Russell 2000® Index.

You should read the disclosure herein to better understand the terms and risks of your investment, including the credit risk of GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. See page PS-11.

The estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date is expected to be between \$940 and \$990 per \$1,000 face amount. For a discussion of the estimated value and the price at which Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC would initially buy or sell your notes, if it makes a market in the notes, see the following page.

Original issue date:	Expected to be January 2, 2019	Original issue price:	100% of the face amount
Underwriting discount:	% of the face amount*	Net proceeds to the issuer:	% of the face amount

* See Supplemental Plan of Distribution on page PS-5 for additional information regarding the fees comprising the underwriting discount.

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

Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC

Pricing Supplement No. dated , 2018.

Table of Contents

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

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

Estimated Value of Your Notes

The estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date (as determined by reference to pricing models used by Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC (GS&Co.) and taking into account our credit spreads) is expected to be between \$940 and \$990 per \$1,000 face amount, which is less than the original issue price. The value of your notes at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted; however, the price (not including GS&Co. s customary bid and ask spreads) at which GS&Co. would initially buy or sell notes (if it makes a market, which it is not obligated to do) and the value that GS&Co. will initially use for account statements and otherwise is equal to approximately the estimated value of your notes at the time of pricing, plus an additional amount (initially equal to \$ per \$1,000 face amount).

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

About Your Prospectus

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

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

- Product supplement no. 1,743 dated July 10, 2017
- General terms supplement no. 1,734 dated July 10, 2017
- Prospectus supplement dated July 10, 2017
- Prospectus dated July 10, 2017

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

Table of Contents**SUMMARY INFORMATION**

We refer to the notes we are offering by this pricing supplement as the offered notes or the notes. Each of the offered notes has the terms described below. Please note that in this pricing supplement, references to GS Finance Corp., we, our and us mean only GS Finance Corp. and do not include its subsidiaries or affiliates, references to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., our parent company, mean only The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and do not include its subsidiaries or affiliates and references to Goldman Sachs mean The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. together with its consolidated subsidiaries and affiliates, including us. Also, references to the accompanying prospectus mean the accompanying prospectus, dated July 10, 2017, references to the accompanying prospectus supplement mean the accompanying prospectus supplement, dated July 10, 2017, for Medium-Term Notes, Series E, references to the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734 mean the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734, dated July 10, 2017, and references to the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743 mean the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743, dated July 10, 2017, in each case of GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. The notes will be issued under the senior debt indenture, dated as of October 10, 2008, as supplemented by the First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of February 20, 2015, each among us, as issuer, The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., as guarantor, and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee. This indenture, as so supplemented and as further supplemented thereafter, is referred to as the GSFC 2008 indenture in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

This section is meant as a summary and should be read in conjunction with the section entitled General Terms of the Underlier-Linked Notes on page S-35 of the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743 and Supplemental Terms of the Notes on page S-16 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734. Please note that certain features, as noted below, described in the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743 and general terms supplement no. 1,734 are not applicable to the notes. This pricing supplement supersedes any conflicting provisions of the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743 or the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734.

Key Terms

Issuer: GS Finance Corp.

Guarantor: The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

Basket underliers: the S&P 500® Index (Bloomberg symbol, SPX Index), as published by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC; the iShares MSCI EAFE ETF (Bloomberg symbol, EFA UP Equity); Russell 2000® Index (Bloomberg symbol, RTY Index), as published by the FTSE Russell; see The Basket and the Basket Underliers on page PS-17

Basket indices: the S&P 500® Index and the Russell 2000® Index

Basket fund: the iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF

Underlying index of the basket fund: the MSCI EAFE Index

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

Terms to be specified in accordance with the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743:

- type of notes: notes linked to basket of underliers
- exchange rates: not applicable
- downside participation percentage: not applicable
- cap level: yes, as described below
- averaging dates: not applicable
- interest: not applicable
- redemption right or price dependent redemption right: not applicable

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

Purchase at amount other than face amount: the amount we will pay you at the stated maturity date for your

notes will not be adjusted based on the issue price you pay for your notes, so if you acquire notes at a premium (or discount) to face amount and hold them to the stated maturity date, it could affect your investment in a number of ways. The return on your investment in such notes will be lower (or higher) than it would have been had you purchased the notes at face amount. Also, the cap level would be triggered at a lower (or higher) percentage return than indicated below, relative to your investment. See [Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes](#) If You

PS-3

Table of Contents

Purchase Your Notes at a Premium to Face Amount, the Return on Your Investment Will Be Lower Than the Return on Notes Purchased at Face Amount and the Impact of Certain Key Terms of the Notes Will Be Negatively Affected on page PS-13 of this pricing supplement.

Supplemental discussion of federal income tax consequences: the notes will be treated as debt instruments subject to the special rules governing contingent payment debt instruments for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Under this treatment, it is the opinion of Sidley Austin LLP that if you are a U.S. individual or taxable entity, you generally should be required to pay taxes on ordinary income from the notes over their term based on the comparable yield for the notes. In addition, any gain you may recognize on the sale, exchange or maturity of the notes will be taxed as ordinary interest income.

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

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

Initial basket level: 100

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

Basket Underlier	Initial Weight in Basket
S&P 500® Index	50%
iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF	30%
Russell 2000® Index	20%

Initial S&P 500® Index level (to be set on the trade date):

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

Initial Russell 2000® Index level (to be set on the trade date):

Final S&P 500® Index level: the closing level of such basket underlier on the determination date, except in the limited circumstances described under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day on page S-23 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734 and subject to adjustment as provided under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Discontinuance or Modification of an Underlier on page S-27 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

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

Final Russell 2000® Index level: the closing level of such basket underlier on the determination date, except in the limited circumstances described under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day on page S-23 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734 and subject to adjustment as provided under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Discontinuance or Modification of an Underlier on page S-27 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

Final basket level: the *sum* of the following: (1) the final S&P 500® Index level *divided* by the initial S&P 500® Index level, *multiplied* by the initial weighted value of the S&P 500® Index *plus* (2) the final iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF level *divided* by the initial iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF level, *multiplied* by the initial weighted value of the iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF *plus* (3) the final Russell 2000® Index level *divided* by the initial Russell 2000® Index level, *multiplied* by the initial weighted value of the Russell 2000® Index

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

Upside participation rate: 100%

PS-4

Table of Contents

Cap level: 158% of the initial basket level

Maximum settlement amount: \$1,580

Trade date: expected to be December 27, 2018

Original issue date (settlement date) (to be set on the trade date): expected to be January 2, 2019

Stated maturity date (to be set on the trade date): expected to be January 2, 2024, subject to adjustment as described under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Stated Maturity Date on page S-16 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

Determination date (to be set on the trade date): expected to be December 27, 2023, subject to adjustment as described under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Determination Date on page S-17 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

No interest: the offered notes will not bear interest

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

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

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

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

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

Use of proceeds and hedging: as described under Use of Proceeds and Hedging on page S-31 of the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743

ERISA: as described under Employee Retirement Income Security Act on page S-43 of the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743

Supplemental plan of distribution; conflicts of interest: as described under Supplemental Plan of Distribution on page S-44 of the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743 and Plan of Distribution Conflicts of Interest on page 94 of the accompanying prospectus; GS Finance Corp. estimates that its share of the total offering expenses, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$.

