

Proposed IESBA Work Plan 2022-2023**Background**

1. At the November-December 2021 IESBA meeting, staff presented a tentative IESBA work plan for 2022-2023. Among other matters, Board participants raised the following:
 - Whether resources should be allocated to support comprehensive adoption and implementation of the important recent revisions to the Code.
 - What the Emerging Issues and Outreach Committee's (EIOC) role will be with regard to the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) topic and whether that area will be sufficiently prioritized, especially given the recent formation of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB). It was also noted that in the EU, regulation is being developed to enable providers other than professional accountants to undertake assurance work on ESG information.
 - A concern that the topic of service delivery models would not come onto the Board's work plan until early 2023. It was noted that there could be potential synergies between this topic and the broader technology workstream, especially understanding the independence or other ethical implications of managed services where technology plays an important role.
 - Regarding the Benchmarking workstream:
 - A view that there would be strategic merit in next benchmarking the Code against Canadian ethics rules and regulations, given that Canada has been considering full adoption of the Code for quite some time. In this regard, it was suggested that the Board should identify factors to consider in determining which jurisdictions to prioritize for benchmarking purposes.
 - A view that it would not be sensible to undertake a comprehensive benchmarking of the Code against the EU audit legislation at this time given that the EC is reviewing the legislation and consulting on potential further audit reforms. In this regard, it was suggested that the Board prioritize outreach to the EC as it considers changes to the audit legislation.
 - In relation to the various commitments to post-implementation reviews (PIRs) in the current strategy and work plan (NOCLAR, Long Association, and the restructured Code), whether a common approach will be used.
2. In the light of the Definitions of Listed Entity and Public Interest Entity (PIE) project, the PIOB observer also noted the PIOB's desire for the IESBA to undertake a holistic review of the topic of collective investment vehicles (CIVs) and pension funds (PFs) within the remaining period of the current strategy cycle.

Staff Resources

3. With the recruitment of a new Principal anticipated in Q2 2022, there will be capacity to initiate a new workstream from Q2. In addition, steps are being taken to arrange for a technical staff member from the Japanese Institute of CPAs (JICPA) to join IESBA staff as a secondee in New York for a short-term period. The start of this secondment is being planned for May 2022, Covid conditions permitting.

Planning Committee (PC) Considerations

4. Given the present context of rapid developments in the ESG area, and taking into account the preliminary feedback from the Board in December, the PC came to the following views:
 - Current projects should be prioritized and completed as timeously as possible.
 - Available resources should be focused on ESG to accelerate the Board's preparedness to respond to the emerging issues or challenges in this area. In this regard, in consultation with the EIOC, the PC agreed that there would be merit in the Board establishing a dedicated ESG working group that would take over this workstream from the EIOC to enable the latter to focus on other aspects of its remit.
 - The post-implementation review of NOCLAR remains a priority but it is important to understand the extent to which the standard has been adopted around the world.
 - There is less of a compelling need to address the topic of service delivery models given the recently revised non-assurance services (NAS) provisions and the technology-related revisions to the Code being developed.
 - Taking into account when staff capacity would open up, a workstream on CIVs and PFs may be initiated in Q1 2023.
 - In relation to the Benchmarking workstream, while there are potentially additional phases focused on other major jurisdictions besides the US, it is necessary to await the Benchmarking Working Group's final report and recommendations from Phase 1 before considering the next steps.
 - Flexibility will be required if priorities are adjusted in the light of progress on, and outputs from, the current workstreams.
5. The proposed work plan for 2022-2023 is presented in the Appendix.

Action Requested

6. Subject to any comments from IESBA members, the Board is asked to agree the proposed work plan for 2022-2023.

APPENDIX

PROPOSED IESBA WORK PLAN 2022-2023

Projects/Initiatives	2022			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Rollout – Revised PIE Provisions	Discussion	Discussion	Update	Update
Tax Planning and Related Services	Discussion	Discussion	First read	Approve ED
Technology Non-authoritative Materials & Fact Finding	Update	Preliminary report – fact finding	Final report – fact finding	Update
Technology Project			Full review ED comments	Second read post-ED
Engagement Team / Group Audits			Full review ED comments	Approve final
Benchmarking¹	Final Report Phase 1			
Strategy & Work Plan (SWP)	Strategy survey		Full review survey responses	First read consultation paper
NOCLAR PIR²				Discussion
IESBA-IAASB Coordination	Update		Update	
EIOC	ESG Update	Discussion		Discussion
ESG		Terms of Reference	Update	Update

¹ Future phases of the Benchmarking workstream subject to Board consideration in the light of the Phase 1 report

² Commencement of new commitment from IESBA SWP 2019-2023

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Projects/Initiatives	2023			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Technology Project	Approval final			
Rollout – Technology Revisions		Discussion	Update	Update
Technology Non-authoritative Materials & Fact Finding ³	Update	Update	Update	Update
Tax Planning and Related Services		Update	Full review post-ED	Approve final
Rollout – Engagement Team / Group Audits	Discussion	Update	Update	Update
Strategy & Work Plan (SWP)	Approve consultation paper		Full review consultation paper responses	Approve final SWP
ESG	Preliminary fact-finding report	Final fact-finding report	Discussion	Discussion
CIVs and Pension Funds ⁴	WG Terms of reference	Update	Update	Preliminary fact-finding report
NOCLAR PIR	WG Terms of reference	Discussion	Update	Preliminary fact-finding report
Documentation ²		Discussion	Project Proposal	Discussion
Restructured Code PIR ²		WG Terms of reference	Discussion	Update
Long Association PIR Phase 2 ²		WG Terms of reference	Discussion	Update
IESBA-IAASB Coordination	Update		Update	

³ Future role of Technology working group (TWG) subject to IESBA consideration in the light of the TWG's final report and recommendations in Q3 2022

⁴ Pre-commitment arising from the PIE project

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Projects/Initiatives	2023			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
EIOC		Discussion		Discussion