

GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC

Form 424B2

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The information in this preliminary pricing supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary pricing 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 November 6, 2018.

GS Finance Corp.

\$

Leveraged Buffered Basket-Linked Notes due

guaranteed by

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

The notes will not bear interest. The amount that you will be paid on your notes on the stated maturity date (expected to be November 18, 2022) is based on the performance of a weighted basket comprised of the S&P 500[®] Index (45.91% weighting), the S&P MidCap 400[®] Index (10.72% weighting), the iShares[®] MSCI EAFE Small Cap ETF (9.56% weighting), the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (9.11% weighting), the EURO STOXX 50[®] Index (8.71% weighting), the Russell 2000[®] Index (5.36% weighting), TOPIX (5.23% weighting), the FTSE[®] 100 Index (3.87% weighting) and the S&P/ASX 200 Index (1.53% weighting) as measured from the trade date (expected to be November 15, 2018) to and including the determination date (expected to be November 15, 2022).

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

The initial basket level is 100 and the final basket level will equal the sum of the products, as calculated for each basket underlier, of: (i) the final underlier level divided by the initial underlier level (set on the trade date) multiplied by (ii) the applicable initial weighted value for each basket underlier. If the final basket level on the determination date is greater than the initial basket level, the return on your notes will be positive and will equal 1.15 times the basket return. If the final basket level declines by up to 15% from the initial basket level, you will receive the face amount of your notes. If the final basket level declines by more than 15% from the initial basket level, the return on your notes will be negative and will equal the basket return plus 15%. You could lose a significant portion of the face amount of your notes.

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

if the basket return is positive (the final basket level is greater than the initial basket level), the sum of (i) \$1,000 plus (ii) the product of (a) \$1,000 times (b) 1.15 times (c) the basket return;

if the basket return is zero or negative but not below -15% (the final basket level is equal to or less than the initial basket level but not by more than 15%), \$1,000; or

if the basket return is negative and is below -15% (the final basket level is less than the initial basket level by more than 15%), the sum of (i) \$1,000 plus (ii) the product of (a) the sum of the basket return plus 15% times (b) \$1,000.

You will receive less than the face amount of your notes.

Declines in one basket underlier may offset increases in the other basket underliers. Due to the unequal weighting of each basket underlier, the performance of the S&P 500[®] Index will have a significantly larger impact on your return on the notes than the performance of the S&P MidCap 400[®] Index, the iShares[®] MSCI EAFE Small Cap ETF, the

MSCI Emerging Markets Index, the EURO STOXX 50[®] Index, the Russell 2000[®] Index, TOPIX, the FTSE[®] 100 Index or the S&P/ASX 200 Index.

You should read the disclosure herein to better understand the terms and risks of your investment, including the credit risk of GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. See page PS-15.

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 \$930 and \$970 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 November 20, 2018 Original issue price: 100% of the face amount*

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

*The original issue price will be % for certain investors; see “Summary Information — Key Terms — Supplemental plan of distribution; conflicts of interest” on page PS-6.

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

Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC

Pricing Supplement No. dated , 2018.

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

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

Estimated Value of Your Notes

The estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date (as determined by reference to pricing models used by Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC (GS&Co.) and taking into account our credit spreads) is expected to be between \$930 and \$970 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 pricing supplement and the accompanying documents listed below. This pricing supplement constitutes a supplement to the documents listed below and should be read in conjunction with such documents:

Product supplement no. 1,738 dated July 10, 2017

General terms supplement no. 1,734 dated July 10, 2017

Prospectus supplement dated July 10, 2017

Prospectus dated July 10, 2017

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

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SUMMARY INFORMATION

We refer to the notes we are offering by this pricing supplement as the “offered notes” or the “notes”. Each of the offered notes has the terms described below. Please note that in this pricing supplement, references to “GS Finance Corp.,” “we”, “our” and “us” mean only GS Finance Corp. and do not include its subsidiaries or affiliates, references to “The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.,” our parent company, mean only The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and do not include its subsidiaries or affiliates and references to “Goldman Sachs” mean The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. together with its consolidated subsidiaries and affiliates, including us. Also, references to the “accompanying prospectus” mean the accompanying prospectus, dated July 10, 2017, references to the “accompanying prospectus supplement” mean the accompanying prospectus supplement, dated July 10, 2017, for Medium-Term Notes, Series E, references to the “accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734” mean the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734, dated July 10, 2017, and references to the “accompanying product supplement no. 1,738” mean the accompanying product supplement no. 1,738, dated July 10, 2017, in each case of GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. The notes will be issued under the senior debt indenture, dated as of October 10, 2008, as supplemented by the First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of February 20, 2015, each among us, as issuer, The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., as guarantor, and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee. This indenture, as so supplemented and as further supplemented thereafter, is referred to as the “GSFC 2008 indenture” in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