GS Finance Corp. expects to agree to sell to Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC (GS&Co.), and GS&Co. expects to agree to purchase from GS Finance Corp., the aggregate face amount of the offered notes specified on the front cover of this pricing supplement. GS&Co. proposes initially to offer the notes to the public at the original issue price set forth on the cover page of this pricing supplement, and to certain securities dealers at such price less a concession not in excess of % of the face amount. GS&Co. will pay a fee of % from the concession to Axio Financial LLC in connection with its marketing efforts related to the offered notes. GS&Co. is an affiliate of GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and, as such, will have a conflict of interest in this offering of notes within the meaning of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA) Rule 5121. Consequently, this offering of notes will be conducted in compliance with the provisions of FINRA Rule 5121. GS&Co. will not be permitted to sell notes in this offering to an account over which it exercises discretionary authority without the prior specific written approval of the account holder.

We expect to deliver the notes against payment therefor in New York, New York on January 2, 2019. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in two business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade notes on any date prior to two business days before delivery will be required to specify alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

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

Calculation agent: GS&Co.

CUSIP no.: 40056EMU9

ISIN no.: US40056EMU90

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

PS-5

Table of Contents**HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLES**

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

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

The information in the following examples reflects hypothetical rates of return on the offered notes assuming that they are purchased on the original issue date at the face amount and held to the stated maturity date. If you sell your notes in a secondary market prior to the stated maturity date, your return will depend upon the market value of your notes at the time of sale, which may be affected by a number of factors that are not reflected in the examples below such as interest rates, the volatility of the basket underliers, the creditworthiness of GS Finance Corp., as issuer, and the creditworthiness of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., as guarantor. In addition, the estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date (as determined by reference to pricing models used by GS&Co.) is less than the original issue price of your notes. For more information on the estimated value of your notes, see *Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes – The Estimated Value of Your Notes At the Time the Terms of Your Notes Are Set On the Trade Date (as Determined By Reference to Pricing Models Used By GS&Co.) Is Less Than the Original Issue Price Of Your Notes* on page PS-11 of this pricing supplement. The information in the examples also reflects the key terms and assumptions in the box below.

Key Terms and Assumptions	
Face amount	\$1,000
Upside participation rate	100%
Initial basket level	100
Cap level	158% of the initial basket level
Maximum settlement amount	\$1,580
Neither a market disruption event nor a non-trading day occurs with respect to any basket underlier on the originally scheduled determination date	
No change in or affecting (i) any of the underlier stocks, (ii) the methods by which any underlier sponsor calculates the basket index or the underlying index for a basket fund or (iii) the policies of the investment advisor of the basket fund	
Notes purchased on original issue date at the face amount and held to the stated maturity date	

Moreover, we have not yet set the initial S&P 500® Index level, the initial iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF level or the initial Russell 2000 Index level that will serve as the baselines for determining the basket return and the amount that we will pay on your notes at maturity. We will not do so until the trade date. As a result, the actual initial S&P 500® Index level, the actual initial iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF level and the actual initial Russell 2000 Index level may differ substantially from the current level of such basket underlier prior to the trade date. They may also differ substantially from the level of such basket underlier at the time you purchase your notes.

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

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

The levels in the left column of the table below represent hypothetical final basket levels and are expressed as percentages of the initial basket level. The amounts in the right column represent the hypothetical cash settlement

Table of Contents

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

Hypothetical Final Basket Level	Hypothetical Cash Settlement Amount
(as Percentage of Initial Basket Level)	(as Percentage of Face Amount)
170.000%	158.000%
160.000%	158.000%
158.000%	158.000%
150.000%	150.000%
125.000%	125.000%
100.000%	100.000%
75.000%	100.000%
50.000%	100.000%
25.000%	100.000%
0.000%	100.000%

If, for example, the final basket level were determined to be 25.000% of the initial basket level, the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be 100.000% of the face amount of your notes, as shown in the table above. As a result, if you purchased your notes on the original issue date at the face amount and held them to the stated maturity date, you would receive no return on your investment. In addition, if the final basket level were determined to be 170.000% of the initial basket level, the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be capped at the maximum settlement amount (expressed as a percentage of the face amount), or 158.000% of each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, as shown in the table above. As a result, if you held your notes to the stated maturity date, you would not benefit from any increase in the final basket level over 158.000% of the initial basket level.

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

Table of Contents

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

Table of Contents

Example 1: The final basket level is greater than the cap level. The cash settlement amount equals the maximum settlement amount.

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
Basket Underlier	Hypothetical Initial Level	Hypothetical Final Level	Column B/Column A	Initial Weighted Value	Column C x Column D
S&P 500® Index	2,700.00	4,320.00	160.00%	50.00	80.00
iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF	\$61.00	\$97.60	160.00%	30.00	48.00
Russell 2000® Index	1,500.00	2,400.00	160.00%	20.00	32.00
				Final Basket Level:	160.00
				Basket Return:	60.00%

In this example, all of the hypothetical final levels for the basket underliers are greater than the applicable hypothetical initial levels, which results in the hypothetical final basket level being greater than the initial basket level of 100. Since the hypothetical final basket level was determined to be 160.00, the hypothetical cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be capped at the maximum settlement amount of \$1,580 for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes (i.e. 158.00% of each \$1,000 face amount of your notes).

Example 2: The final basket level is greater than the initial basket level but less than the cap level.

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
Basket Underlier	Hypothetical Initial Level	Hypothetical Final Level	Column B/Column A	Initial Weighted Value	Column C x Column D
S&P 500® Index	2,700.00	2,727.00	101.00%	50.00	50.50
iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF	\$61.00	\$61.61	101.00%	30.00	30.30
Russell 2000® Index	1,500.00	1,515.00	101.00%	20.00	20.20
				Final Basket Level:	101.00
				Basket Return:	1.00%

In this example, all of the hypothetical final levels for the basket underliers are greater than the applicable hypothetical initial levels, which results in the hypothetical final basket level being greater than the initial basket level of 100. Since the hypothetical final basket level was determined to be 101.00, the hypothetical cash settlement amount for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes will equal:

$$\text{Cash settlement amount} = \$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times 1.00\%) = \$1,010.00$$

Example 3: The final basket level is less than the initial basket level.

