

GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC

Form 424B2

December 28, 2018

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Registration Statement No. 333-219206

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement is not an offer to sell nor does it seek an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion. Dated December 28, 2018.

GS Finance Corp.

\$

Autocallable Index-Linked Notes due
guaranteed by

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

The notes will not bear interest. The notes will mature on the stated maturity date (expected to be February 2, 2022) unless they are automatically called on either call observation date (expected to be January 28, 2020 and January 28, 2021). Your notes will be automatically called on a call observation date if the closing level of both the Russell 2000[®] Index and the S&P 500[®] Index on such date is greater than or equal to (a) with respect to the first call observation date, 100% of their respective initial levels (set on the trade date (expected to be January 28, 2019)) or (b) with respect to the second call observation date, 95% of their respective initial levels, resulting in a payment on the corresponding call payment date equal to the face amount of your notes times (i) with respect to the first call observation date, 110.8% and (ii) with respect to the second call observation date, 121.6%.

The amount that you will be paid on your note at maturity, if it has not been automatically called, is based on the performance of the index with the lowest index return. The index return for each index is the percentage increase or decrease in the final level of such index on the determination date (expected to be January 28, 2022) from its initial level.

At maturity, for each \$1,000 face amount of your note, you will receive an amount in cash equal to:

if the index return of both indexes is greater than or equal to -10% (the final level of both indexes is greater than or equal to 90% of their respective initial levels), \$1,324; or

if the index return of both indexes is greater than or equal to -30% (the final level of both indexes is greater than or equal to 70% of its respective initial level) but the index return of either index is less than -10% (the final level of either index is less than 90% of its respective initial level), \$1,000; or

if the index return of either index is less than -30% (the final level of either index is less than 70% of its initial level), the sum of (i) \$1,000 plus (ii) the product of (a) the lesser performing index return times (b) \$1,000. You will receive less than 70% of the face amount of your note.

If the index return for either index is less than -30%, the percentage of the face amount of your note you will receive will be based on the performance of the index with the lowest index return. In such event, you will receive less than 70% of the face amount of your note.

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 S-10.

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 \$947.5 and \$977.5 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 31, 2019 Original issue price: 100% of the face amount

Underwriting discount: 2.5% of the face amount* Net proceeds to the issuer: 97.5% of the face amount

*This includes a selling concession of up to 2.25%.

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

Prospectus Supplement No. dated , 2019.

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 prospectus 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 \$947.5 and \$977.5 per \$1,000 face amount, which is less than the original issue price. The value of your notes at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted; however, the price (not including GS&Co.'s customary bid and ask spreads) at which GS&Co. would initially buy or sell notes (if it makes a market, which it is not obligated to do) and the value that GS&Co. will initially use for account statements and otherwise is equal to approximately the estimated value of your notes at the time of pricing, plus an additional amount (initially equal to \$ per \$1,000 face amount).

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

About Your Prospectus

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

- Prospectus supplement dated July 10, 2017
- Prospectus dated July 10, 2017

The information in this prospectus 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 prospectus supplement as the “offered notes” or the “notes”. Each of the offered notes has the terms described below and under “Specific Terms of Your Notes” on page S-19. Please note that in this prospectus 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, and references to the “accompanying prospectus supplement” mean the accompanying prospectus supplement, dated July 10, 2017, for Medium-Term Notes, Series E, in each case of GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. References to the “indenture” in this prospectus supplement mean 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 supplemental thereafter, is referred to as the “GSFC 2008 indenture” in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

Key Terms

Issuer: GS Finance Corp.

Guarantor: The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

Indices: the Russell 2000[®] Index (Bloomberg symbol, “RTY Index”), as published by FTSE Russell (“Russell”), and the S&P 500[®] Index (Bloomberg symbol, “SPX Index”), as published by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC; see “The Indices” on page S-28

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

Face amount: each note will have a face amount equal to \$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 prospectus supplement

Denominations: \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof

Purchase at amount other than face amount: the amount we will pay you for your notes on a call payment date or the stated maturity date, as the case may be, 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 a call payment date or 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. See “Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes — If You Purchase Your Notes at a Premium to Face Amount, the Return on Your Investment Will Be Lower Than the Return on Notes Purchased at Face Amount and the Impact of Certain Key Terms of the Notes Will Be Negatively Affected” on page S-13 of this prospectus supplement

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

Table of Contents

Automatic call feature: if the closing levels of both indices are greater than or equal to (a) 100% of their respective initial index levels on the first call observation date or (b) 95% of their respective initial index levels on the second call observation date, your notes will be automatically called; if your notes are automatically called on any call observation date, on the corresponding call payment date, you will receive an amount in cash equal to the sum of (i) \$1,000 plus (ii) the product of \$1,000 times the call premium amount applicable to the corresponding call observation date for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes.

Cash settlement amount (on any call payment date): if your notes are automatically called on a call observation date because the closing levels of both indices are greater than or equal to (a) 100.00% of their respective initial index levels on the first call observation date or (b) 95.00% of their respective initial index levels on the second call observation date, for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, on the related call payment date, we will pay you an amount in cash equal to the sum of (i) \$1,000 plus (ii) the product of \$1,000 times the call premium amount applicable to the corresponding call observation date.

Cash settlement amount (on the stated maturity date): if your notes are not automatically called, 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 index return of both indices is greater than or equal to -10%, the sum of (i) \$1,000 plus (ii) the product of \$1,000 times the maturity date premium amount; or

if the index return of both indices is greater than or equal to -30% but the index return of either index is less than -10%, \$1,000; or

if the index return of either index is less than -30%, the sum of (i) \$1,000 plus (ii) the product of (a) the lesser performing index return times (b) \$1,000. You will receive less than 70% of the face amount of your note

Lesser performing index return: the index return of the lesser performing index

Lesser performing index: the index with the lowest index return

Call premium amount: 10.8% with respect to the first scheduled call observation date and 21.6% with respect to the second scheduled call observation date

Maturity date premium amount: 32.4%

Initial index level (to be set on the trade date): with respect to each index, the closing level of such index on the trade date

Final index level: with respect to each index, the closing level of such index on the determination date, except in the limited circumstances described under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day” on page S-22

Closing level: with respect to each index on any trading day, the closing level of such index, as further described under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Special Calculation Provisions — Closing Level” on page S-24

Index return: with respect to each index on the determination date, the quotient of (i) the final index level minus the initial index level divided by (ii) the initial index level, expressed as a positive or negative percentage

Defeasance: not applicable

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

Business day: as described under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Special Calculation Provisions” on page S-24

Trading day: as described under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Special Calculation Provisions” on page S-24

Trade date: expected to be January 28, 2019

Original issue date (settlement date) (to be set on the trade date): expected to be January 31, 2019

Stated maturity date (to be set on the trade date): expected to be February 2, 2022, subject to adjustment as described under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Payment of Principal on Stated Maturity Date — Stated Maturity Date” on page S-21

Determination date (to be set on the trade date): expected to be January 28, 2022, subject to adjustment as described under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Determination Date” on page S-21

Table of Contents

Call observation dates (to be set on the trade date): expected to be January 28, 2020 and January 28, 2021, subject to adjustment as described under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Call Observation Dates” on page S-21

Call payment dates: expected to be the third business day after the corresponding call observation date, subject to adjustment as described under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Call Payment Dates” on page S-22

Regular record dates: the scheduled business day immediately preceding the day on which payment is made (as such payment date may be adjusted)

Calculation agent: Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC (“GS&Co.”)

CUSIP no.: 40056EQQ4

ISIN no.: US40056EQQ43

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

S-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 (i) the impact that various hypothetical closing levels of the indices on a call observation date and on the determination date could have on the cash settlement amount on a call payment date or on the stated maturity date, as the case may be, assuming all other variables remain constant.