This section is meant as a summary and should be read in conjunction with the section entitled “General Terms of the Underlier-Linked Notes” on page S-35 of the accompanying product supplement no. 1,738 and “Supplemental Terms of the Notes” on page S-16 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734. Please note that certain features, as noted below, described in the accompanying product supplement no. 1,738 and general terms supplement no. 1,734 are not applicable to the notes. This pricing supplement supersedes any conflicting provisions of the accompanying product supplement no. 1,738 or the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734.

Key Terms

Issuer: GS Finance Corp.

Guarantor: The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

Basket underliers: the S&P 500[®] Index (Bloomberg symbol, “SPX Index”), as published by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC (“S&P”); the S&P MidCap 400[®] Index (Bloomberg symbol, “MID Index”), as published by S&P; the iShares[®] MSCI EAFE Small Cap ETF (Bloomberg symbol, “SCZ UW”); the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (Bloomberg symbol, MXEF Index”) as maintained by MSCI Inc.; the EURO STOXX 50[®] Index (Bloomberg symbol, “SX5E Index”), as sponsored and maintained by STOXX Limited; the Russell 2000[®] Index (Bloomberg symbol, “RTY Index”), as published by FTSE Russell (“FTSE”); TOPIX (Bloomberg symbol, “TPX Index”), as published by the Tokyo Stock Exchange, Inc. (“TSE”); the FTSE[®]100 Index (Bloomberg symbol, “UKX Index”), as published by FTSE; and the S&P/ASX 200 Index (Bloomberg symbol, “AS51 Index”), as published by S&P; see “The Basket and the Basket Underliers” on page PS-23

Basket indices: the S&P 500[®] Index, the S&P MidCap 400[®] Index, the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, the EURO STOXX 50[®] Index, the Russell 2000[®] Index, TOPIX, the FTSE[®] 100 Index, and the S&P/ASX 200 Index

Basket fund: the iShares[®] MSCI EAFE Small Cap ETF

Underlying index of the basket fund: the MSCI EAFE Small Cap Index

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

Terms to be specified in accordance with the accompanying product supplement no. 1,738:

·type of notes: notes linked to basket of underliers

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- exchange rates: not applicable
- buffer level: yes, as described below
- cap level: not applicable
- averaging dates: not applicable
- interest: not applicable
- redemption right or price dependent redemption right: not applicable

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

Purchase at amount other than face amount: the amount we will pay you at the stated maturity date for your notes will not be adjusted based on the issue price you pay for your notes, so if you acquire notes at a premium (or discount) to face amount and hold them to the stated maturity date, it could affect your investment in a number of ways. The return on your investment in such notes will be lower (or higher) than it would have been had you purchased the notes at face amount. Also, the stated buffer level would not offer the same measure of protection to your investment as would be the case if you had 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 PS-16 of this pricing supplement

Supplemental discussion of 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 basket underliers, as described under “Supplemental Discussion of Federal Income Tax Consequences” on page S-41 of the accompanying product supplement no. 1,738. Pursuant to this approach, it is the opinion of Sidley Austin LLP that upon the sale, exchange 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. Pursuant to Treasury regulations, Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) withholding (as described in “United States Taxation—Taxation of Debt Securities—Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding” in the accompanying prospectus) will generally apply to obligations that are issued on or after July 1, 2014; therefore, the notes will generally be subject to FATCA withholding. However, according to published guidance, the withholding tax described above will not apply to payments of gross proceeds from the sale, exchange or other disposition of the notes made before January 1, 2019.

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

if the final basket level is greater than the initial basket level, the sum of (1) \$1,000 plus (2) the product of (i) \$1,000 times (ii) the upside participation rate times (iii) the basket return;

if the final basket level is equal to or less than the initial basket level but greater than or equal to the buffer level, \$1,000; or

if the final basket level is less than the buffer level, the sum of (1) \$1,000 plus (2) the product of (i) \$1,000 times (ii) the buffer rate times (iii) the sum of the basket return plus the buffer amount

Initial basket level: 100

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

Basket Underlier	Initial Weight in Basket
S&P 500 [®] Index	45.91%
S&P MidCap 400 [®] Index	10.72%
iShares [®] MSCI EAFE Small Cap ETF	9.56%
MSCI Emerging Markets Index	9.11%
EURO STOXX 50 [®] Index	8.71%
Russell 2000 [®] Index	5.36%
TOPIX	5.23%
FTSE [®] 100 Index	3.87%
S&P/ASX 200 Index	1.53%