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
Basket Underlier	Hypothetical Initial Level	Hypothetical Final Level	Column B/Column A	Initial Weighted Value	Column C x Column D
S&P 500® Index	2,700.00	1,350.00	50.00%	50.00	25.00
iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF	\$61.00	\$67.10	110.00%	30.00	33.00
Russell 2000® Index	1,500.00	1,650.00	110.00%	20.00	22.00
				Final Basket Level:	80.00
				Basket Return:	-20.00%

In this example, the hypothetical final level of the S&P 500® Index is less than its hypothetical initial level, while the hypothetical final levels of the iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF and the Russell 2000® Index and are greater than their applicable initial levels.

Because the basket is unequally weighted, increases in the lower weighted basket underliers will be offset by decreases in the more heavily weighted basket underliers. In this example, the large decline in the S&P 500® Index

PS-9

Table of Contents

results in the hypothetical final basket level being less than 100.00 even though the iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF and the Russell 2000® Index increased.

Since the hypothetical final basket level of 80.00 is less than the initial basket level, the hypothetical cash settlement amount for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes will equal \$1,000.

The cash settlement amounts shown above are entirely hypothetical; they are based on levels of the basket underliers that may not be achieved on the determination date and on assumptions that may prove to be erroneous. The actual market value of your notes on the stated maturity date or at any other time, including any time you may wish to sell your notes, may bear little relation to the hypothetical cash settlement amounts shown above, and these amounts should not be viewed as an indication of the financial return on an investment in the offered notes. The hypothetical cash settlement amounts on notes held to the stated maturity date in the examples above assume you purchased your notes at their face amount and have not been adjusted to reflect the actual issue price you pay for your notes. The return on your investment (whether positive or negative) in your notes will be affected by the amount you pay for your notes. If you purchase your notes for a price other than the face amount, the return on your investment will differ from, and may be significantly lower than, the hypothetical returns suggested by the above examples. Please read *Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Underlier-Linked Notes – The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors* on page S-25 of the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743.

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

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

Table of Contents**ADDITIONAL RISK FACTORS SPECIFIC TO YOUR NOTES**

An investment in your notes is subject to the risks described below, as well as the risks and considerations described in the accompanying prospectus, in the accompanying prospectus supplement, under Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Notes in the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734 and under Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Underlier-Linked Notes in the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743. You should carefully review these risks and considerations as well as the terms of the notes described herein and in the accompanying prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement, the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734 and the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743. Your notes are a riskier investment than ordinary debt securities. Also, your notes are not equivalent to investing directly in the basket underlier stocks, i.e., with respect to a basket underlier to which your notes are linked, the stocks comprising such basket underlier. You should carefully consider whether the offered notes are suited to your particular circumstances.

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

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

In estimating the value of your notes as of the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date, as disclosed above under Estimated Value of Your Notes , GS&Co.'s pricing models consider certain variables, including principally our credit spreads, interest rates (forecasted, current and historical rates), volatility, price-sensitivity analysis and the time to maturity of the notes. These pricing models are proprietary and rely in part on certain assumptions about future events, which may prove to be incorrect. As a result, the actual value you would receive if you sold your notes in the secondary market, if any, to others may differ, perhaps materially, from the estimated value of your notes determined by reference to our models due to, among other things, any differences in pricing models or assumptions used by others. See Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Underlier-Linked Notes The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors on page S-25 of the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743.

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

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

In addition to the factors discussed above, the value and quoted price of your notes at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted. If GS&Co. makes a market in the notes, the price quoted by GS&Co. would reflect any changes in market conditions and other relevant factors, including any deterioration in our creditworthiness or perceived creditworthiness or the creditworthiness or perceived creditworthiness of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. These changes may adversely affect the value of your notes, including the price you may receive for your notes in any market making transaction. To the extent that GS&Co. makes a market in the notes, the quoted price will reflect the estimated value determined by reference to GS&Co.'s pricing models at that time, plus or minus its then current bid and ask spread for similar sized trades of structured notes (and subject to the declining excess amount described above).

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

PS-11

Table of Contents

There is no assurance that GS&Co. or any other party will be willing to purchase your notes at any price and, in this regard, GS&Co. is not obligated to make a market in the notes. See **Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Underlier-Linked Notes** **Your Notes May Not Have an Active Trading Market** on page S-24 of the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743.

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

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

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

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

Your Notes Do Not Bear Interest

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

The Potential for the Value of Your Notes to Increase Will Be Limited

Your ability to participate in any change in the value of the basket over the life of your notes will be limited because of the cap level, which will be set on the trade date. The maximum settlement amount will limit the amount in cash you may receive for each of your

notes at maturity, no matter how much the level of the basket may rise beyond the cap level over the life of your notes. Accordingly, the amount payable for each of your notes may be significantly less than it would have been had you invested directly in any of the basket underliers.

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

Declines in the level of one basket underlier may offset increases in the levels of the other basket underliers. As a result, any return on the basket and thus on your notes may be reduced or eliminated, which will have the effect of reducing the amount payable in respect of your notes at maturity. In addition, because the basket underliers are not equally weighted, increases in the lower weighted basket underliers may be offset by even small decreases in the more heavily weighted basket underliers. In particular, due to the weighting of the S&P 500® Index in the basket relative to the other basket underliers, any decrease in the S&P 500® Index will have a significantly larger impact on your return on the notes than any proportional increase in the other basket underliers.

PS-12

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The policies of an underlier sponsor concerning the calculation of the level of a basket index and the underlying index, additions, deletions or substitutions of the underlier stocks comprising such basket index or the underlying index, and the manner in which changes affecting the underlier stocks or their issuers, such as stock dividends, reorganizations or mergers, are reflected in the level of a basket index or the underlying index, could affect the level of the applicable basket index or the underlying index and, therefore, the amount payable on your notes on the stated maturity date and the market value of your notes before that date. The amount payable on your notes and their market value could also be affected if an underlier sponsor changes these policies, for example, by changing the manner in which it calculates the level of the applicable basket index or the underlying index, or if any underlier sponsor discontinues or suspends calculation or publication of the level of the applicable basket index or the underlying index, in which case it may become difficult to determine the market value of your notes. If events such as these occur on the determination date, the calculation agent which initially will be GS&Co., our affiliate may determine the closing level of the applicable basket index or the underlying index on the determination date and thus the amount payable on the stated maturity date in a manner it considers appropriate, in its sole discretion. We describe the discretion that the calculation agent will have in determining the levels of the basket underliers on the determination date and the amount payable on your notes more fully under Supplemental Terms of the Notes

PS-13

Table of Contents

Discontinuance or Modification of a Basket Underlier on page S-27 and Role of Calculation Agent on page S-28 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734.