The examples below are based on a range of index levels that are entirely hypothetical; no one can predict what the index level of either index will be on any day throughout the life of your notes, what the closing level of either index will be on any call observation date, and what the final index level of the lesser performing index will be on the determination date. The indices have been highly volatile in the past — meaning that the index levels have changed substantially in relatively short periods — and their performance 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 a call payment date or the stated maturity date, as the case may be. If you sell your notes in a secondary market prior to a call payment date or the stated maturity date, as the case may be, 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 indices, 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 S-10 of this prospectus 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
Call premium amount	10.8% for the first call observation date 21.6% for the second call observation date
Maturity date premium amount	32.4%

The notes are not automatically called, unless otherwise indicated below
Neither a market disruption event nor a non-trading day occurs on any originally scheduled call observation date or the originally scheduled determination date

No change in or affecting any of the index stocks or the method by which the applicable index sponsor calculates either index

Notes purchased on original issue date at the face amount and held to a call payment date or the stated maturity date

Moreover, we have not yet set the initial index levels that will serve as the baseline for determining the amount that we will pay on your notes, if any, on a call payment date or at maturity. We will not do so until the trade date. As a result, the actual initial index levels may differ substantially from the index levels prior to the trade date. They may also differ substantially from the index levels at the time you purchase your notes.

For these reasons, the actual performance of the indices over the life of your notes, as well as the amount payable on a call payment date or at maturity, if any, may bear little relation to the hypothetical examples shown below or to the historical index levels shown elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. For information about the index levels during recent periods, see “The Indices — Historical Closing Levels of the Indices” on page S-42. Before investing in the notes, you should consult publicly available information to determine the index levels between the date of this prospectus supplement and the date of your purchase of the 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 index stocks.

S-6

Table of Contents

Hypothetical Payment on a Call Payment Date

If your notes are automatically called on the first call observation date (i.e., on the first call observation date the closing levels of both indices are greater than or equal to 100.000% of their respective initial index levels), the cash settlement amount that we would deliver for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes on the applicable call payment date would be the sum of \$1,000 plus the product of the applicable call premium amount times \$1,000. If, for example, the closing level of each index was determined to be 125.000% of its respective initial index level, your notes would be automatically called and the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes on the corresponding call payment date would be 110.800% of the face amount of your notes or \$1,108 for each \$1,000 of the face amount of your notes.

If the notes are not automatically called on the first call observation date and are automatically called on the second call observation date (i.e., on the first call observation date the closing level of either index is less than 100.000% of its respective initial index level, and on the second call observation date the closing levels of both indices are greater than or equal to 95.000% of their respective initial index levels), the cash settlement amount that we would deliver for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes on the applicable call payment date would be the sum of \$1,000 plus the product of the applicable call premium amount times \$1,000. If, for example, the closing level of each index was determined to be 125.000% of its respective initial index level, your notes would be automatically called and the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes on the corresponding call payment date would be 121.600% of the face amount of your notes or \$1,216 for each \$1,000 of the face amount of your notes.

Hypothetical Payment at Maturity

If the notes are not automatically called on any call observation date (i.e., on the first call observation date the closing level of either index is less than 100.000% of its respective initial index level and on the second call observation date the closing level of either index is less than 95.000% of its respective initial index level), the cash settlement amount we would deliver for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes on the stated maturity date will depend on the performance of the lesser performing index on the determination date, as shown in the table below. The table below assumes that the notes have not been automatically called on a call observation date and reflects hypothetical cash settlement amounts that you could receive on the stated maturity date.

The levels in the left column of the table below represent hypothetical final index levels of the lesser performing index and are expressed as percentages of the initial index level of the lesser performing index. The amounts in the right column represent the hypothetical cash settlement amounts, based on the corresponding hypothetical final index level of the lesser performing index (expressed as a percentage of the initial index level of the lesser performing index), 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 index level of the lesser performing index (expressed as a percentage of the initial index level of the lesser performing index) and the assumptions noted above.

Table of ContentsThe Notes Have Not Been Automatically Called

Hypothetical Final Index Level of the Lesser Performing Index (as Percentage of Initial Index Level)	Hypothetical Cash Settlement Amount at Maturity if the Notes Have <u>Not</u> Been Automatically Called on a Call Observation Date (as Percentage of Face Amount)
175.000%	132.400%
150.000%	132.400%
125.000%	132.400%
100.000%	132.400%
90.000%	132.400%
89.999%	100.000%
80.000%	100.000%
70.000%	100.000%
69.999%	69.999%
50.000%	50.000%
25.000%	25.000%
10.000%	10.000%
0.000%	0.000%

If, for example, the notes have not been automatically called on a call observation date and the final index level of the lesser performing index were determined to be 25.000% of its initial index level, the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be 25.000% of the face amount of your notes, as shown in the table above. As a result, if you purchased your notes on the original issue date at the face amount and held them to the stated maturity date, you would lose 75.000% of your investment (if you purchased your notes at a premium to face amount you would lose a correspondingly higher percentage of your investment). In addition, if the final index level of the lesser performing index were determined to be 175.000% of its initial index level, the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be limited to 132.400% 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, the cash settlement amount will be capped, and you would not benefit from any increase in the final index level over 90.000% of the initial index level.

The cash settlement amounts shown above are entirely hypothetical; they are based on market prices for the index stocks 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 Your Notes — The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors” on page S-12.

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 prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

We cannot predict the actual closing levels of the indices on any day, the final index levels of the indices or what the market value of your notes will be on any particular trading day, nor can we predict the relationship between the closing levels of the indices and the market value of your notes at any time prior to the stated maturity date. The actual amount that you will receive on a call payment date or the stated maturity date, if any, and the rate of return on the offered notes will depend on whether or not the notes are automatically called and the actual initial index levels, which we will set on the trade date, and on the actual closing levels of the indices on the call observation dates and the actual final index levels determined by the calculation agent as described above. Moreover, the assumptions on which the hypothetical examples are based may turn out to be inaccurate. Consequently, the cash amount to be paid in respect of your notes on a call payment date or the stated maturity date, as applicable, may be very different from the information reflected in the examples above.

S-9

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 and in the accompanying prospectus supplement. You should carefully review these risks and considerations as well as the terms of the notes described herein and in the accompanying prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement. Your notes are a riskier investment than ordinary debt securities. Also, your notes are not equivalent to investing directly in the index stocks, i.e., with respect to an index to which your notes are linked, the stocks comprising such index. 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 "— The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors" below.

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

Table of Contents

reference to GS&Co.'s pricing models at that time, plus or minus its then current bid and ask spread for similar sized trades of structured notes (and subject to the declining excess amount described above).

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

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

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

Although the return on the notes will be based on the performance of each index, 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.

You May Lose Your Entire Investment in the Notes

You can lose your entire investment in the notes. Assuming your notes are not automatically called, the cash settlement amount on your notes, if any, on the stated maturity date will be based on the performance of the lesser performing of the Russell 2000[®] Index and the S&P 500[®] Index as measured from their initial index levels set on the trade date to their closing levels on the determination date. If the index return of either index is less than -30.00%, you will have a loss for each \$1,000 of the face amount of your notes equal to the product of the lesser performing index return times \$1,000. Thus, you may lose your entire investment in the notes, which would include any premium to face amount you paid when you purchased the notes.

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

The Cash Settlement Amount You Will Receive on a Call Payment Date or on the Stated Maturity Date, as the Case May Be, Will Be Capped

Regardless of the closing levels of the indices on each of the call observation dates, the cash settlement amount you may receive on a call payment date is capped. Even if the closing levels of both indices exceed (a) 100.00% of their respective initial index levels on the first call observation date or (b) 95.00% of their respective initial index levels on the second call observation date, causing the notes to be automatically called, you will not benefit from any increase in the closing level of the indices above 100.00% of the initial index level on the first call observation date or 95.00% of the initial index level on the second call observation date, and the maximum payment you will receive for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes will depend on the applicable call premium amount. In addition, if the closing levels of both indices are greater than 90.00% of their respective initial levels, the cash settlement amount you will receive on the stated maturity date is capped and your return will be limited to the maturity date premium regardless of the amount of appreciation of the closing levels of the indices above their respective initial index levels.

Your Notes Are Subject to Automatic Redemption

We will automatically call and redeem all, but not part, of your notes on the corresponding call payment date if the closing levels of both indices are greater than or equal to (a) 100.00% of their respective initial index levels on the first call observation date or (b) 95.00% of their respective initial index levels on the second call observation date. Therefore, the term for your notes may be reduced to approximately one year

Table of Contents

after the original issue date. You may not be able to reinvest the proceeds from an investment in the notes at a comparable return for a similar level of risk in the event the notes are automatically called prior to maturity.