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

Initial S&P MidCap 400[®] Index level (to be set on the trade date):

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

Initial MSCI Emerging Markets Index level (to be set on the trade date):

Initial EURO STOXX 50[®] Index level (to be set on the trade date):

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

Initial TOPIX level (to be set on the trade date):

Initial FTSE[®] 100 Index level (to be set on the trade date):

Initial S&P/ASX 200 Index level (to be set on the trade date):

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

Final S&P MidCap 400[®] Index level: the closing level of such basket underlier on the determination date, except in the limited circumstances described under “Supplemental Terms of the Notes — Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day” on page S-23 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734 and subject to adjustment as provided under “Supplemental Terms of the Notes — Discontinuance or Modification of an Underlier” on page S-27 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

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

Final MSCI Emerging Markets Index level: the closing level of such basket underlier on the determination date, except in the limited circumstances described under “Supplemental Terms of the Notes — Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day” on page S-23 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. and subject to adjustment as provided under

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“Supplemental Terms of the Notes — Discontinuance or Modification of an Underlier” on page S-27 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

Final EURO STOXX 50[®] Index level: the closing level of such basket underlier on the determination date, except in the limited circumstances described under “Supplemental Terms of the Notes — Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day” on page S-23 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734 and subject to adjustment as provided under “Supplemental Terms of the Notes — Discontinuance or Modification of an Underlier” on page S-27 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

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

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

Final FTSE[®] 100 Index level: the closing level of such basket underlier on the determination date, except in the limited circumstances described under “Supplemental Terms of the Notes — Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day” on page S-23 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734 and subject to adjustment as provided under “Supplemental Terms of the Notes — Discontinuance or Modification of an Underlier” on page S-27 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

Final S&P/ASX 200 Index level: the closing level of such basket underlier on the determination date, except in the limited circumstances described under “Supplemental Terms of the Notes — Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day” on page S-23 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734 and subject to adjustment as provided under “Supplemental Terms of the Notes — Discontinuance or Modification of an Underlier” on page S-27 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

Final basket level: the sum of the following: (1) the final S&P 500[®] Index level divided by the initial S&P 500[®] Index level, multiplied by the initial weighted value of the S&P 500[®] Index plus (2) the final S&P MidCap 400[®] Index level divided by the initial S&P MidCap 400[®] Index level, multiplied by the initial weighted value of the S&P MidCap 400[®] Index plus (3) the final iShares[®] MSCI EAFE Small Cap ETF level divided by the initial iShares[®] MSCI EAFE Small Cap ETF level, multiplied by the initial weighted value of the iShares[®] MSCI EAFE Small Cap ETF plus (4) the final MSCI Emerging Markets Index level divided by the initial MSCI Emerging Markets Index level, multiplied by the initial weighted value of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index plus (5) the final EURO STOXX 50[®] Index level divided by the initial EURO STOXX 50[®] Index level, multiplied by the initial weighted value of the EURO STOXX 50[®] Index plus (6) the final Russell 2000[®] Index level divided by the initial Russell 2000[®] Index level, multiplied by the initial weighted value of the Russell 2000[®] Index plus (7) the final TOPIX level divided by the initial TOPIX level, multiplied by the initial weighted value of TOPIX plus (8) the final FTSE[®] 100 Index level divided by the initial FTSE[®] 100 Index level, multiplied by the initial weighted value of the FTSE[®] 100 Index plus (9) the final S&P/ASX 200 Index level divided by the initial S&P/ASX 200 Index level, multiplied by the initial weighted value of the S&P/ASX 200 Index

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

Upside participation rate: 115%

Buffer level: 85% of the initial basket level

Buffer amount: 15%

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Buffer rate: 100%

Trade date: expected to be November 15, 2018

Original issue date (settlement date) (to be set on the trade date): expected to be November 20, 2018

Stated maturity date (to be set on the trade date): expected to be November 18, 2022, subject to adjustment as described under “Supplemental Terms of the Notes — Stated Maturity Date” on page S-16 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

Determination date (to be set on the trade date): expected to be November 15, 2022, subject to adjustment as described under “Supplemental Terms of the Notes — Determination Date” on page S-17 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

No interest: the offered notes will not bear interest

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

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

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

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

Trading day: as described under “Supplemental Terms of the Notes $\frac{3}{4}$ Special Calculation Provisions $\frac{3}{4}$ Trading Day” on page S-31 of the accompanying general terms supplement no. 1,734

Use of proceeds and hedging: as described under “Use of Proceeds” and “Hedging” on page S-40 of the accompanying product supplement no. 1,738

ERISA: as described under “Employee Retirement Income Security Act” on page S-48 of the accompanying product supplement no. 1,738

Supplemental plan of distribution; conflicts of interest: as described under “Supplemental Plan of Distribution” on page S-49 of the accompanying product supplement no. 1,738 and “Plan of Distribution – Conflicts of Interest” on page 94 of the accompanying prospectus; GS Finance Corp. estimates that its share of the total offering expenses, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$.