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

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

If events such as these occur, the calculation agent which initially will be GS&Co. may determine the closing level of the basket fund on the determination date and thus the amount payable on the stated maturity date in a manner, in its sole discretion, it considers appropriate. We describe the discretion that the calculation agent will have in determining the levels of the basket underliers on the determination date and the amount payable on your notes more fully under Supplemental Terms of the Notes Discontinuance or Modification of a Basket Underlier on page S-27 and Role of Calculation Agent on page S-28 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734.

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

There Are Risks Associated With the Basket Fund

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

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

positions in declining markets.

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

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

PS-14

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PS-15

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

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

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

It has been reported that the U.K. Financial Conduct Authority and regulators from other countries are in the process of investigating the potential manipulation of published currency exchange rates. If such manipulation has occurred or is continuing, certain published exchange rates may have been, or may be in the future, artificially lower (or higher) than they would otherwise

have been. Any such manipulation could have an adverse impact on any payments on, and the value of, your notes and the trading market for your notes. In addition, we cannot predict whether any changes or reforms affecting the determination or publication of exchange rates or the supervision of currency trading will be implemented in connection with these investigations. Any such changes or reforms could also adversely impact your notes.

Your Notes Will Be Treated as Debt Instruments Subject to Special Rules Governing Contingent Payment Debt Instruments for U.S. Federal Income Tax Purposes

The notes will be treated as debt instruments subject to special rules governing contingent payment debt instruments for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If you are a U.S. individual or taxable entity, you generally will be required to pay taxes on ordinary income from the notes over their term based on the comparable yield for the notes, even though you will not receive any payments from us until maturity. This comparable yield is determined solely to calculate the amount on which you will be taxed prior to maturity and is neither a prediction nor a guarantee of what the actual yield will be. In addition, any gain you may recognize on the sale, exchange or maturity of the notes will be taxed as ordinary interest income. If you are a secondary purchaser of the notes, the tax consequences to you may be different. Please see Supplemental Discussion of Federal Income Tax Consequences below for a more detailed discussion. Please also consult your tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax and any other applicable tax consequences to you of owning your notes in your particular circumstances.

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

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

Table of Contents

THE BASKET AND THE BASKET UNDERLIERS

The Basket

The basket is comprised of the following basket underliers with the following initial weights within the basket: the S&P 500® Index (50% weighting), the iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF (30% weighting) and the Russell 2000 Index (20% weighting)

The S&P 500® Index

The S&P 500® Index includes a representative sample of 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. The S&P 500® Index is calculated, maintained and published by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC (S&P).

As of July 31, 2017, companies with multiple share class lines are no longer eligible for inclusion in the S&P 500® Index. Constituents of the S&P 500® Index prior to July 31, 2017 with multiple share class lines will be grandfathered in and continue to be included in the S&P 500® Index. If an S&P 500® Index constituent reorganizes into a multiple share class line structure, that company will be reviewed for continued inclusion in the S&P 500® Index at the discretion of the S&P Index Committee. Also as of July 31, 2017, the criteria employed by S&P for purposes of making additions to the S&P 500® Index were changed as follows:

- with respect to the U.S. company criterion, (i) the IEX was added as an eligible exchange for the primary listing of the relevant company's common stock and (ii) the former corporate governance structure consistent with U.S. practice requirement was removed; and
- with respect to constituents of the S&P MidCap 400® Index and the S&P SmallCap 600® Index that are being considered for addition to the S&P 500® Index, the financial viability, public float and/or liquidity eligibility criteria no longer need to be met if the S&P Index Committee decides that such an addition will enhance the representativeness of the S&P 500® Index as a market benchmark.

As of November 14, 2018, the 500 companies included in the S&P 500® Index were divided into eleven Global Industry Classification Sectors. The Global Industry Classification Sectors include (with the approximate percentage currently included in such sectors indicated in parentheses): Communication Services (9.92%), Consumer Discretionary (9.95%), Consumer Staples (7.49%), Energy (5.50%), Financials (13.66%), Health Care (15.32%), Industrials (9.45%), Information Technology (20.01%), Materials (2.63%), Real Estate (2.91%) and Utilities (3.14%). (Sector designations are determined by the underlier sponsor using

criteria it has selected or developed. Index sponsors may use very different standards for determining sector designations. In addition, many companies operate in a number of sectors, but are listed in only one sector and the basis on which that sector is selected may also differ. As a result, sector comparisons between indices with different index sponsors may reflect differences in methodology as well as actual differences in the sector composition of the indices.) As of the close of business on September 21, 2018, S&P and MSCI, Inc. updated the Global Industry Classification Sector structure. Among other things, the update broadened the Telecommunications Services sector and renamed it the Communication Services sector. The renamed sector includes the previously existing Telecommunication Services Industry group, as well as the Media Industry group, which was moved from the Consumer Discretionary sector and renamed the Media & Entertainment Industry group. The Media & Entertainment Industry group contains three industries: Media, Entertainment and Interactive Media & Services. The Media industry continues to consist of the Advertising, Broadcasting, Cable & Satellite and Publishing sub-industries. The Entertainment industry contains the Movies & Entertainment sub-industry (which includes online entertainment streaming companies in addition to companies previously classified in such industry prior to September 21, 2018) and the Interactive Home Entertainment sub-industry (which includes companies previously classified in the Home Entertainment Software sub-industry prior to September 21, 2018 (when the Home Entertainment Software sub-industry was a sub-industry in the Information Technology sector)), as well as producers of interactive gaming products, including mobile gaming applications). The Interactive Media & Services industry and sub-industry includes companies engaged in content and information creation or distribution through proprietary platforms, where revenues are derived primarily through pay-per-click advertisements, and includes search engines, social media and networking platforms, online classifieds and online review companies. The Global Industry Classification Sector structure changes are effective for the S&P 500® Index as of the open of business on September 24, 2018 to coincide with the September 2018 quarterly rebalancing.

The above information supplements the description of the underlier found in the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734. This information was derived from information prepared by the underlier sponsor, however, the percentages we have listed above are approximate and may not match the information available on the underlier sponsor's website due to subsequent corporate actions or other activity relating to a particular stock. For more details about the underlier, the underlier sponsor and license agreement between the underlier sponsor and the issuer, see [The Underliers S&P 500® Index](#) on page S-40 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734.

PS-17

Table of Contents

The S&P 500® Index is a product of S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, and has been licensed for use by GS Finance Corp. (Goldman). Standard & Poor s® and S&P® are registered trademarks of Standard & Poor s Financial Services LLC; Dow Jones® is a registered trademark of Dow Jones Trademark Holdings LLC (Dow Jones) and these trademarks have been licensed for use by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC and sublicensed for certain purposes by Goldman. Goldman s notes are not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Dow Jones, Standard & Poor s Financial Services LLC or any of their respective affiliates and neither S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Dow Jones, Standard & Poor s Financial Services LLC or any of their respective affiliates make any representation regarding the advisability of investing in such notes.

