

Meeting: IESBA

Meeting Location: Lisbon, Portugal

Meeting Date: September 16 – 19, 2025

Agenda Item

6

Adoption & Implementation

Objectives of the Session

1. To consider:
 - (a) An update from the Adoption & implementation Working Group (A&I WG), including the development of jurisdictional profiles on prioritized jurisdictions to focus A&I activities; and
 - (b) An update on the IESSA¹ Implementation Monitoring Advisory Group (IIMAG).

A&I WG Activities since June 2025

2. The A&I WG met in July and August 2025 to discuss:
 - The A&I WG's Updated Action Plan;
 - Coordination with the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB);
 - Other stakeholder engagement with the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF);
 - Draft jurisdictional profiles for prioritized jurisdictions, information gathering on those jurisdictions, and the strategic direction for A&I activities;
 - An update on the IIMAG, including consideration of additional candidates for membership; and
 - An update on A&I activities for the IESBA's Tax Planning and Related Services standards.

A&I WG Updated Action Plan

3. The A&I WG's Updated Action Plan – September 2025 (**Agenda Item 6-A**) provides an overview of key A&I activities, including updates to planned activities and the following completed, new, and updated activities from the [Updated Action Plan](#) considered at the June 2025 IESBA meeting:
 - The following implementation materials were issued in Q2 and Q3 of 2025:
 - [IESBA Staff Questions & Answers \(Q&As\) on the IESSA](#);
 - [Joint IESBA-IAASB FAQs on Implementing ISSA 5000² and IESSA](#);

¹ *International Ethics Standards for Sustainability Assurance (including International Independence Standards) (IESSA)*

² *International Standard on Sustainability Assurance 5000, General Requirements for Sustainability Assurance Engagements (ISSA 5000).*

- [Summary of Prohibitions in the IESSA](#);
- [Key Differences Between IESSA and Parts 1 to 4A of the Code for audit engagements](#); and
- Sustainability Video Series – [IESBA Explainers on IESBA's Sustainability and Experts Standards](#);
- The following implementation materials are anticipated to be issued in early September 2025;
 - Proportionality of the IESSA; and
 - IESBA Staff Q&As on the Using the Work of an External Expert;
- Revised the plan for IESBA Staff Q&As on Sustainability Reporting to be case studies demonstrating practical application of the standards and now to be issued in Q4 2025;
- Developed comprehensive draft jurisdictional profiles for the 17 priority jurisdictions presented at the June 2025 IESBA meeting to deepen understanding of the adoption status of sustainability reporting and assurance requirements, as well as the IESBA Sustainability and Experts Standards, in those jurisdictions and to develop tailored, targeted outreach strategies (refer *Jurisdictional Prioritization and Draft Profiles* below); and
- Stakeholder engagement discussed below.

Coordination with IFAC and the IAASB

4. IESBA and IFAC Staff met on multiple occasions during Q3 2025, including:
 - Regular IFAC-IESBA A&I Staff meetings to continue collaboration on A&I and outreach opportunities;
 - IFAC and the Standard Setting Boards³ sustainability standards A&I coordination meeting;
 - Initial discussions on the planned approach for IFAC's next iteration of *The State of Play: Sustainability Disclosure and Assurance*⁴ with respect to the IESBA Code; and
 - Liaison with IFAC Regional Managers on jurisdictional profiles (refer *Jurisdictional Prioritization and Draft Profiles* below).
5. IESBA and IAASB Staff continued to meet regularly to discuss the Boards' respective sustainability projects and coordination activities, including stakeholder outreach and the issue of the Joint IESBA/IAASB FAQs on Implementing ISSA 5000 and IESSA covering matters of common interest in the two Boards' respective sustainability standards (refer above).

Other Stakeholder Engagement

6. Representatives of the IESBA, ISSB, and IAASB met again on July 8, 2025 to share updates on recent and upcoming A&I activities of the respective Boards. The meeting also covered matters of

³ IESBA, IAASB, International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB), and International Panel on Accountancy Education (IPAE).