The Cash Settlement Amount You Will Receive on a Call Payment Date or on the Stated Maturity Date is Not Linked to the Closing Level of the Indices at Any Time Other Than on the Applicable Call Observation Date or the Determination Date, as the Case May Be

The cash settlement amount you will receive on a call payment date, if any, will be paid only if the closing levels of both indices are greater than or equal to (a) 100.00% of their respective initial index levels on the first call observation date or (b) 95.00% of their respective initial index levels on the second call observation date. Therefore, the closing levels of the indices on dates other than the call observation dates will have no effect on any cash settlement amount paid in respect of your notes on the call payment date. In addition, the cash settlement amount you will receive on the stated maturity date, if any, will be based on the closing levels of the indices on the determination date. Therefore, for example, if the closing level of one index dropped precipitously on the determination date, the cash settlement amount for the notes may be significantly less than it would otherwise have been had the cash settlement amount been linked to the closing level of the indices prior to such drop. Although the actual closing levels of the indices on the call payment dates, stated maturity date or at other times during the life of the notes may be higher than the closing levels of the indices on the call observation dates or the determination date, you will not benefit from the closing levels of the indices at any time other than on the call observation dates or on the determination date.

The Cash Settlement Amount Will Be Based Solely on the Lesser Performing Index

If the notes are not automatically called, the cash settlement amount will be based on the lesser performing index without regard to the performance of the other index. As a result, you could lose all or some of your initial investment if the lesser performing index return is negative, even if there is an increase in the level of the other index. This could be the case even if the other index increased by an amount greater than the decrease in the lesser performing index.

Your Notes Will 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 a call payment date or the stated maturity date, as applicable, 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 Return on Your Notes May Change Significantly Despite Only a Small Change in the Final Index Level of the Lesser Performing Index

If the final index level of the lesser performing index is less than 70% of its initial index level, you will receive less than the face amount of your notes and you could lose all or a substantial portion of your investment in the notes. This means that while a 30% drop between the initial index level of the lesser performing index and its final index level will not result in a loss of principal on the notes, a decrease in the final index level of the lesser performing index to less than 70% of its initial index level will result in a loss of a significant portion of the principal amount of the notes despite only a small change in the final index level of the lesser performing index.

The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors

When we refer to the market value of your notes, we mean the value that you could receive for your notes if you chose to sell them in the open market before the stated maturity date. A number of factors, many of which are beyond our control, will influence the market value of your notes, including:

- the levels of the indices;
- the volatility – i.e., the frequency and magnitude of changes – in the closing levels of the indices;
- the dividend rates of the index stocks;

Table of Contents

economic, financial, regulatory, political, military and other events that affect stock markets generally and the index stocks, and which may affect the closing levels of the indices;

interest rates and yield rates in the market;

the time remaining until your notes mature; and

our creditworthiness and the creditworthiness of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., whether actual or perceived, and including actual or anticipated upgrades or downgrades in our credit ratings or the credit ratings of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or changes in other credit measures.

These factors, and many other factors, will influence the price you will receive if you sell your notes before maturity, including the price you may receive for your notes in any market making transaction. If you sell your notes before maturity, you may receive less than the face amount of your notes.

You cannot predict the future performance of the indices based on their historical performance. The actual performance of the indices over the life of the offered notes and the cash settlement amount paid on a call payment date or the stated maturity date, as the case may be, may bear little or no relation to the historical closing levels of the indices or to the hypothetical examples shown elsewhere in this prospectus 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 you will be paid for your notes on the stated maturity date, if any, or the amount you will be paid on a call payment date 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 a call payment date or 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 a call payment date or 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.

If the Levels of the Indices Change, the Market Value of Your Notes May Not Change in the Same Manner

The price of your notes may move differently than the performance of the indices. Changes in the levels of the indices may not result in a comparable change in the market value of your notes. Even if the closing level of each index is greater than or equal to its respective initial index level during some portion of the life of the notes, the market value of your notes may not reflect this. We discuss some of the reasons for this disparity under “— The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors” above.

Anticipated Hedging Activities by Goldman Sachs or Our Distributors May Negatively Impact Investors in the Notes and Cause Our Interests and Those of Our Clients and Counterparties to be Contrary to Those of Investors in the Notes

Goldman Sachs expects to hedge our obligations under the notes by purchasing listed or over-the-counter options, futures and/or other instruments linked to the indices or the index stocks. Goldman Sachs also expects to adjust the hedge by, among other things, purchasing or selling any of the foregoing, and perhaps other instruments linked to the indices or the index stocks, at any time and from time to time, and to unwind the hedge by selling any of the foregoing on or before the determination date for your notes. Alternatively, Goldman Sachs may hedge all or part of our obligations under the notes with unaffiliated distributors of the notes which we expect will undertake similar market activity. Goldman Sachs may also enter into, adjust and unwind hedging transactions relating to other index-linked notes whose returns are linked to changes in the levels of the indices or the index stocks, as applicable.

In addition to entering into such transactions itself, or distributors entering into such transactions, Goldman Sachs may structure such transactions for its clients or counterparties, or otherwise advise or assist clients or counterparties in entering into such transactions. These activities may be undertaken to achieve a variety of objectives, including: permitting other purchasers of the notes or other securities to

Table of Contents

hedge their investment in whole or in part; facilitating transactions for other clients or counterparties that may have business objectives or investment strategies that are inconsistent with or contrary to those of investors in the notes; hedging the exposure of Goldman Sachs to the notes including any interest in the notes that it reacquires or retains as part of the offering process, through its market-making activities or otherwise; enabling Goldman Sachs to comply with its internal risk limits or otherwise manage firmwide, business unit or product risk; and/or enabling Goldman Sachs to take directional views as to relevant markets on behalf of itself or its clients or counterparties that are inconsistent with or contrary to the views and objectives of the investors in the notes.

Any of these hedging or other activities may adversely affect the levels of the indices — directly or indirectly by affecting the price of the index stocks — and therefore the market value of your notes and the amount we will pay on your notes, if any. In addition, you should expect that these transactions will cause Goldman Sachs or its clients, counterparties or distributors to have economic interests and incentives that do not align with, and that may be directly contrary to, those of an investor in the notes. Neither Goldman Sachs nor any distributor will have any obligation to take, refrain from taking or cease taking any action with respect to these transactions based on the potential effect on an investor in the notes, and may receive substantial returns on hedging or other activities while the value of your notes declines. In addition, if the distributor from which you purchase notes is to conduct hedging activities in connection with the notes, that distributor may otherwise profit in connection with such hedging activities and such profit, if any, will be in addition to the compensation that the distributor receives for the sale of the notes to you. You should be aware that the potential to earn fees in connection with hedging activities may create a further incentive for the distributor to sell the notes to you in addition to the compensation they would receive for the sale of the notes.

Goldman Sachs' Trading and Investment Activities for its Own Account or for its Clients, Could Negatively Impact Investors in the Notes

Goldman Sachs is a global investment banking, securities and investment management firm that provides a wide range of financial services to a substantial and diversified client base that includes corporations, financial institutions, governments and individuals. As such, it acts as an investor, investment banker, research provider, investment manager, investment advisor, market maker, trader, prime broker and lender. In those and other capacities, Goldman Sachs purchases, sells or holds a broad array of investments, actively trades securities, derivatives, loans, commodities, currencies, credit default swaps, indices, baskets and other financial instruments and products for its own account or for the accounts of its customers, and will have other direct or indirect interests, in the global fixed income, currency, commodity, equity, bank loan and other markets. Any of Goldman Sachs' financial market activities may, individually or in the aggregate, have an adverse effect on the market for your notes, and you should expect that the interests of Goldman Sachs or its clients or counterparties will at times be adverse to those of investors in the notes.

Goldman Sachs regularly offers a wide array of securities, financial instruments and other products into the marketplace, including existing or new products that are similar to your notes, or similar or linked to the indices or index stocks. Investors in the notes should expect that Goldman Sachs will offer securities, financial instruments, and other products that will compete with the notes for liquidity, research coverage or otherwise.

