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

**41st SESSION
6 – 8 November 2024**

Thursday, 7 November 2024

**Agenda item 3. Review of progress in harmonization and
practical implementation of sustainability reporting,
assurance and ethical considerations**

Presented by

Jutheau Déadjoufo Toussé
Chairman
Regional Partnership - Africa

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African
Regional Partnership
for Sustainability and SDG Reporting

African Regional Partnership on Sustainability & SDG Reporting

Jutheau Toussé
Chair
African Regional Partnership

ARP: Members & Signatory Countries

65 Members from 32 countries joined the Partnership

Growth update:

- 7 new members
- 4 new countries
- 1 new observer: IESBA

The Partnership is followed by 9 observers including international organisations such as GRI, IFAC etc.

- Algeria
- Angola
- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroun
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Egypt
- Eswatini
- Gabon
- Ghana
- Guinea Bissau
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Mali
- Mauritius
- Morocco
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Tchad
- The Gambia
- Togo
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

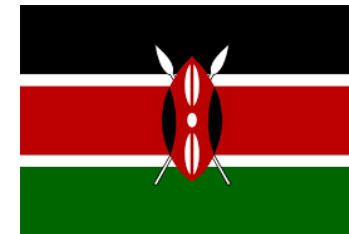


African
Regional Partnership
for Sustainability and SDG Reporting

Partnership Executive Committee



- The Executive Committee is composed by the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Partnership.
- The Chair of the Partnership is the Ministry of Finance of Cameroon, while the two vice-Chairs are the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition of South Africa, and a representative from Kenya.
- Secretariat is the Ministry of Finance of Cameroon supported by UNCTAD.



Meetings since the ISAR 2023



African
Regional Partnership
for Sustainability and SDG Reporting

- **October 2023** – ARP workshop on “Enhancing sustainability reporting to boost investment flows and developing green finance in Africa” at the World Investment Forum in Abu Dhabi
- **February 2024** –UNCTAD-IESBA Webinar on the New Ethical Benchmark for Sustainability Reporting and Assurance, online
- **September 2024** – ARP Sustainability Reporting workshop and capacity-building on the ISSBS S1 and S2, Yaounde, Cameroon
- **Executive Committee** meetings throughout the year

ARP Meeting at the World Investment Forum '23

- The session focused on enhancing sustainability reporting to attract investment and green finance across Africa.
- National strategies for green finance were shared, highlighting policy frameworks, transparency, and capacity-building initiatives to support sustainable investments.
- ISSB provided an overview on the standards S1 & S2 to drive sustainability within financial markets.
- The ARP welcomed new members and signed a membership agreement with the Ministry of Finance of Angola



ARP transmission of the regional voice to enable feedback to the international standard setters



IESBA

- ARP secretariat conducted survey on the IESBA Sustainability Exposure Draft as distributed among the ARP members
- Feedback was gathered from 15 countries represented by various categories of stakeholders, including regulators, government, professional accounting organizations, private sector, academia etc
- Recommendations included addressing group assurance challenges, maintaining independence, and enhancing accessibility through testing and translation.



ISSB

- ARP also solicited comments for the feedback to the ISSB's Request for Information Consultation on Agenda Priorities to support ISSB in defining strategic direction and balance of the ISSB's activities and new research projects added to the work plan.

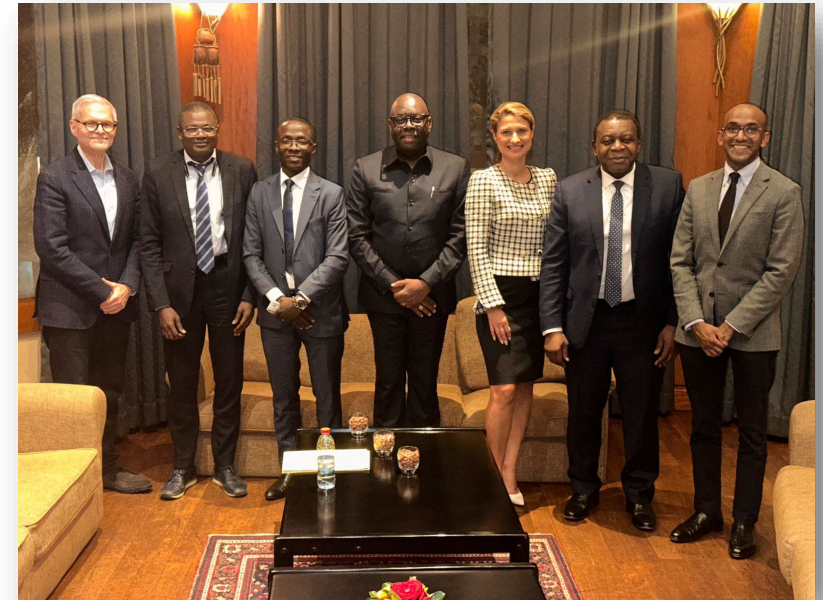
African Regional Partnership Workshop on Sustainability Reporting in Yaoundé

- The Workshop was organized with support of ISSB, IFAC and PAFA on 13 September 2024 in Yaoundé, Cameroon
- Broad spectrum of influential participants with an agenda focusing on latest developments and technical knowledge-building addressing ISSB sustainability reporting as well as standards for assurance and ethics, with the goal of advancing sustainable practices within Africa
- More than 60 participants from 20 countries, including representatives of line ministries, government institutions, professional associations, international organizations



