

**Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on
International Standards of Accounting and Reporting**
Forty-first session
Room XVII
Palais des Nations, Geneva
6 to 8 November 2024

Wednesday, 6 November 2024

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Agenda item 1. Election of officers

Agenda item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Opening statements: **Rebeca Grynspan**, Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Introduction: **Nan Li Collins**, Director, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UN Trade and Development

Opening panel:

- **H.E. Noureddine Bensouda**, General Treasurer of the Kingdom, Morocco
- **Christopher Hui**, GPS, JP, Secretary, Financial Services and the Treasury, Hong Kong, China
- **Emilio B. Aquino**, Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission, Philippines
- **Sue Lloyd**, Vice-Chair, International Sustainability Standards Board
- **Saskia Slomp**, Chief Executive Officer, European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG)

High-level panel:

- Review of progress made in harmonization of sustainability reporting frameworks and standards
- Prospects for full harmonization at a global level, going beyond interoperability of existing standards and requirements.

Speakers

- **Mayatta Ndiaye Mbaye**, Permanent Secretary, OHADA
- **David Kuijper**, General Manager, European Development Finance Institutions
- **Bernhard Schatz**, Member, Sustainability Reference Group, International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board
- **Archana Shirsat**, Deputy Director General, International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) Development Initiative
- **Mario Abela**, Director, Standards, GRI

Followed by

- Interactive debate

1-3 p.m.

Lunch break

3-5.30 p.m.

Informal session

Agenda Item 3 Review of progress in harmonization and practical implementation of sustainability reporting, assurance and ethical consideration

- Introduction by the **UNCTAD secretariat**
- Despite efforts made by different standard setters to achieve interoperability among respective standards, discrepancies remain. What needs to be done on the side of policymakers and regulatory authorities in order to achieve equivalency?
- How can the identification and sharing of good practices among member States on the implementation of sustainability reporting be facilitated?

- What are some approaches that policymakers and regulators could adopt to increase the knowledge and skills of regulatory and enforcement authorities on sustainability reporting matters?
- What considerations do policymakers need to make to encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to prepare meaningful reports on sustainability performance?
- How can policymakers and regulators facilitate the implementation of the new assurance and ethics standards and codes that the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants are finalizing?
- How can standard setters define sustainability reporting standards for small and medium-sized enterprises?
- What needs to be done to prepare public sector entities to implement sustainability reporting requirements being developed by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board?
- What could global forums such as the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts and the regional partnerships for the promotion of sustainability reporting do to further promote global harmonization and the practical implementation of sustainability reporting requirements?

Speakers

- **Tom Seidenstein**, Chair, International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board
- **Mark Babington**, Board Member, International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants
- **Elsa Beatriz Garcia Bojorges**, President, Financial Reporting Standards Board, Mexico
- Chair, forty-first session of ISAR
- **Iheanyi O. Anyahara**, Director, Directorate of Accounting Standards (Public Sector), Financial Reporting Council, Nigeria
- **Vania Maria da Costa Borgerth**, Brazilian Sustainability Pronouncements Committee (CBPS)
- **Bailey Church**, Partner, Accounting Advisory Services, KPMG, Canada

Followed by

- Interactive discussion

5:30-6:00 p.m.

Thursday, 7 November 2024

10 a.m. -1 p.m.

Informal session

Item 3 Review of progress in harmonization and practical implementation of sustainability reporting, assurance and ethical consideration (*continued*)

Speakers

- **McJill Bryant Fernandez**, Commissioner, Securities and Exchange Commission Philippines
- **Michael Ashby**, Head, Sustainability Disclosure Frameworks, Department for Business and Trade, United Kingdom
- **Ahmad Al Meghames**, Chief Executive Officer, Saudi Organization for Chartered and Professional Accountants
- **Jutheau Déadjufo Toussé**, Chairman, Regional Partnership - Africa
- **Marat Pirnazarov**, Chairman, Regional Partnership - Eurasia
- **Vania Maria da Costa Borgerth**, Chair, Regional Partnership Latin America

Followed by

- Interactive discussion

1-3 p.m.

Lunch break

3-4:30 p.m.

Informal session

Item 4 Integrating reporting on the financial and sustainability performance of entities: Leveraging digitalization

Regulatory considerations:

- What existing regulations or frameworks are in place that can be adapted to include digital sustainability reporting?
- Should current corporate reporting regulations be revised to facilitate the implementation of digital sustainability reporting requirements?
- What new strategies and regulations or policies need to be developed to support the adoption of digital sustainability reporting?
- What are the potential costs and benefits of mandating digital sustainability reporting for businesses in developing countries?
- What legal frameworks are necessary to enforce compliance with digital sustainability reporting requirements?
- How can digital sustainability reporting be integrated into broader regional and national sustainability and development strategies?
- How can digital reporting platforms or mechanisms facilitate the measurement of progress in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and reporting on indicators, such as indicator 12.6.1 (number of companies preparing sustainability reports)?

Support for digitalized reporting:

- How can Governments support businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, in the process of digitalization?
- How can awareness be raised about the importance and benefits of digital sustainability reporting among businesses and the general public?
- What support mechanisms can be provided to help businesses transition to digital sustainability reporting?
- What does the road map of transitioning to digital reporting entail?
- How can development partners support developing countries in developing a transition strategy, including priorities, sequences, partnerships and resources?
- How can South-South exchanges of experiences be promoted to facilitate the transition to digital sustainability reporting?
- How can public-private partnerships be leveraged to facilitate the implementation of digital sustainability reporting systems?
- What level of technological infrastructure is required to support digital sustainability reporting?

Speakers

- **Richard Bössen**, Senior Manager, Digital Reporting, European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG)
- **Seema Jamil-O'Neill**, Technical Director, UK Endorsement Board
- **Mario Abela**, Director, Standards, GRI
- **John Turner**, Chief Executive Officer, XBRL International

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Followed by

- Interactive discussion

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

ISAR Honours Ceremony

10-11 a.m.	Informal consultations (by invitations only)
11.15 a.m.–1:00 p.m.	Item 4 Integrating reporting on the financial and sustainability performance of entities: Leveraging digitalization (<i>continued</i>) Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ewald Muller, Managing Director, Supervision and Authorisation, Qatar financial Centre Regulatory Authority• Nancy Kamp-Roelands, Professor, University of Groningen, the Netherlands• Nelson Perez Aguirre, UNCTAD• Richard Bössen, Senior Manager, Digital Reporting, European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG)• Eberechi Weli, Global Centre of Excellence in Sustainability• Anneli Becker, Sustain Consulting Followed by <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interactive discussion
1-3 p.m.	Lunch break
3-4:45 p.m.	Informal session Item 5 - Other business Panel discussion 5 (a) Updates on implementation of technical cooperation projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elsa Beatriz Garcia Bojorges, President, Financial Reporting Standards Board, Mexico• Richard Mubiru, Lead Officer, Enterprise Growth and Development, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda 5 (b) Insights from recent implementation of the Accounting Development Tool <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Iheanyi O. Anyahara, Director, Directorate of Accounting Standards (Public Sector), Financial Reporting Council, Nigeria 5 (c) ISAR Honours – highlights of illustrative initiatives Followed by <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consideration of outcomes of agenda items 3, 4 and 5
4.45-6 p.m.	Closing plenary session Item 6 Provisional agenda for the forty-second session Item 7 Adoption of the report