Goldman Sachs' Market-Making Activities Could Negatively Impact Investors in the Notes

Goldman Sachs actively makes markets in and trades financial instruments for its own account and for the accounts of customers. These financial instruments include debt and equity securities, currencies, commodities, bank loans, indices, baskets and other products. Goldman Sachs' activities include, among other things, executing large block trades and taking long and short positions directly and indirectly, through derivative instruments or otherwise. The securities and instruments in which Goldman Sachs takes positions, or expects to take positions, include securities and instruments of an index or index stocks, securities and instruments similar to or linked to the foregoing or the currencies in which they are denominated. Market making is an activity where Goldman Sachs buys and sells on behalf of customers, or for its own account, to satisfy the expected demand of customers. By its nature, market making involves facilitating transactions among market participants that have differing views of securities and instruments.

Table of Contents

As a result, you should expect that Goldman Sachs will take positions that are inconsistent with, or adverse to, the investment objectives of investors in the notes.

If Goldman Sachs becomes a holder of any securities of the indices or index stocks in its capacity as a market-maker or otherwise, any actions that it takes in its capacity as securityholder, including voting or provision of consents, will not necessarily be aligned with, and may be inconsistent with, the interests of investors in the notes.

You Should Expect That Goldman Sachs Personnel Will Take Research Positions, or Otherwise Make Recommendations, Provide Investment Advice or Market Color or Encourage Trading Strategies That Might Negatively Impact Investors in the Notes

Goldman Sachs and its personnel, including its sales and trading, investment research and investment management personnel, regularly make investment recommendations, provide market color or trading ideas, or publish or express independent views in respect of a wide range of markets, issuers, securities and instruments. They regularly implement, or recommend to clients that they implement, various investment strategies relating to these markets, issuers, securities and instruments. These strategies include, for example, buying or selling credit protection against a default or other event involving an issuer or financial instrument. Any of these recommendations and views may be negative with respect to the indices or index stocks or other securities or instruments similar to or linked to the foregoing or result in trading strategies that have a negative impact on the market for any such securities or instruments, particularly in illiquid markets. In addition, you should expect that personnel in the trading and investing businesses of Goldman Sachs will have or develop independent views of the indices or index stocks, the relevant industry or other market trends, which may not be aligned with the views and objectives of investors in the notes. Goldman Sachs Regularly Provides Services to, or Otherwise Has Business Relationships with, a Broad Client Base, Which May Include the Sponsors of an Index or the Issuers of the Index Stocks or Other Entities That Are Involved in the Transaction

Goldman Sachs regularly provides financial advisory, investment advisory and transactional services to a substantial and diversified client base, and you should assume that Goldman Sachs will, at present or in the future, provide such services or otherwise engage in transactions with, among others, the sponsors of the indices or the issuers of the index stocks, or transact in securities or instruments or with parties that are directly or indirectly related to the foregoing. These services could include making loans to or equity investments in those companies, providing financial advisory or other investment banking services, or issuing research reports. You should expect that Goldman Sachs, in providing such services, engaging in such transactions, or acting for its own account, may take actions that have direct or indirect effects on the indices or index stocks, as applicable, and that such actions could be adverse to the interests of investors in the notes. In addition, in connection with these activities, certain Goldman Sachs personnel may have access to confidential material non-public information about these parties that would not be disclosed to Goldman Sachs employees that were not working on such transactions as Goldman Sachs has established internal information barriers that are designed to preserve the confidentiality of non-public information. Therefore, any such confidential material non-public information would not be shared with Goldman Sachs employees involved in structuring, selling or making markets in the notes or with investors in the notes.

In this offering, as well as in all other circumstances in which Goldman Sachs receives any fees or other compensation in any form relating to services provided to or transactions with any other party, no accounting, offset or payment in respect of the notes will be required or made; Goldman Sachs will be entitled to retain all such fees and other amounts, and no fees or other compensation payable by any party or indirectly by holders of the notes will be reduced by reason of receipt by Goldman Sachs of any such other fees or other amounts.

The Offering of the Notes May Reduce an Existing Exposure of Goldman Sachs or Facilitate a Transaction or Position That Serves the Objectives of Goldman Sachs or Other Parties

A completed offering may reduce Goldman Sachs' existing exposure to the indices or index stocks, securities and instruments similar to or linked to the foregoing or the currencies in which they are denominated, including exposure gained through hedging transactions in anticipation of this offering. An

Table of Contents

offering of notes will effectively transfer a portion of Goldman Sachs' exposure (and indirectly transfer the exposure of Goldman Sachs' hedging or other counterparties) to investors in the notes.

The terms of the offering (including the selection of the indices or index stocks, and the establishment of other transaction terms) may have been selected in order to serve the investment or other objectives of Goldman Sachs or another client or counterparty of Goldman Sachs. In such a case, Goldman Sachs would typically receive the input of other parties that are involved in or otherwise have an interest in the offering, transactions hedged by the offering, or related transactions. The incentives of these other parties would normally differ from and in many cases be contrary to those of investors in the notes.

Other Investors in the Notes May Not Have the Same Interests as You

Other investors in the notes are not required to take into account the interests of any other investor in exercising remedies or voting or other rights in their capacity as security holders or in making requests or recommendations to Goldman Sachs as to the establishment of other transaction terms. The interests of other investors may, in some circumstances, be adverse to your interests. For example, certain investors may take short positions (directly or indirectly through derivative transactions) on assets that are the same or similar to your notes, index, index stocks or other similar securities, which may adversely impact the market for or value of your notes.

The Policies of an Index Sponsor and Changes that Affect an Index or the Index Stocks Comprising an Index, Could Affect the Cash Settlement Amount If the Notes Are Automatically Called on any Call Observation Date or the Cash Settlement Amount on the Stated Maturity Date and the Market Value of Your Notes

The policies of an index sponsor concerning the calculation of the level of an index, additions, deletions or substitutions of the index stocks comprising such index, and the manner in which changes affecting such index stocks or their issuers, such as stock dividends, reorganizations or mergers, are reflected in the index level, could affect the level of such index and, therefore, the market value of your notes. The market value of your notes could also be affected if an index sponsor changes these policies, for example, by changing the manner in which it calculates the index level, or if the index sponsor discontinues or suspends calculation or publication of such index level, in which case it may become difficult to determine the market value of your notes. If events such as these occur, the calculation agent — which initially will be GS&Co., our affiliate — may determine the applicable index levels on any such date — and thus the cash settlement amount if the notes are automatically called on any call observation date or the cash settlement amount on the stated maturity date, as applicable — in a manner it considers appropriate, in its sole discretion. We describe the discretion that the calculation agent will have in determining the applicable index levels on any trading day, any call observation date or the determination date and the cash settlement amount more fully under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Discontinuance or Modification of an Index” and “— Role of Calculation Agent” below.

Except to the Extent The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Is One of the Companies Whose Common Stock Comprises the S&P 500® Index, There Is No Affiliation Between the Index Stock Issuers or the Index Sponsors and Us

The common stock of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. is one of the index stocks comprising the S&P 500® Index. We are not otherwise affiliated with the issuers of the index stocks or the index sponsors. As we have told you above, however, we or our affiliates may currently or from time to time in the future own securities of, or engage in business with, the index sponsors or the index stock issuers. Neither we nor any of our affiliates have participated in the preparation of any publicly available information or made any “due diligence” investigation or inquiry with respect to the indices or any of the other index stock issuers. You, as an investor in your notes, should make your own investigation into the indices and the index stock issuers. See “The Indices” below for additional information about each index.

Neither the index sponsors nor any of the other index stock issuers are involved in the offering of your notes in any way and none of them have any obligation of any sort with respect to your notes. Thus, neither the index sponsors nor any of the other index stock issuers have any obligation to take your interests into consideration for any reason, including in taking any corporate actions that might affect the market value of your notes.

Table of Contents

The Return on Your Notes Will Not Reflect Any Dividends Paid on the Index Stocks

The applicable index sponsor calculates the level of an index by reference to the prices of the index stocks, without taking account of the value of dividends paid on those index stocks. Therefore, the return on your notes will not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned the index stocks included in each index and received the dividends paid on those index stocks. You will not receive any dividends that may be paid on any of the index stocks by the index stock issuers. See “— You Have No Shareholder Rights or Rights to Receive Any Index Stock” below for additional information.

