In 2007, a variety of asset classes generated returns in excess of 4 percent.

In 2017, corporate debt is the only significant asset class that provides a comparable return.

US corporate bonds make up the majority of the US dollar corporate bond universe...

...drawing foreign investors beyond their traditional risk habitats.

Sources: Bank of America Merrill Lynch; Bloomberg Finance L.P.; Federal Reserve; Haver Analytics; and IMF staff estimates.
Note: Panels 1 and 2 are based on the Bank of America Global Bond Market Index. Data labels in the figure use International Organization for Standardization (ISO) country codes. EMEA = Europe, Middle East, and Africa.