
**Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International
Standards of Accounting and Reporting
(ISAR)**

**37th SESSION
2 – 6 November 2020**

Monday, 2 November 2020

**High-level panel: Recent trends and key challenges in
enterprise reporting agenda and impact of COVID-19**

Presented by

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ISAR 37 high-level panel

Recent trends and key challenges in
enterprise reporting

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WBCSD



Project overview

WBCSD developed *Reporting matters* in partnership with Radley Yeldar to help improve the effectiveness of sustainability reporting. Project started in 2013

WBCSD analyzes the fullest source of sustainability information from each member each year against a framework and uses the resulting data in two ways:

- **For members:** We provide confidential scoring dashboards with analysis and anonymized peer group data. We offer confidential feedback sessions to explain our findings to all members.
- **For the public:** We compile the overall results and publish an annual overview of reporting trends within our membership, showcasing good practice examples and providing high level recommendations on reporting.

Our 2020 publication can be found at www.wbcscd.org/rm2020



Key findings in 2020

1

Reporting is improving

78% of member companies in our benchmark have improved their Overall scores since the baseline year 2017; **26%** have improved their *Materiality* score.

2

The state of SDG reporting

96% of reports reviewed acknowledge the SDGs in some way; **93%** prioritize specific SDGs and present some evidence of alignment and contribution.

3

The state of integrated reporting

41% of reports reviewed combine financial and non-financial information, up from **35%** in 2017; **18%** are self-declared integrated reports.

4

The state of GRI reporting

84% of reports reviewed reference the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), similar to **87%** in 2017; **78%** of those claim to be in accordance with Core or Comprehensive level.

5

The emergence of SASB

28% of reports reviewed integrate SASB into the materiality assessment process or produce a separate SASB index, up from **7%** of our sample in 2017; **65%** of our US-headquartered sample does so.

6

The future is digital

15% of reports reviewed provide a digital-first experience; **81%** of members with an offline-first approach produce complementary online content, up from **44%** in 2017.

Annual snapshot

Annual snapshot represent overall trends across membership over time (158 reports in 2020, 159 in 2019, 158 in 2018 and 157 in 2017)

44%

of reports are titled sustainability reports
(2017: 41%)

41%

of reports combine financial and non-financial information
(2017: 35%)

4

average number of months between reporting period and publication
(2017: 4)

101

average number of pages for stand-alone sustainability reports
(2017: 95)

84%

of members cite GRI Guidelines or Standards
(2017: 86%)

84%

of members have some portion of their report externally assured
(2017: 73%)

15%

of members provide a digital-first experience
(2018: 20%*)

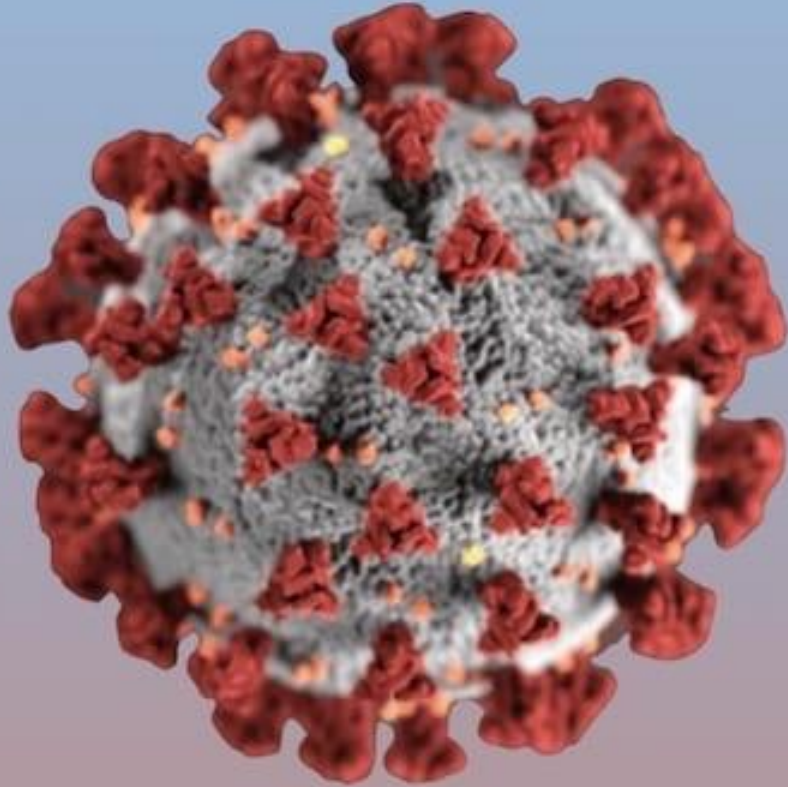
81%

of members with an offline-first approach produce significant online content**
(2017: 44%)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Similar to last year, nearly all (96%) of reports reviewed reference the SDGs. We have seen moderate improvement in the level of detail around the SDGs.

- About a quarter of reports (24%) discuss Target-level SDG information, with the remainder of disclosures focusing on Goal-level information. This is up from 20% in 2019.
- Nearly a third reference a prioritization process (29%) and ties to strategy (33%). About one fifth explicitly discuss ties between the materiality assessment process and the SDGs (24%).
- An increasing number of reports align key performance indicators (KPIs) (20% vs. 6% in 2019) and targets (28% vs. 15% in 2019) to the SDGs.
- About a third (32%) tie SDGs to case studies or detailed evidence of sustainability programs and initiatives undertaken during the reporting period (19% in 2019).
- As was the case last year, very few (1-3%) make reference to Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) and human rights in relation to the SDGs.



Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 COVID-19

Implications for reporting