You Have No Shareholder Rights or Rights to Receive Any Index Stock

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

Past Index Performance is No Guide to Future Performance

The actual performance of the indices over the life of the notes, as well as the amount payable on a call payment date or at maturity, if any, may bear little relation to the historical closing levels of the indices or to the hypothetical examples set forth elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. We cannot predict the future performance of the indices. As Calculation Agent, GS&Co. Will Have the Authority to Make Determinations that Could Affect the Value of Your Notes

As calculation agent for your notes, GS&Co. will have discretion in making certain determinations that affect your notes, including determining: whether your notes will be automatically called; the final index level of the lesser performing index on the determination date, which we will use to determine the amount we must pay on the stated maturity date; whether to postpone a call observation date or the determination date because of a market disruption event or a non-trading day; the call observation dates; the call payment dates and the stated maturity date. The calculation agent also has discretion in making certain adjustments relating to a discontinuance or modification of the indices. See “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Discontinuance or Modification of an Index” below. The exercise of this discretion by GS&Co. could adversely affect the value of your notes and may present GS&Co. with a conflict of interest. We may change the calculation agent at any time without notice and GS&Co. may resign as calculation agent at any time upon 60 days' written notice to us.

Your Notes May Not Have an Active Trading Market

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

The Calculation Agent Can Postpone a Call Observation Date or the Determination Date, as the Case May Be, If a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day Occurs or is Continuing

If the calculation agent determines that, on a date that would otherwise be a call observation date or the determination date, a market disruption event has occurred or is continuing with respect to either index or that day is not a trading day, such call observation date or the determination date will be postponed as provided under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Call Observation Dates” and “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Determination Date”, as applicable. In no case, however, will the call observation date or the determination date be postponed to a date later than the corresponding originally scheduled call payment date or the originally scheduled stated maturity date, as applicable, or if the corresponding originally scheduled call payment date or the originally scheduled stated maturity date is not a business day, later than the first business day after the corresponding originally scheduled call payment date or the originally scheduled stated maturity date. Moreover, if a call observation date or the determination date, as applicable, is postponed to the last possible day, but the market disruption event has not ceased by that day or that day is not a trading day, that day will nevertheless be the call observation date or the determination

Table of Contents

date, as applicable, for the corresponding call payment date or stated maturity date. In such a case, the calculation agent will determine the applicable closing levels or final index levels for such call observation date or the determination date based on the procedures described under “Specific Terms of Your Notes — Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day” below.

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 prospectus 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 prospectus supplement.

Certain Considerations for Insurance Companies and Employee Benefit Plans

Any insurance company or fiduciary of a pension plan or other employee benefit plan that is subject to the prohibited transaction rules of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, which we call “ERISA”, or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, including an IRA or a Keogh plan (or a governmental plan to which similar prohibitions apply), and that is considering purchasing the offered notes with the assets of the insurance company or the assets of such a plan, should consult with its counsel regarding whether the purchase or holding of the offered notes could become a “prohibited transaction” under ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code or any substantially similar prohibition in light of the representations a purchaser or holder in any of the above categories is deemed to make by purchasing and holding the offered notes. This is discussed in more detail under “Employee Retirement Income Security Act” below.

The Tax Consequences of an Investment in Your Notes Are Uncertain

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

The Internal Revenue Service announced on December 7, 2007 that it is considering issuing guidance regarding the tax treatment of an instrument such as your notes, and any such guidance could adversely affect the value and the tax treatment of your notes. Among other things, the Internal Revenue Service may decide to require the holders to accrue ordinary income on a current basis and recognize ordinary income on payment at maturity, and could subject non-U.S. investors to withholding tax. Furthermore, in 2007, legislation was introduced in Congress that, if enacted, would have required holders that acquired instruments such as your notes after the bill was enacted to accrue interest income over the term of such instruments even though there will be no interest payments over the term of such instruments. It is not possible to predict whether a similar or identical bill will be enacted in the future, or whether any such bill would affect the tax treatment of your notes. We describe these developments in more detail under “Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences – United States Holders – Possible Change in Law” below. You should consult your tax advisor about this matter. Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, GS Finance Corp. intends to continue treating the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes in accordance with the treatment described under “Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences” on page S-45 below unless and until such time as Congress, the Treasury Department or the Internal Revenue Service determine that some other treatment is more appropriate. Please also consult your tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax and any other applicable tax consequences to you of owning your notes in your particular circumstances.

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

SPECIFIC TERMS OF YOUR NOTES

We refer to the notes we are offering by this prospectus supplement as the “offered notes” or the “notes”. Please note that in this prospectus 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, and references to the “accompanying prospectus supplement” mean the accompanying prospectus supplement, dated July 10, 2017, for Medium-Term Notes, Series E, in each case of GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Please note that in this section entitled “Specific Terms of Your Notes”, references to “holders” mean those who own notes registered in their own names, on the books that we or the trustee maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in notes registered in street name or in notes issued in book-entry form through The Depository Trust Company. Please review the special considerations that apply to owners of beneficial interests in the accompanying prospectus, under “Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance”.

The offered notes are part of a series of debt securities, entitled “Medium-Term Notes, Series E”, that we may issue under the indenture from time to time as described in the accompanying prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus. The offered notes are also “indexed debt securities”, as defined in the accompanying prospectus. This prospectus supplement summarizes specific financial and other terms that apply to the offered notes, including your notes; terms that apply generally to all Series E medium-term notes are described in “Description of Notes We May Offer” in the accompanying prospectus supplement. The terms described here supplement those described in the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and, if the terms described here are inconsistent with those described there, the terms described here are controlling.

In addition to those terms described under “Summary Information” in this prospectus supplement, the following terms will apply to your notes:

Specified currency:

- U.S. dollars (“\$”)

Form of note:

- global form only: yes, at DTC
- non-global form available: no

Denominations: each note registered in the name of a holder must have a face amount of \$1,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof

Defeasance applies as follows:

- full defeasance: no
- covenant defeasance: no

Other terms:

- the default amount will be payable on any acceleration of the maturity of your notes as described under “— Special Calculation Provisions” below

Table of Contents

· a business day for your notes will not be the same as a business day for our other Series E medium-term notes, as described under “— Special Calculation Provisions” below

· a trading day for your notes will be as described under “— Special Calculation Provisions” below

Please note that the information about the settlement or trade date, issue price, discount or commission and net proceeds to GS Finance Corp. on the front cover page or elsewhere in this prospectus supplement relates only to the initial issuance and sale of the offered notes. We may decide to sell additional notes on one or more dates after the date of this prospectus supplement, at issue prices and with underwriting discounts and net proceeds that differ from the amounts set forth on the front cover page or elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. If you have purchased your notes in a market-making transaction after the initial issuance and sale of the offered notes, any such relevant information about the sale to you will be provided in a separate confirmation of sale.

We describe the terms of your notes in more detail below.

Index, Index Sponsor and Index Stocks

In this prospectus supplement, when we refer to an index, we mean either the Russell 2000[®] Index or the S&P 500[®] Index specified on the front cover page, or any successor index, as each may be modified, replaced or adjusted from time to time as described under “— Discontinuance or Modification of an Index” below. When we refer to an index sponsor as of any time, we mean the entity, including any successor sponsor, that determines and publishes the applicable index as then in effect. When we refer to the index stocks of an index as of any time, we mean the stocks that comprise the index as then in effect, after giving effect to any additions, deletions or substitutions.

Automatic Call Feature

If the closing levels of both indices are greater than or equal to (a) 100.00% of their respective initial index levels on the first call observation date or (b) 95.00% of their respective initial index levels on the second call observation date, your notes will be automatically called; if your notes are automatically called on any call observation date, on the corresponding call payment date, you will receive an amount in cash equal to (i) \$1,000 plus (ii) the product of \$1,000 times the call premium amount applicable to the corresponding call observation date for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes.