PS-18

Table of Contents

The iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF

The shares of the iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF (the ETF) are issued by iShares® Trust, a registered investment company.

- The ETF is a tracking ETF that seeks investment results which correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of its underlying index.
- The index it tracks is the MSCI EAFE Index (the underlying index).
- Investment Advisor: BlackRock Fund Advisors (BFA).
- The ETF s shares trade on the NYSE Arca under the ticker symbol EFA .
- The iShares® Trust s SEC CIK Number is 0001100663.
- The ETF s inception date was August 14, 2001.
- The ETF s shares are issued or redeemed only in creation units of 600,000 shares or multiples thereof.

We obtained the following fee information from the iShares® website without independent verification. The investment advisor is paid a management fee from the ETF based on the ETF s allocable portion of an aggregate management fee based on the aggregate average daily net assets of the ETF and a set of other specified iShares® funds (the funds) as follows: 0.35% per annum of the aggregate net assets of the funds less than or equal to \$30.0 billion, *plus* 0.32% per annum of the aggregate net assets of the funds on amounts in excess of \$30.0 billion, up to and including \$60.0 billion, *plus* 0.28% per annum of the aggregate net assets of the funds on amounts in excess of \$60.0 billion, up to and including \$90.0 billion, *plus* 0.252% per annum of the aggregate net assets of the funds on amounts in excess of \$90.0 billion, up to and including \$120.0 billion, *plus* 0.227% per annum of the aggregate net assets of the funds on amounts in excess of \$120.0 billion, up to and including \$150.0 billion, *plus* 0.204% per annum of the aggregate net assets of the funds on amounts in excess of \$150.00 billion. As of October 31, 2018, the aggregate expense ratio of the

ETF was 0.32% per annum.

PS-19

Table of Contents

For additional information regarding iShares® Trust or BFA, please consult the reports (including the Annual Report to Shareholders on Form N-CSR for the period ended July 31, 2018) and other information iShares® Trust files with the SEC. In addition, information regarding the ETF, including its top portfolio holdings, may be obtained from other sources including, but not limited to, press releases, newspaper articles, other publicly available documents, and the iShares® website at us.ishares.com/product_info/fund/overview/EFA.htm. We are not incorporating by reference the website, the sources listed above or any material they include in this pricing supplement.

Investment Objective

The ETF seeks to provide investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of the underlying index. The ETF's investment objective and the underlying index may be changed without the approval of BFA's shareholders.

The following table displays the top holdings and weightings by industry sector of the ETF. (Sector designations are determined by the ETF sponsor using criteria it has selected or developed. Index and ETF sponsors may use very different standards for determining sector designations. In addition, many companies operate in a number of sectors, but are listed in only one sector and the basis on which that sector is selected may also differ. As a result, sector comparisons between indices or ETFs with different sponsors may reflect differences in methodology as well as actual differences in the sector composition of the indices or ETFs.) We obtained the information in the tables below from the ETF website without independent verification.

Notwithstanding the ETF's investment objective, the return on your notes will not reflect any dividends paid on the ETF shares, on the securities purchased by the ETF or on the securities that comprise the underlying index.

iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF Top Ten Holdings as of November 23, 2018

<u>ETF Stock Issuer</u>	<u>Percentage (%)</u>
NESTLE SA	2.01%
NOVARTIS AG	1.45%
ROCHE HOLDING PAR AG	1.33%
HSBC HOLDINGS PLC	1.27%
TOYOTA MOTOR CORP	1.05%
ROYAL DUTCH SHELL PLC	1.03%
BP PLC	0.99%
TOTAL SA	0.98%
ROYAL DUTCH SHELL PLC CLASS B	0.85%
SANOFI SA	0.77%
Total	11.73%

iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF Weighting by Sector as of November 23, 2018*

<u>Sector</u>	<u>Percentage (%)</u>
Financials	19.58%
Industrials	14.13%
Consumer Staples	11.51%
Health Care	11.49%
Consumer Discretionary	11.02%
Materials	7.34%
Information Technology	5.88%
Energy	5.69%
Communication	5.39%
Real Estate	3.57%
Utilities	3.51%
Cash and/or Derivatives	0.90%
Total	100.01%

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

The Global Industry Classification Structure, which MSCI utilizes to classify the constituents of the MSCI EAFE Index, was updated in September 2018. Please see [The MSCI® EAFE Index](#) below for additional information about these updates.

PS-20

Table of Contents**iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF Weighting by Country as of November 23, 2018***

<u>Country</u>	<u>Percentage (%)</u>
Japan	24.42%
United Kingdom	17.27%
France	10.82%
Germany	8.86%
Switzerland	8.59%
Australia	6.85%
Hong Kong	3.62%
Netherlands	3.44%
Spain	3.02%
Sweden	2.58%
Italy	2.24%
Denmark	1.70%
Singapore	1.29%
Finland	1.01%
Cash and/or Derivatives	0.90%
Other	3.35%
Total	99.96%

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

Representative Sampling

BFA uses a representative sampling indexing strategy to manage the ETF. This strategy involves investing in a representative sample of securities that collectively has an investment profile similar to that of the underlying index. The securities selected are expected to have, in the aggregate, investment characteristics (based on factors such as market capitalization and industry weightings), fundamental characteristics (such as return variability and yield) and liquidity measures similar to those of the underlying index.

The ETF generally invests at least 90% of its assets in the securities of the underlying index and in depositary receipts representing securities of the underlying index. The ETF may invest the remainder of its assets in certain futures, options and swap contracts, cash and cash equivalents, including shares of money market funds advised by BFA or its affiliates, as well as in securities not included in the underlying index, but which BFA believes will help the ETF track the underlying index. Also, the ETF may lend securities representing up to one-third of the value of the ETF's total assets (including the value of the collateral received).

Tracking Error

The performance of the ETF and the underlying index may vary due to a variety of factors, including differences between the securities and other instruments held in the ETF's portfolio and those included in the underlying index, pricing differences (including

differences between a security's price at the local market close and the ETF's valuation of a security at the time of calculation of the ETF's net asset value), differences in transaction costs, the ETF's holding of uninvested cash, differences in timing of the accrual of or the valuation of dividends or interest, tax gains or losses, changes to the underlying index or the costs to the ETF of complying with various new or existing regulatory requirements. Tracking error also may result because the ETF incurs fees and expenses, while the underlying index does not. BFA expects that, over time, the ETF's tracking error will not exceed 5%. The ETF's use of a representative sampling indexing strategy can be expected to produce a larger tracking error than would result if the ETF used a replication indexing strategy in which an ETF invests in substantially all of the securities in its index in approximately the same proportions as in the underlying index.

