

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

**UNCTAD-ISAR – WBCSD Workshop
Assurance on sustainability reports: current practices and
challenges**

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Presented by

Austin Kennedy
Manager, Redefining Value, World Business Council for
Sustainable Development

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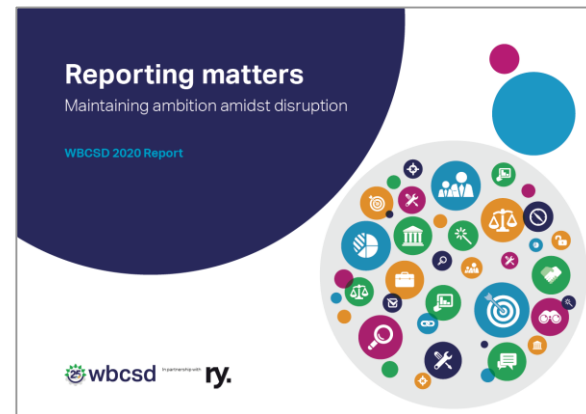
Project overview

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

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.

We launched our 2020 publication on 21 October: www.wbcscd.org/rm2020



Assurance snapshot: 2020 state of play

The assurance snapshot is based on the complete sample population of 158 members from our data sample this year.

| Type | 2020 |
|---------------------|------|
| No internal audit | 6% |
| Internal audit only | 10% |
| External assurance | 84% |

| Level | 2020 |
|---------------------------|------|
| No external assurance | 16% |
| Limited assurance only | 67% |
| Combined assurance | 13% |
| Reasonable assurance only | 4% |

| Scope | 2020 |
|-----------------------------------------|------|
| No external assurance | 16% |
| Handful of indicators (narrow) | 24% |
| Broad range or reporting process (wide) | 61% |

Analysis

The percentage of members obtaining some form of assurance (internal *or* external) is 94%.

The percentage of members obtaining external assurance specifically is 84%.

Of those obtaining external assurance, obtaining assurance on a wide range of sustainability information is fairly standard within our membership.

Assurance trends over time since 2017: Type

Trends are based on the 106 members included in both the 2017 and 2020 review cycles to demonstrate progress over time.

| Type | 2017 | 2020 |
|---------------------|------|------|
| No internal audit | 7% | 3% |
| Internal audit only | 15% | 7% |
| External assurance | 78% | 90% |

Analysis

The percentage of members obtaining some form of assurance (internal *or* external) has increased from 93% to 97% since 2017.

The percentage of members obtaining external assurance specifically has increased from 78% to 90% since 2017.

These are both positive trends, but the level and scope of external assurance engagements is also important in the following slides.

Assurance trends over time since 2017: Level

Trends are based on the 106 members included in both the 2017 and 2020 review cycles to demonstrate progress over time.

| Level | 2017 | 2020 |
|---------------------------|------|------|
| No external assurance | 22% | 10% |
| Limited assurance only | 58% | 68% |
| Combined assurance | 15% | 17% |
| Reasonable assurance only | 5% | 5% |

Analysis

The percentage of members obtaining a limited level of assurance has increased from 58% to 68% since 2017. Much of this is because more members are obtaining external assurance, and a limited level is the typical starting point.

The percentage of members obtaining reasonable assurance on at least some indicators (“combined assurance” or “reasonable assurance only”) is quite flat since 2017.

Assurance trends over time since 2017: Scope

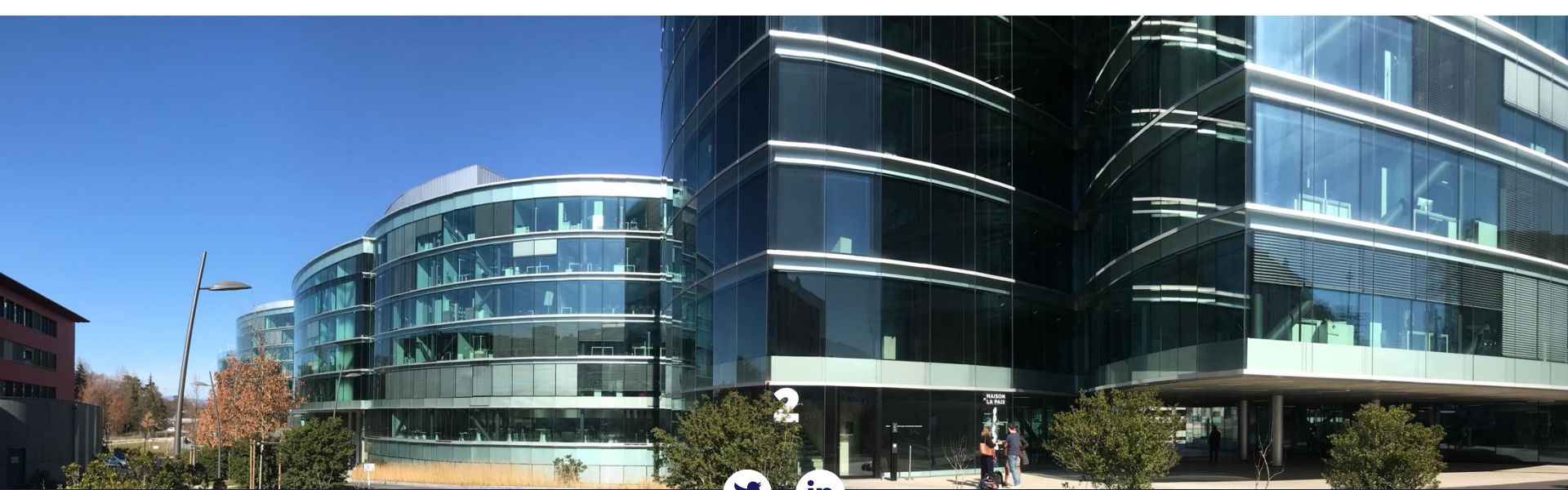
Trends are based on the 106 members included in both the 2017 and 2020 review cycles to demonstrate progress over time.

| Scope | 2017 | 2020 |
|-----------------------------------------|------|------|
| No external assurance | 22% | 10% |
| Handful of indicators (narrow) | 13% | 19% |
| Broad range or reporting process (wide) | 63% | 70% |

Analysis

The percentage of members obtaining external assurance on a narrow range of indicators has increased from 13% to 19% since 2017. More members are obtaining external assurance, and a narrow scope of information is the typical starting point.

The percentage of members obtaining external assurance on a broader range of indicators (or the entire reporting process) has increased from 63% to 70% since 2017. Although most members still obtain a limited level of assurance, we are therefore at least seeing a wider range of information being covered.



WBCSD (Delhi)

WBCSD India, 4th Floor,
Worldmark 2,
Aerocity New Delhi 110 037
India

WBCSD (Geneva)

Maison de la Paix | Chemin
Eugène-Rigot 2B
CP 2075 1211 Geneva 1
Switzerland

WBCSD (London)

WeWork Mansion House
33 Queen Street
London EC4R 1BR
UK

WBCSD (New York)

We Work NY
300 Park Avenue, 12 Floor
NY 10022, NY
USA

WBCSD (Singapore)

WBCSD Asia Pacific
2 Science Park Drive
#01-03 Ascent
Singapore 118222
Singapore