The call premium amount with respect to the first scheduled call observation date is 10.8%, and the call premium amount with respect to the second scheduled call observation date is 21.6%.

Payment of Principal on Stated Maturity Date

If your notes are not automatically called, 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 index return of both indices is greater than or equal to -10%, the sum of (i) \$1,000 plus (ii) the product of \$1,000 times the maturity date premium amount; or

· if the index return of both indices is greater than or equal to -30% but the index return of either index is less than -10%, \$1,000; or

· if the index return of either index is less than -30%, the sum of (i) \$1,000 plus (ii) the product of (a) the lesser performing index return times (b) \$1,000. You will receive less than 70% of the face amount of your note.

The maturity date premium amount is 32.4%.

With respect to each index, the index return is calculated by subtracting the initial index level from the final index level and dividing the result by the initial index level, with the quotient expressed as a percentage.

The lesser performing index is the index with the lowest index return. The lesser performing index return is the index return of the lesser performing index.

Table of Contents

With respect to each index, the initial index level will be set on the trade date, which will be the closing level of such index on the trade date. With respect to each index, the calculation agent will determine the final index level, which will be the closing level of such index on the determination date. However, the calculation agent will have discretion to adjust the closing level on any call observation date or the determination date or to determine it in a different manner as described under “— Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day” and “— Discontinuance or Modification of an Index” below.

Stated Maturity Date

The stated maturity date is expected to be February 2, 2022, unless that day is not a business day, in which case the stated maturity date will be the next following business day. If the determination date is postponed as described under “— Determination Date” below, the stated maturity date will also be postponed by the same number of business day(s) from but excluding the originally scheduled determination date to and including the actual determination date.

Determination Date

The determination date is expected to be January 28, 2022, unless the calculation agent determines that, with respect to any index, a market disruption event occurs or is continuing on that day or that day is not otherwise a trading day. In the event the originally scheduled determination date is a non-trading day with respect to any index, the determination date will be the first day thereafter that is a trading day for all indices (the “first qualified trading day”) provided that no market disruption event occurs or is continuing with respect to an index on that day. If a market disruption event with respect to an index occurs or is continuing on the originally scheduled determination date or the first qualified trading day, the determination date will be the first following trading day on which the calculation agent determines that each index has had at least one trading day (from and including the originally scheduled determination date or the first qualified trading day, as applicable) on which no market disruption event has occurred or is continuing and the closing level of each index will be determined on or prior to the postponed determination date as set forth under “— Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day” below. (In such case, the determination date may differ from the date on which the level of an index is determined for the purpose of the calculations to be performed on the determination date.) In no event, however, will the determination date be postponed to a date later than the originally scheduled stated maturity date (based on the originally scheduled determination date) or, if the originally scheduled stated maturity date is not a business day, later than the first business day after the originally scheduled stated maturity date, either due to the occurrence of serial non-trading days or due to the occurrence of one or more market disruption events. On such last possible determination date, if a market disruption event occurs or is continuing with respect to an index that has not yet had such a trading day on which no market disruption event has occurred or is continuing or if such last possible day is not a trading day with respect to such index, that day will nevertheless be the determination date.

Call Observation Dates

The call observation dates are expected to be January 28, 2020 and January 28, 2021, unless the calculation agent determines that, with respect to any index, a market disruption event occurs or is continuing on that day or that day is not otherwise a trading day. In the event the originally scheduled call observation date is a non-trading day with respect to an index, the call observation date will be the first day thereafter that is a trading day for all indices (the “first qualified call observation trading day”) provided that no market disruption event occurs for an index on that day. If a market disruption event with respect to an index occurs on the originally scheduled call observation date or the first qualified call observation trading day, the call observation date will be the first following trading day (from and including the originally scheduled call observation date or the first qualified call observation trading day, as applicable) on which no market disruption event has occurred or is continuing and the closing level of each index for that call observation date will be determined on or prior to the postponed call observation date as set forth under “Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day” below. (In such case, the call observation date may differ from the date on which the level of an index is determined for the purpose of the

Table of Contents

calculations to be performed on the call observation date.) In no event, however, will a call observation date be postponed to a day later than the originally scheduled call payment date (based on the originally scheduled call observation date) or, if the originally scheduled call payment date is not a business day, later than the first business day after the originally scheduled call payment date, either due to the occurrence of serial non-trading days or due to the occurrence of one or more market disruption events. On such last possible call observation date applicable to the relevant call payment date, if a market disruption event occurs or is continuing with respect to an index that has not yet had such a trading day on which no market disruption event has occurred or is continuing or if such last possible day is not a trading day with respect to such index, that day will nevertheless be the call observation date.

Call Payment Dates

If your notes are automatically called on any call observation date, on the corresponding call payment date (to be set on the trade date and expected to be the third business day after the corresponding call observation date) you will receive an amount in cash equal to the sum of (i) \$1,000 plus (ii) the product of \$1,000 times the call premium amount applicable to the corresponding call observation date for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes. If a call observation date is postponed as described under “— Call Observation Dates” above, the corresponding call payment date will also be postponed by the same number of business day(s) from but excluding the originally scheduled call observation date to and including the actual call observation date.

Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day

With respect to any index, if a market disruption event occurs or is continuing on a day that would otherwise be a call observation date or the determination date, or such day is not a trading day, then such call observation date or the determination date will be postponed as described under “—Call Observation Dates” or “— Determination Date” above. If any call observation date or the determination date is postponed to the last possible date due to the occurrence of serial non-trading days, the level of each index will be the calculation agent’s assessment of such level, in its sole discretion, on such last possible postponed call observation date or determination date, as applicable.

If any call observation date or the determination date is postponed due to a market disruption event with respect to any index, the closing level of each index with respect to such call observation date or the final index level with respect to the determination date, as applicable, will be calculated based on (i) for any index that is not affected by a market disruption event on (A) the applicable originally scheduled call observation date or the first qualified call observation trading day thereafter (if applicable) or (B) the originally scheduled determination date or the first qualified trading day thereafter (if applicable), the closing level of the index on that date, (ii) for any index that is affected by a market disruption event on (A) the applicable originally scheduled call observation date or the first qualified call observation trading day thereafter (if applicable) or (B) the originally scheduled determination date or the first qualified trading day thereafter (if applicable), the closing level of the index on the first following trading day on which no market disruption event exists for such index and (iii) the calculation agent’s assessment, in its sole discretion, of the level of any index on the last possible postponed call observation date or determination date, as applicable, with respect to such index as to which a market disruption event continues through the last possible postponed call observation date or determination date. As a result, this could result in the closing level on any call observation date or final index level on the determination date of each index being determined on different calendar dates.

For the avoidance of doubt, once the closing level for an index is determined for a call observation date or determination date, the occurrence of a later market disruption event or non-trading day will not alter such calculation.

Discontinuance or Modification of an Index

If an index sponsor discontinues publication of an index and such index sponsor or anyone else publishes a substitute index that the calculation agent determines is comparable to such index, or if the calculation agent designates a substitute index, then the calculation agent will determine the cash

Table of Contents

settlement amount on the call payment date or the stated maturity date, as applicable, by reference to the substitute index. We refer to any substitute index approved by the calculation agent as a successor index.

If the calculation agent determines on a call observation date or the determination date, as applicable, that the publication of an index is discontinued and there is no successor index, the calculation agent will determine the cash settlement amount on the related call payment date or the stated maturity date, as applicable, by a computation methodology that the calculation agent determines will as closely as reasonably possible replicate such index.

If the calculation agent determines that an index, the index stocks comprising that index or the method of calculating that index is changed at any time in any respect — including any split or reverse split and any addition, deletion or substitution and any reweighting or rebalancing of the index or of the index stocks and whether the change is made by the index sponsor under its existing policies or following a modification of those policies, is due to the publication of a successor index, is due to events affecting one or more of the index stocks or their issuers or is due to any other reason — and is not otherwise reflected in the level of the index by the index sponsor pursuant to the then-current index methodology of the index, then the calculation agent will be permitted (but not required) to make such adjustments in such index or the method of its calculation as it believes are appropriate to ensure that the levels of such index used to determine the cash settlement amount on the related call payment date or the stated maturity date, as applicable, is equitable.