As of October 31, 2018, iShares® reported the following average annual returns on the market price of the ETF's shares and the MSCI EAFE Index. The market price of the ETF's shares takes into account distributions on the shares and the returns shown account for changes in the mid-point of the bid and ask prices at 4:00 p.m., Eastern time on the relevant date. ETF shares: 1 year, -7.44%; 3 years, 3.68%; 5 years, 1.86%; 10 years, 6.56%; since inception, 4.85%; MSCI EAFE Index: 1 year, -6.85%; 3 years, 3.62%; 5 years, 2.02%; 10 years, 6.89%; since ETF inception, 4.93%.

PS-21

Table of Contents

Industry Concentration Policy

The ETF will concentrate its investments (i.e., hold 25% or more of its total assets) in a particular industry or group of industries to approximately the same extent that the underlying index is concentrated.

The MSCI EAFE Index

The MSCI EAFE Index (the underlying index) is a stock index calculated, published and disseminated daily by MSCI Inc., which we refer to as MSCI, through numerous data vendors, on the MSCI website and in real time on Bloomberg Financial Markets and Reuters Limited.

Net Total Return Methodology

The ETF tracks the net total return version of the underlying index. A net total return index represents the total return earned in a portfolio that tracks the price return version of the index and reinvests dividend income, net of certain withholding taxes, in the overall index, not in the specific stock paying the dividend. The difference between the price return calculation and the net total return calculation of an index is that, with respect to the price return calculation, changes in the index level reflect changes in stock prices, whereas with respect to the net total return calculation of the index, changes in the index level reflect both movements in stock prices and the reinvestment of dividend income net of certain withholding taxes.

MSCI's net total return methodology reinvests net cash dividends in the index the day the security is quoted ex-dividend, or on the ex-date (converted to U.S. dollars, as applicable). Certain dividends, including special/extraordinary dividends and commemorative dividends, are reinvested in the index if, a day prior to the ex-date, the dividend impact on price is less than 5%. If the impact is 5% or more, the dividend will be reflected in the index through a price adjustment. A specific price adjustment is always applied for stock dividends that are issued at no cost to the shareholders, an extraordinary capital repayment or a dividend paid in the shares of another company. Cash payments related to corporate events, such as mergers and acquisitions, are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Notwithstanding the ETF's investment objective, the return on your notes will not reflect any dividends paid on the ETF shares, on the securities purchased by the ETF or on the securities that comprise the underlying index.

MSCI divides the companies included in the index into eleven Global Industry Classification Sectors: Communication Services, Consumer Discretionary, Consumer Staples, Energy, Financials, Health Care, Industrials, Information Technology, Materials, Real Estate and Utilities. As of the close of business on September 21, 2018, MSCI and S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC updated the Global Industry Classification Sector structure. Among other things, the update broadened the Telecommunications Services sector and renamed it the Communication Services sector. The renamed sector includes the previously existing Telecommunication Services Industry group, as well as the Media Industry group, which was moved from the Consumer Discretionary sector and renamed the Media & Entertainment Industry group. The Media & Entertainment Industry group contains three industries: Media,

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

Entertainment and Interactive Media & Services. The Media industry continues to consist of the Advertising, Broadcasting, Cable & Satellite and Publishing sub-industries. The Entertainment industry contains the Movies & Entertainment sub-industry (which includes online entertainment streaming companies in addition to companies previously classified in such industry prior to September 21, 2018) and the Interactive Home Entertainment sub-industry (which includes companies previously classified in the Home Entertainment Software sub-industry prior to September 21, 2018 (when the Home Entertainment Software sub-industry was a sub-industry in the Information Technology sector)), as well as producers of interactive gaming products, including mobile gaming applications). The Interactive Media & Services industry and sub-industry includes companies engaged in content and information creation or distribution through proprietary platforms, where revenues are derived primarily through pay-per-click advertisements, and includes search engines, social media and networking platforms, online classifieds and online review companies. The Global Classification Sector structure changes are effective for the MSCI EAFE Index as of the open of business on December 3, 2018 to coincide with the November 2018 semi-annual index review.

The above information supplements the description of the underlying index found in the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734. For more details about the underlying index, the underlying index sponsor and license agreement between the underlying index sponsor and the issuer, see The Underliers MSCI Indices on page S-46 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734. Additional information about the underlying index is available on the following website: [msci.com/index-methodology](https://www.msci.com/index-methodology). We are not incorporating by reference the website or any material it includes in this pricing supplement.

PS-22

Table of Contents

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

The MSCI indices are the exclusive property of MSCI Inc. (MSCI). MSCI and the MSCI index names are service mark(s) of MSCI or its affiliates and are licensed for use for certain purposes by GS Finance Corp. and its affiliates. These securities, based on such index, have not been passed on by MSCI as to their legality or suitability, and are not issued, sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by MSCI, and MSCI bears no liability with respect to any such securities. No purchaser, seller or holder of the securities, or any other person or entity, should use or refer to any MSCI trade name, trademark or service mark to sponsor, endorse, market or promote the securities without first contacting MSCI to determine whether MSCI's permission is required. Under no circumstances may any person or entity claim any affiliation with MSCI without the prior written permission of MSCI. The general terms supplement contains a more detailed description of the limited relationship MSCI has with GS Finance Corp. and any related securities.

The Russell 2000® Index

The Russell 2000® Index measures the composite price performance of stocks of 2,000 companies incorporated in the U.S., its territories and certain benefit-driven incorporation countries.

As of December 4, 2018, the 2,000 companies included in the Russell 2000® Index were divided into nine Russell Global Sectors. The Russell Global Sectors include (with the approximate percentage currently included in such sectors indicated in parentheses): Consumer Discretionary (14.63%), Consumer Staples (2.31%), Financial Services (23.27%), Health Care (14.44%), Materials & Processing (6.02%), Other Energy (3.99%), Producer Durables (13.16%), Technology (12.19%) and Utilities (4.63%). (Sector designations are determined by the underlier sponsor using criteria it has selected or developed. Index sponsors may use very different standards for determining sector designations. In addition, many companies operate in a number of sectors, but are listed in only one sector and the basis on which that sector is selected may also differ. As a result, sector comparisons between indices with different index sponsors may reflect differences in methodology as well as actual differences in the sector composition of the indices.)

In addition to the exclusions discussed under Exclusions from the Russell 2000® Index on page S-62 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734, a company with 5% or less of its voting rights in the hands of unrestricted shareholders is no longer eligible for inclusion in the Russell 2000® Index. Existing constituents of the Russell 2000® Index that do not currently have more than 5% of the company's voting rights in the hands of unrestricted shareholders have until the September 2022 review to meet this requirement.