Multistakeholder Cooperation: ISSB, IFAC & PAFA

- Organization of technical capacity-building session with support of ISSB and PAFA (Center of Excellence)
- Cooperation with IFAC and IESBA, IAASB, IPSASB for presenting an aggregated approach and update on trends provided by the whole Global Ecosystem



African Regional Partnership Workshop: Agenda



- OBJECTIVE
- Adoption and implementation support: sessions on implementation of IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 were led by experts from ISSB and PAFA.
- ISSB Standards Adoption Progress: Early adopters, including Nigeria, Kenya and Ghana shared insights on integrating ISSB Standards into African regulation.
- Harmonizing Global Ecosystem in the Regional Context: African perspectives on aligning with global sustainability disclosure standards for both private (ISSB) and public sectors (IPSASB). The critical role of ethics and independence was addressed with support of the experts from IESBA and IAASB.
- Green Finance in Africa: Key discussions highlighted strategies for promoting green finance and sharing best practices across the region.

African Regional Partnership Workshop: Key Outcomes



- Progress towards the adoption of ISSB Standards: **increased number of countries** from the continent expressed their interest **towards facilitating the adoption and implementation of the ISSB standards**.
- Regional Voice: establishment of **a common position for the region** with regards to adapting sustainability standards to the specific needs of its countries. ISSB launched Survey on levels of readiness and resource availability in the African countries.
- Partnership growth: African Regional Partnership (ARP) proudly welcomed **7 new members, with 3 new countries—Gabon, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire**—joining the partnership.
- Collaboration: the meeting allowed for the strengthening **of multistakeholder critical partnerships** towards the achievement of the sustainability goals between international organizations, regional bodies, and national governments.

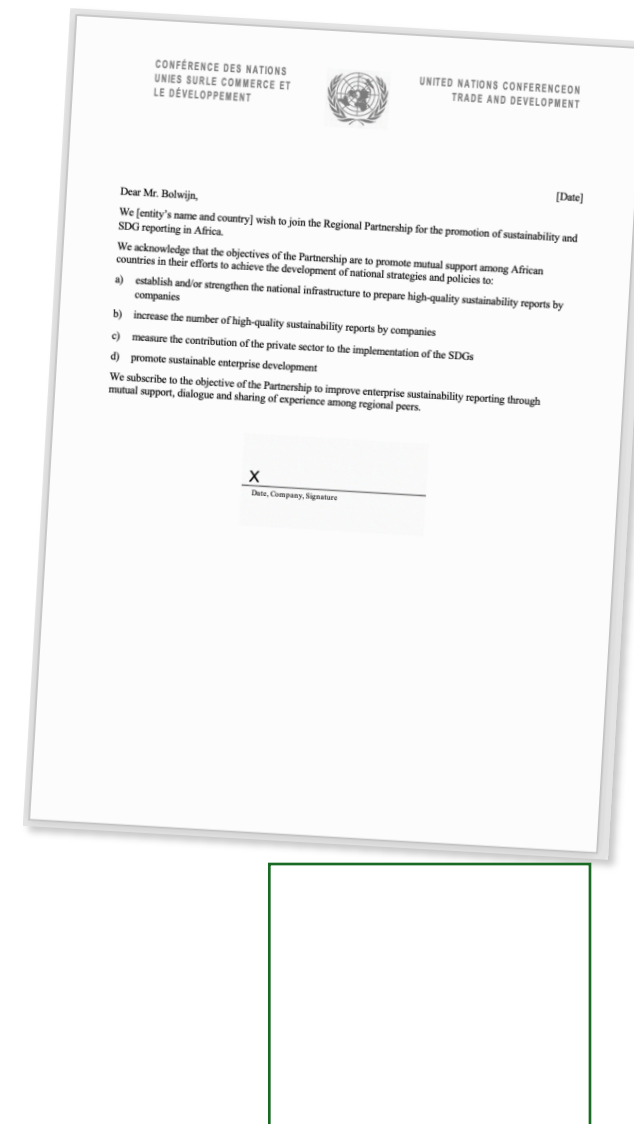
Next steps



- Q3 2024 – Establishing an expanded Advisory Committee to support the leadership transition for the next year
- Q4 2024 – Election of new Executive Committee 2025
- 2025 – Further growth both at the national level (diversification of the working groups) and regional level (engage new countries to join the Partnership).
- Potential working group to be established for addressing particular issues (i.e. OHADA countries on adoption of the ISSB S1 and S2)
- Agenda 2025 planning in cooperation with the ARP members & partners

Joining the partnership

- Entities interested in joining the Partnership are requested to communicate with the Executive Committee through the signed application letter (template provided on the web-site).
- Every country can be represented by 5 national entities
- Application letters should be sent to:
Elena.botvina@unctad.org, Jutheau@yahoo.fr



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LE DÉVELOPPEMENT

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Dear Mr. Bolwijn, [Date]

We [entity's name and country] wish to join the Regional Partnership for the promotion of sustainability and SDG reporting in Africa.

We acknowledge that the objectives of the Partnership are to promote mutual support among African countries in their efforts to achieve the development of national strategies and policies to:

- establish and/or strengthen the national infrastructure to prepare high-quality sustainability reports by companies
- increase the number of high-quality sustainability reports by companies
- measure the contribution of the private sector to the implementation of the SDGs
- promote sustainable enterprise development

We subscribe to the objective of the Partnership to improve enterprise sustainability reporting through mutual support, dialogue and sharing of experience among regional peers.

X
Date, Company, Signature



ARP is a result of the joined efforts!