All determinations and adjustments to be made by the calculation agent with respect to an index may be made by the calculation agent in its sole discretion. The calculation agent is not obligated to make any such adjustments.

Default Amount on Acceleration

If an event of default occurs and the maturity of your notes is accelerated, we will pay the default amount in respect of the principal of your notes at the maturity, instead of the amount payable on the stated maturity date as described earlier. We describe the default amount under “— Special Calculation Provisions” below.

For the purpose of determining whether the holders of our Series E medium-term notes, which include your notes, are entitled to take any action under the indenture, we will treat the outstanding face amount of each of your notes as the outstanding principal amount of that note. Although the terms of your notes differ from those of the other Series E medium-term notes, holders of specified percentages in principal amount of all Series E medium-term notes, together in some cases with other series of our debt securities, will be able to take action affecting all the Series E medium-term notes, including your notes, except with respect to certain Series E medium-term notes if the terms of such notes specify that the holders of specified percentages in principal amount of all of such notes must also consent to such action. This action may involve changing some of the terms that apply to the Series E medium-term notes, accelerating the maturity of the Series E medium-term notes after a default or waiving some of our obligations under the indenture. In addition, certain changes to the indenture and the notes that only affect certain debt securities may be made with the approval of holders of a majority in principal amount of such affected debt securities. We discuss these matters in the accompanying prospectus under “Description of Debt Securities We May Offer — Default, Remedies and Waiver of Default” and “— Modification of the Debt Indentures and Waiver of Covenants.”

Manner of Payment

Any payment or delivery on your note at maturity will be made to an account designated by the holder of your note and approved by us, or at the office of the trustee in New York City, but only when your note is surrendered to the trustee at that office. We also may make any payment or delivery in accordance with the applicable procedures of the depository.

Table of Contents

Modified Business Day

As described in the accompanying prospectus, any payment on your notes that would otherwise be due on a day that is not a business day may instead be paid on the next day that is a business day, with the same effect as if paid on the original due date. For your notes, however, the term business day may have a different meaning than it does for other Series E medium-term notes. We discuss this term under “— Special Calculation Provisions” below.

Role of Calculation Agent

The calculation agent in its sole discretion will make all determinations regarding each index, the regular record dates, the closing level of each index on each call observation date, each index return, each final index level, the determination date, the call observation dates, call payment dates, business days, trading days, a call payment date or the stated maturity date and the amount of cash payable on your notes on a call payment date or at maturity, as applicable. Absent manifest error, all determinations of the calculation agent will be final and binding on you and us, without any liability on the part of the calculation agent.

Please note that GS&Co., our affiliate, is currently serving as the calculation agent as of the date of this prospectus supplement. We may change the calculation agent for your notes at any time after the date of this prospectus supplement without notice and GS&Co. may resign as calculation agent at any time upon 60 days' written notice to us.

Special Calculation Provisions

Business Day

When we refer to a business day with respect to your notes, we mean a day that is a New York business day as described under “Description of Debt Securities We May Offer — Calculations of Interest on Debt Securities — Business Days” on page 21 in the accompanying prospectus.

Trading Day

When we refer to a trading day with respect to an index, we mean a day on which the respective principal securities markets for all of the index stocks are open for trading, the index sponsor is open for business and such index is calculated and published by the index sponsor.

Closing Level

When we refer to the closing level of the Russell 2000[®] Index on any trading day, we mean the closing level of that index or any successor index reported by Bloomberg Financial Services, or any successor reporting service we may select, on such trading day for that index. Currently, whereas the index sponsor publishes the official closing level of the Russell 2000[®] Index to six decimal places, Bloomberg Financial Services reports the closing level of the Russell 2000[®] Index to fewer decimal places. As a result, the closing level of the Russell 2000[®] Index reported by Bloomberg Financial Services generally may be lower or higher than the official closing level of the Russell 2000[®] Index published by the index sponsor.

When we refer to the closing level for the S&P 500[®] Index on any trading day, we mean the official closing level of the index or any successor index published by the index sponsor on such trading day for such index.

Default Amount

The default amount for your notes on any day (except as provided in the last sentence under “—Default Quotation Period” below), will be an amount in the specified currency for the face amount of your notes, equal to the cost of having a qualified financial institution, of the kind and selected as described below, expressly assume all of our payment and other obligations with respect to your notes as of that day

Table of Contents

and as if no default or acceleration had occurred, or to undertake other obligations providing substantially equivalent economic value to you with respect to your notes. That cost will equal:

- the lowest amount that a qualified financial institution would charge to effect this assumption or undertaking, plus the reasonable expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred by the holder of your notes in preparing any documentation necessary for this assumption or undertaking.

During the default quotation period for your notes, which we describe below, the holder and/or we or the calculation agent may request a qualified financial institution to provide a quotation of the amount it would charge to effect this assumption or undertaking. If either party obtains a quotation, it must notify the other party in writing of the quotation. The amount referred to in the first bullet point above will equal the lowest — or, if there is only one, the only — quotation obtained, and as to which notice is so given, during the default quotation period. With respect to any quotation, however, the party not obtaining the quotation may object, on reasonable and significant grounds, to the assumption or undertaking by the qualified financial institution providing the quotation and notify the other party in writing of those grounds within two business days after the last day of the default quotation period, in which case that quotation will be disregarded in determining the default amount.

Default Quotation Period

The default quotation period is the period beginning on the day the default amount first becomes due and ending on the third business day after that day, unless:

- no quotation of the kind referred to above is obtained, or
- every quotation of that kind obtained is objected to within five business days after the day the default amount first becomes due.

If either of these two events occurs, the default quotation period will continue until the third business day after the first business day on which prompt notice of a quotation is given as described above. If that quotation is objected to as described above within five business days after that first business day, however, the default quotation period will continue as described in the prior sentence and this sentence.

In any event, if the default quotation period and the subsequent two business day objection period have not ended before the determination date, then the default amount will equal the principal amount of your notes.

Qualified Financial Institutions

For the purpose of determining the default amount at any time, a qualified financial institution must be a financial institution organized under the laws of any jurisdiction in the United States of America, Europe or Japan, which at that time has outstanding debt obligations with a stated maturity of one year or less from the date of issue and that is, or whose securities are, rated either:

- A-1 or higher by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services or any successor, or any other comparable rating then used by that rating agency, or
- P-1 or higher by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. or any successor, or any other comparable rating then used by that rating agency.

Market Disruption Event

With respect to any given trading day, any of the following will be a market disruption event with respect to an index:

Table of Contents

a suspension, absence or material limitation of trading in index stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the index on their respective primary markets, in each case for more than two consecutive hours of trading or during the one half hour before the close of trading in that market, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion, a suspension, absence or material limitation of trading in option or futures contracts relating to the index or to index stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of such index in the respective primary markets for those contracts, in each case for more than two consecutive hours of trading or during the one-half hour before the close of trading in that market, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion, or index stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the index, or option or futures contracts, if available, relating to the index or to index stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the index are not trading on what were the respective primary markets for those index stocks or contracts, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion,

and, in the case of any of these events, the calculation agent determines in its sole discretion that the event could materially interfere with the ability of GS Finance Corp. or any of its affiliates or a similarly situated party to unwind all or a material portion of a hedge that could be effected with respect to the notes. For more information about hedging by GS Finance Corp. and/or any of its affiliates, see “Use of Proceeds” and “Hedging” below.

The following events will not be market disruption events:

- a limitation on the hours or numbers of days of trading, but only if the limitation results from an announced change in the regular business hours of the relevant market, and
- a decision to permanently discontinue trading in option or futures contracts relating to an index or to any index stock.

For this purpose, an “absence of trading” in the primary securities market on which an index stock, or on which option or futures contracts relating to an index or an index stock are traded will not include any time when that market is itself closed for trading under ordinary circumstances. In contrast, a suspension or limitation of trading in an index stock or in option or futures contracts, if available, relating to an index or an index stock in the primary market for that stock or those contracts, by reason of:

- a price change exceeding limits set by that market,
 - an imbalance of orders relating to that index stock or those contracts, or
 - a disparity in bid and ask quotes relating to that index stock or those contracts,
- will constitute a suspension or material limitation of trading in that stock or those contracts in that market.