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

The above information supplements the description of the basket underlier found in the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734. This information was derived from information prepared by the underlier sponsor, however, the percentages we have listed above are approximate and may not match the information available on the underlier sponsor's website due to subsequent corporate actions or other activity relating to a particular stock. For more details about the underlier, the underlier sponsor and license agreement between the underlier sponsor and the issuer, see [The Underliers - Russell 2000® Index](#) on page S-61 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734.

The Russell 2000® Index is a trademark of Russell Investment Group (Russell) and has been licensed for use by GS Finance Corp. The securities are not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by Russell, and Russell makes no representation regarding the advisability of investing in the securities.

PS-23

Table of Contents

Historical Closing Levels of the Basket Underliers

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

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

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

The graphs below show the daily historical closing levels of each basket underlier from December 4, 2008 through December 4, 2018. We obtained the closing levels in the graphs below from Bloomberg Financial Services, without independent verification. Although the official closing levels of the Russell 2000® Index are published to six decimal places by its underlier sponsor, Bloomberg Financial Services reports the levels of the Russell 2000® Index to fewer decimal places.

Historical Performance of the S&P 500® Index

PS-24

Table of Contents

Historical Performance of the iShares® MSCI EAFE ETF

PS-25

Table of Contents

Historical Performance of the Russell 2000® Index

PS-26

Table of Contents

Historical Basket Levels

The following graph is based on the basket closing level for the period from December 4, 2008 through December 4, 2018 assuming that the basket closing level was 100 on December 4, 2008. We derived the basket closing levels based on the method to calculate the basket closing level as described in this pricing supplement and on actual closing levels of the relevant basket underliers on the relevant date. The basket closing level has been normalized such that its hypothetical level on December 4, 2008 was 100. As noted in this pricing supplement, the initial basket level will be set at 100 on the trade date. The basket closing level can increase or decrease due to changes in the levels of the basket underliers.

Historical Performance of the Basket

Table of Contents

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCUSSION OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

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

The following section is the opinion of Sidley Austin LLP, counsel to GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. It applies to you only if you hold your notes as a capital asset for tax purposes. This section does not apply to you if you are a member of a class of holders subject to special rules, such as:

- a dealer in securities or currencies;

- a trader in securities that elects to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities holdings;

- a bank;

- a regulated investment company;

- a life insurance company;

- a tax-exempt organization;

- a partnership;

- a person that owns the notes as a hedge or that is hedged against interest rate risks;

- a person that owns the notes as part of a straddle or conversion transaction for tax purposes; or

- a United States holder (as defined below) whose functional currency for tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar.

This section is based on the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, its legislative history, existing and proposed regulations under the Internal Revenue Code, published rulings and court decisions, all as currently in effect. These laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis.

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

United States Holders

This subsection describes the tax consequences to a United States holder. You are a United States holder if you are a beneficial owner of notes and you are:

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

If you are not a United States holder, this section does not apply to you and you should refer to [United States Alien Holders](#) below.

Your notes will be treated as debt instruments subject to special rules governing contingent payment debt instruments for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Under those rules, the amount of interest you are required to take into account for each accrual period will be determined by constructing a projected payment schedule for your notes and applying rules similar to those for accruing original issue discount on a hypothetical noncontingent debt instrument with that projected payment schedule. This method is applied by first determining the yield at which we would issue a noncontingent fixed rate debt instrument with terms and conditions similar to your notes (the *comparable yield*) and then determining as of the issue date a payment schedule that would produce the comparable yield. These rules will generally have the effect of requiring you to include amounts in income in respect of

your notes, even though you will not receive any payments from us until maturity.

We have determined that the comparable yield for the notes is equal to % per annum, compounded semi-annually with a projected payment at maturity of \$ based on an investment of \$1,000.

Based on this comparable yield, if you are an initial holder that holds a note until maturity and you pay your taxes on a calendar year basis, we have determined that you would be required to report the following amounts as ordinary income, not taking into account any positive or negative adjustments you may be required to take into account based on the actual payments on the notes, from the note each year:

PS-28

Table of Contents

Accrual Period	Interest Deemed to Accrue During Accrual Period (per \$1,000 note)	Total Interest Deemed to Have Accrued from Original Issue Date (per \$1,000 note) as of End of Accrual Period
through December 31, 2019		
January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020		
January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021		
January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022		
January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023		
January 1, 2024 through		

You are required to use the comparable yield and projected payment schedule that we compute in determining your interest accruals in respect of your notes, unless you timely disclose and justify on your U.S. federal income tax return the use of a different comparable yield and projected payment schedule.

The comparable yield and projected payment schedule are not provided to you for any purpose other than the determination of your interest accruals in respect of your notes, and we make no representation regarding the amount of contingent payments with respect to your notes.

If you purchase your notes at a price other than their adjusted issue price determined for tax purposes, you must determine the extent to which the difference between the price you paid for your notes and their adjusted issue price is attributable to a change in expectations as to the projected payment schedule, a change in interest rates, or both, and reasonably allocate the difference accordingly. The adjusted issue price of your notes will equal your notes' original issue price plus any interest deemed to be accrued on your notes (under the rules governing contingent payment debt instruments) as of the time you purchase your notes. The original issue price of your notes will be the first price at which a substantial amount of the notes is sold to persons other than bond houses, brokers or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers. Therefore, you may be required to make the adjustments described above even if you purchase your notes in the initial offering if you purchase your notes at a price other than the issue price.

If the adjusted issue price of your notes is greater than the price you paid for your notes, you must make positive adjustments increasing (i) the amount of interest that you would otherwise accrue and include in income each year, and (ii) the amount of ordinary income (or decreasing the amount of ordinary loss) recognized upon maturity by the amounts allocated under the previous paragraph to each of interest and the projected payment schedule; if the adjusted issue price of your notes is less than the price you paid for your notes, you must make negative adjustments, decreasing (i) the amount of interest that you must include in income each year, and (ii) the amount of ordinary income (or increasing the amount of ordinary loss) recognized upon maturity by the amounts allocated under the previous paragraph to each of interest and the projected payment schedule. Adjustments allocated to the interest amount are not made until the date the daily portion of interest accrues.

Because any Form 1099-OID that you receive will not reflect the effects of positive or negative adjustments resulting from your purchase of notes at a price other than the adjusted issue price determined for tax purposes, you are urged to consult with your tax advisor as to whether and how adjustments should be made to the amounts reported on any Form 1099-OID.