GS Finance Corp. expects to agree to sell to Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC (“GS&Co.”), and GS&Co. expects to agree to purchase from GS Finance Corp., the aggregate face amount of the offered notes specified on the front cover of this pricing supplement. GS&Co. proposes initially to offer the notes to the public at the original issue price set forth on the cover page of this pricing supplement, and to certain securities dealers at such price less a concession not in excess of % of the face amount. The original issue price for notes purchased by certain retirement accounts and certain fee-based advisory accounts will be % of the face amount of the notes, which will reduce the underwriting discount specified on the cover of this pricing supplement with respect to such notes to %. GS&Co. is an affiliate of GS Finance Corp. and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and, as such, will have a “conflict of interest” in this offering of notes within the meaning of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA) Rule 5121.

Consequently, this offering of notes will be conducted in compliance with the provisions of FINRA Rule 5121.

GS&Co. will not be permitted to sell notes in this offering to an account over which it exercises discretionary authority without the prior specific written approval of the account holder.

We expect to deliver the notes against payment therefor in New York, New York on November 20, 2018. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in two business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade notes on any date prior to two business days before delivery will be required to specify alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

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

Calculation agent: GS&Co.

CUSIP no.: 40056EG85

ISIN no.: US40056EG854

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

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HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLES

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

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

The information in the following examples reflects hypothetical rates of return on the offered notes assuming that they are purchased on the original issue date at the face amount and held to the stated maturity date. If you sell your notes in a secondary market prior to the stated maturity date, your return will depend upon the market value of your notes at the time of sale, which may be affected by a number of factors that are not reflected in the examples below such as interest rates, the volatility of the basket underliers, the creditworthiness of GS Finance Corp., as issuer, and the creditworthiness of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., as guarantor. In addition, the estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date (as determined by reference to pricing models used by GS & Co.) is less than the original issue price of your notes. For more information on the estimated value of your notes, see “Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes — The Estimated Value of Your Notes At the Time the Terms of Your Notes Are Set On the Trade Date (as Determined By Reference to Pricing Models Used By GS & Co.) Is Less Than the Original Issue Price Of Your Notes” on page PS-15 of this pricing supplement. The information in the examples also reflects the key terms and assumptions in the box below.

Key Terms and Assumptions

Face amount	\$1,000
Upside participation rate	115%
Initial basket level	100
Buffer level	85% of the initial basket level
Buffer rate	100%
Buffer amount	15%

Neither a market disruption event nor a non-trading day occurs on the originally scheduled determination date

No change in or affecting (i) any of the underlier stocks, (ii) the methods by which any basket underlier sponsor calculates a basket index or the underlying index for the basket fund or (iii) the policies of the investment advisor of the basket fund

Notes purchased on original issue date at the face amount and held to the stated maturity date

Moreover, we have not yet set the initial S&P 500[®] Index level, the initial S&P MidCap 400[®] Index level, the initial iShares[®] MSCI EAFE Small Cap ETF level, the initial MSCI Emerging Markets Index level, the initial EURO STOXX 50[®] Index level, the initial Russell 2000[®] Index level, the initial TOPIX level, the initial FTSE[®] 100 Index level or the initial S&P/ASX 200 Index level that will serve as the baselines for determining the basket return and the amount that we will pay on your notes at maturity. We will not do so until the trade date. As a result, the actual initial S&P 500[®] Index level, the actual initial S&P MidCap 400[®] Index level, the actual initial iShares[®] MSCI EAFE Small Cap ETF level, the actual initial iShares[®] MSCI

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Emerging Markets Index level, the actual initial EURO STOXX 50[®] Index level, the actual initial Russell 2000[®] Index level, the actual initial TOPIX level, the actual initial FTSE[®] 100 Index level and the actual initial S&P/ASX 200 Index level may differ substantially from the current level of such basket underlier prior to the trade date. They may also differ substantially from the level of such basket underlier at the time you purchase your notes.

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

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

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

Hypothetical Final Basket Level