A market disruption event with respect to one index will not, by itself, constitute a market disruption event for the other unaffected index.

As is the case throughout this prospectus supplement, references to the index in this description of market disruption events includes any successor index as it may be modified, replaced or adjusted from time to time.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to lend the net proceeds from the sale of the offered notes to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or its affiliates. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. expects to use the proceeds from such loans for the purposes we describe in the accompanying prospectus under “Use of Proceeds”. We or our affiliates may also use those proceeds in transactions intended to hedge our obligations under the offered notes as described below.

HEDGING

In anticipation of the sale of the offered notes, we and/or our affiliates expect to enter into hedging transactions involving purchases of listed or over-the-counter options, futures and other instruments linked to the indices or the index stocks on or before the trade date. In addition, from time to time after we issue the offered notes, we and/or our affiliates may enter into additional hedging transactions and to unwind those we have entered into, in connection with the offered notes and perhaps in connection with other index-linked notes we issue, some of which may have returns linked to the indices or the index stocks. Consequently, with regard to your notes, from time to time, we and/or our affiliates:

- expect to acquire, or dispose of positions in listed or over-the-counter options, futures or other instruments linked to the indices or some or all of the index stocks,
- may take or dispose of positions in the securities of the index stock issuers themselves,
- may take or dispose of positions in listed or over-the-counter options or other instruments based on indices designed to track the performance of the stock exchanges or other components of the equity markets, and /or
 - may take short positions in the index stocks or other securities of the kind described above — i.e., we and/or our affiliates may sell securities of the kind that we do not own or that we borrow for delivery to purchaser.

We and/or our affiliates may acquire a long or short position in securities similar to your notes from time to time and may, in our or their sole discretion, hold or resell those securities.

In the future, we and/or our affiliates expect to close out hedge positions relating to the offered notes and perhaps relating to other notes with returns linked to the indices or the index stocks. We expect these steps to involve sales of instruments linked to the indices on or shortly before the determination date. These steps may also involve sales and/or purchases of some or all of the index stocks, or listed or over-the-counter options, futures or other instruments linked to the indices, some or all of the index stocks or indices designed to track the performance of the U.S., European, Asian or other stock exchanges or other components of the U.S., European, Asian or other equity markets or other components of such markets.

The hedging activity discussed above may adversely affect the market value of your notes from time to time and the amount we will pay on your notes at maturity. See “Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes” above for a discussion of these adverse effects.

Table of Contents

THE INDICES

The Russell 2000® Index

The Russell 2000® Index is sponsored by FTSE Russell (“Russell”) and measures the composite price performance of stocks of 2,000 companies in the U.S. equity market. It is generally considered to be a “small-cap” index. Additional information about the Russell 2000® Index is available on the following website:

ftse.com/analytics/factsheets/Home/Search#. We are not incorporating by reference the website or any material it includes in this prospectus supplement.

As of December 17, 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 (14.57%), Consumer Staples (2.39%), Financial Services (23.87%), Health Care (14.15%), Materials & Processing (5.92%), Other Energy (3.63%), Producer Durables (13.15%), Technology (12.41%) and Utilities (4.83%). (Sector designations are determined by the index 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.)

The Russell 2000® Index includes approximately 2,000 of the smallest securities that form the Russell 3000® Index. The Russell 3000® Index is comprised of the 3,000 largest U.S. companies, or 98% based on market capitalization, of the investable U.S. equity market. The Russell 2000® Index is designed to track the performance of the small capitalization segment of the U.S. equity market.

Selection of Constituent Stocks of the Russell 2000® Index

The Russell 2000® Index is a sub-index of the Russell 3000® Index. To be eligible for inclusion in the Russell 3000® Index, and, consequently, the Russell 2000® Index, a company’s stocks must be listed on the rank day in May of a given year (the timetable is announced each spring) and Russell must have access to documentation verifying the company’s eligibility for inclusion. Eligible initial public offerings (“IPOs”) are added to Russell U.S. Indices quarterly, based on total market capitalization rankings within the market-adjusted capitalization breaks established during the most recent reconstitution. To be added to any Russell U.S. index during a quarter outside of reconstitution, IPOs must meet additional eligibility criteria.

A company is included in the U.S. equity markets and is eligible for inclusion in the Russell 3000® Index, and consequently, the Russell 2000® Index, if that company incorporates in the U.S., has its headquarters in the U.S. and also trades with the highest liquidity in the U.S. If a company does not satisfy all of the above criteria, it can still be included in the U.S. equity market if any one of the following home country indicators is in the United States: (i) country of incorporation, (ii) country of headquarters and (iii) country in which the company trades with the highest liquidity (as defined by a two-year average daily dollar trading volume from all exchanges within the country), and the primary location of that company’s assets or its revenue, based on an average of two years of assets or revenues data, is also in the United States. In addition, if there is insufficient information to assign a company to the U.S. equity markets based on its assets or revenue, the company may nonetheless be assigned to the U.S. equity markets if the headquarters of the company is located in the United States or if the headquarters of the company is located in certain “benefit-driven incorporation countries”, or “BDIs”, and that company’s most liquid stock exchange is in the United States. The BDI countries are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Cook Islands, Curaçao, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Liberia, Marshall Islands, Panama, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten and Turks and Caicos Islands. A U.S.-listed company is not eligible for inclusion within the U.S. equity market if it has been classified by Russell as a China N share on the rank date of the index reconstitution. A company will be considered a China N share if the following criteria are satisfied: (i) the company is incorporated outside of the People’s Republic of China, (ii) the company is listed on the NYSE, the NASDAQ or the NYSE MKT, (iii) over 55% of the revenue or assets of the company are derived from the People’s Republic of China, and (iv) the company is controlled by a mainland Chinese entity, company or individual (if the shareholder background cannot be determined with

Table of Contents

publicly available information, Russell will consider whether the establishment and origin of the company are in mainland China and whether the company is headquartered in mainland China). ADRs and ADSs are not eligible for inclusion in the Russell 2000[®] Index.

In addition, all securities eligible for inclusion in the Russell 3000[®] Index, and consequently, the Russell 2000[®] Index, must trade on an eligible exchange (BATS, IEX, NYSE, NYSE MKT, NYSE Arca and NASDAQ).

Exclusions from the Russell 2000[®] Index

Russell specifically excludes the following companies and securities from the Russell 2000[®] Index: (i) preferred and convertible preferred stock, redeemable shares, participating preferred stock, warrants, rights, installment receipts and trust receipts; (ii) royalty trusts, U.S. limited liability companies, closed-end investment companies, companies that are required to report Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses (as defined by the SEC), including business development companies, blank check companies, special-purpose acquisition companies and limited partnerships; (iii) companies with a total market capitalization less than \$30 million; (iv) companies with only a small portion of their shares available in the marketplace (companies with 5% or less float); (v) bulletin board, pink sheets or over-the-counter traded securities, including securities for which prices are displayed on the FINRA ADF; (vi) real estate investment trusts and publicly traded partnerships that generate, or have historically generated, unrelated business taxable income and have not taken steps to block their unrelated business taxable income to equity holders; and (vii) companies with 5% or less of the company's voting rights in the hands of unrestricted shareholders (existing constituents 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).

Initial List of Eligible Securities

The primary criterion Russell uses to determine the initial list of securities eligible for the Russell 3000[®] Index and, consequently, the Russell 2000[®] Index, is total market capitalization, which is calculated by multiplying the total outstanding shares for a company by the market price as of the rank day for those securities being considered at annual reconstitution. IPOs may be added between constitutions as noted below. All common stock share classes are combined in determining a company's total shares outstanding. If multiple share classes have been combined, the number of total shares outstanding will be multiplied by the primary exchange close price and used to determine the company's total market capitalization. In cases where the common stock share classes act independently of each other (e.g., tracking stocks), each class is considered for inclusion separately. Stocks must have a closing price at or above \$1.00 on their primary exchange or an eligible secondary exchange on the last trading day of May of each year to be eligible for inclusion in the Russell 2000[®] Index. In order to reduce unnecessary turnover, if an existing member's closing price is less than \$1.00 on the rank day in May, it will be considered eligible if the average of