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

You will recognize income or loss upon the sale, exchange or maturity of your notes in an amount equal to the difference, if any, between the cash amount you receive at such time and your adjusted basis in your notes. In general, your adjusted basis in your notes will equal the amount you paid for your notes, increased by the amount of interest you previously accrued with respect to your notes (in accordance with the comparable yield and the projected payment schedule for your notes), and increased or decreased by the amount of any positive or negative adjustment, respectively, that you are required to make if you purchase your notes at a price other than the adjusted issue price determined for tax purposes.

Any income you recognize upon the sale, exchange or maturity of your notes will be ordinary interest income. Any loss you recognize at such time will be ordinary loss to the extent of interest you included as income in the current or previous taxable years in respect of your notes, and, thereafter, capital loss. If you are a noncorporate holder, you would generally be able to use such ordinary loss to offset your income only in the taxable year in which you recognize the ordinary loss and would generally not be able to carry such ordinary loss forward or back to offset income in other taxable years.

PS-29

Table of Contents

Pursuant to recently enacted legislation, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2018, with respect to a debt instrument issued with original issue discount, such as the notes, an accrual method taxpayer that reports revenues on an applicable financial statement generally must recognize income for U.S. federal income tax purposes no later than the taxable year in which such income is taken into account as revenue in an applicable financial statement of the taxpayer. For this purpose, an applicable financial statement generally means a financial statement certified as having been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or that is made on the basis of international financial reporting standards and which is used by the taxpayer for various specified purposes. This rule could potentially require such a taxpayer to recognize income for U.S. federal income tax purposes with respect to the notes prior to the time such income would be recognized pursuant to the rules described above. Potential investors in the notes should consult their tax advisors regarding the potential applicability of these rules to their investment in the notes.

United States Alien Holders

If you are a United States alien holder, please see the discussion under **United States Taxation Taxation of Debt Securities United States Alien Holders** in the accompanying prospectus for a description of the tax consequences relevant to you. You are a United States alien holder if you are the beneficial owner of the notes and are, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

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

In addition, the Treasury Department has issued regulations under which amounts paid or deemed paid on certain financial instruments (871(m) financial instruments) that are treated as attributable to U.S.-source dividends could be treated, in whole or in part depending on the circumstances, as a dividend equivalent payment that is subject to tax at a rate of 30% (or a lower rate under an applicable treaty), which in the case of amounts you receive upon the sale, exchange or maturity of your notes, could be collected via withholding. If these regulations were to apply to the notes, we may be required to withhold such taxes if any U.S.-source dividends are paid on the basket funds or on the stocks included in the basket indices during the term of the notes. We could also require you to make certifications (e.g., an applicable Internal Revenue Service Form W-8) prior to the maturity of the notes in order to avoid or minimize withholding obligations, and we could withhold accordingly (subject to your potential right to claim a refund from the Internal Revenue Service) if such certifications were not received or were not satisfactory. If withholding was required, we would not be required to pay any additional amounts with respect to amounts so withheld. These regulations generally will apply to 871(m) financial instruments (or a combination of financial instruments treated as having been entered into in connection with each other) issued (or significantly modified and treated as retired and reissued) on or after January 1, 2021, but will also apply to certain 871(m) financial instruments (or a combination of financial instruments treated as having been entered into in connection with each other) that have a delta (as defined in the applicable Treasury regulations) of one and are issued (or significantly modified and treated as retired and reissued) on or after January 1, 2017. In addition, these regulations will not apply to financial instruments that reference a qualified index (as defined in the regulations). We have determined that, as of the issue date of your notes, your notes will not be subject to withholding under these rules. In certain limited circumstances, however, you should be aware that it is possible for United States alien holders to be liable for tax under these rules with respect to a combination

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

of transactions treated as having been entered into in connection with each other even when no withholding is required. You should consult your tax advisor concerning these regulations, subsequent official guidance and regarding any other possible alternative characterizations of your notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding

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

PS-30

Table of Contents

We have not authorized anyone to provide any information or to make any representations other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this pricing supplement, the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743, the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734, the accompanying prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. This pricing supplement, the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743, the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is an offer to sell only the notes offered hereby, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained in this pricing supplement, the accompanying product supplement no. 1,743, the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is current only as of the respective dates of such documents.

\$

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Pricing Supplement

<u>Summary Information</u>	Page PS-3
<u>Hypothetical Examples</u>	PS-6
<u>Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes</u>	PS-11
<u>The Basket and the Basket Underliers</u>	
	PS-17
<u>Supplemental Discussion of Federal Income Tax</u>	
<u>Consequences</u>	PS-28
Product Supplement No. 1,743 dated July 10, 2017	
Summary Information	S-1
Hypothetical Returns on the Underlier-Linked Notes	S-8
Additional Risk Factors Specific to the	
Underlier-Linked Notes	S-23
General Terms of the Underlier-Linked Notes	S-27
Use of Proceeds	S-31
Hedging	S-31
Supplemental Discussion of Federal Income Tax	
Consequences	S-33
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	S-43
Supplemental Plan of Distribution	S-44
Conflicts of Interest	S-47
General Terms Supplement No. 1,734 dated July 10, 2017	
Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Notes	S-1
Supplemental Terms of the Notes	S-16
The Underliers	S-36
S&P 500® Index	S-40
MSCI Indices	S-46
Hang Seng China Enterprises Index	S-55
Russell 2000® Index	S-61
FTSE® 100 Index	S-69
EURO STOXX 50® Index	S-75
TOPIX	S-82
The Dow Jones Industrial Average®	S-87
The iShares® MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	S-91
Use of Proceeds	S-94
Hedging	S-94
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	S-95
Supplemental Plan of Distribution	S-96
Conflicts of Interest	S-98

GS Finance Corp.

Basket-Linked Notes due

guaranteed by

**The Goldman Sachs
Group, Inc.**

Edgar Filing: GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC - Form 424B2

Use of Proceeds	S-2
Description of Notes We May Offer	S-3
Considerations Relating to Indexed Notes	S-15
United States Taxation	S-18
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	S-19
Supplemental Plan of Distribution	S-20
Validity of the Notes and Guarantees	S-21

Prospectus dated July 10, 2017

Available Information	2
Prospectus Summary	4
Risks Relating to Regulatory Resolution Strategies and Long-Term Debt Requirements	8
Use of Proceeds	11
Description of Debt Securities We May Offer	12
Description of Warrants We May Offer	45
Description of Units We May Offer	60
GS Finance Corp.	65
Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance	67
Considerations Relating to Floating Rate Debt Securities	72
Considerations Relating to Indexed Securities	73
Considerations Relating to Securities Denominated or Payable in or Linked to a Non-U.S. Dollar Currency	74
United States Taxation	77
Plan of Distribution	92
Conflicts of Interest	94
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	95
Validity of the Securities and Guarantees	95
Experts	96
Review of Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements by Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	96
Cautionary Statement Pursuant to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995	96

**Goldman Sachs & Co.
LLC**