⁴ The most recent version of [The State of Play: Sustainability Disclosure and Assurance](#) was issued in May 2025 and includes five year trends and analysis (2019-2023).

coordination relating to the adoption of three Boards' sustainability-related standards and the ISSB's recently published [Jurisdictional Profiles and Snapshots](#) and its [Partnership Framework for Capacity Building](#). The next coordination meeting is expected in September or October 2025.

7. At its June 2025 meeting, the IESBA received an update on engagement between IESBA Staff and IAF representatives. IESBA Staff met with IAF representatives again on July 22, 2025. IAF continues to consider the way forward on the mapping of its current ethics requirements for sustainability assurance engagements to the IESSA. IESBA Staff will continue to liaise with IAF on its path forward.

Jurisdictional Prioritization and Draft Profiles

8. The following list of high-priority jurisdictions presented by the A&I WG at the June 2025 IESBA meeting remains the same, although there continues to be a need to remain agile and flexible with prioritization due to the current global regulatory environment. Accordingly, the list of high-priority jurisdictions is subject to change resulting from any new developments.

High Priority Jurisdictions	
Australia	Malaysia
Brazil	New Zealand
France	Nigeria
India	Singapore
Italy	South Africa
Japan	United Kingdom
Kenya	Qatar, Saudia Arabia, United Arab Emirates
Korea, Rep.	

9. At the June 2025 meeting, IESBA Members requested the A&I WG to consider prioritizing the following jurisdictions:
 - Latin America – Colombia interested in adopting IESSA; Peru is translating IESSA, Argentina willing to adopt IESSA (with an exception related to non-compliance with laws and regulations (NOCLAR)), and Mexico is moving towards adoption.
 - Turkiye – Was an early adopter of ISSB S1/S2 and a G20 member.
 - China – Progressing on sustainability standards.
 - Canada – Provinces including Ontario are preparing for adoption.

The A&I WG considered the above jurisdictions during its July 2025 meeting and determined that predominantly due to limited resources, the WG should continue to focus on the 17 prioritized jurisdictions listed in the above table. The WG will prioritize these additional jurisdictions as part of the next phase of work after work on the 17 jurisdictions in the initial phase has progressed.

10. Work on developing jurisdictional profiles for the above 17 priority jurisdictions is progressing in line with the A&I WG's strategy presented at the June 2025 IESBA meeting. The draft profiles for each jurisdiction include detailed information, including adoption status of the:

- IESBA Code based on [IFAC's International Adoption Status Map](#) and additional information gleaned from the IFAC Regional Managers and IESBA Members/Technical Advisors;
 - ISSB standards or other sustainability reporting frameworks, leveraging the ISSB Jurisdictional Profiles and Snapshots where relevant;
 - ISSA 5000 or other sustainability assurance frameworks, including whether only professional accountants (PAs), or both PAs and non-PAs, are allowed to provide sustainability assurance; and
 - IESBA Sustainability and Experts Standards, including the type of A&I support needed by the jurisdiction, if any.
11. IESBA Staff held seven introductory coordination meetings with IFAC Regional Managers with respect to the 17 prioritized jurisdictions and five additional specific coordination meetings with IESBA Members/Technical Advisors and/or IFAC Regional Manager on India, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudia Arabia, and United Arab Emirates.
12. All draft jurisdictional profiles were sent to IESBA Members/Technical Advisors in late July/early August 2025 and responses received to date are as follows:



13. The profiles for Australia, France, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom have been reviewed and updated, with no specific outreach proposed at this stage.
14. The profiles for Italy, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Singapore, and South Africa, remain under review and strategies for A&I support are being considered. Feedback to date from IESBA Members/Technical Advisors and IFAC Regional Managers indicate varying levels of potential engagement, with targeted outreach opportunities identified in certain jurisdictions.
15. Preparation for additional, tailored outreach is underway for Brazil (October), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (October), and India (November).
16. The A&I WG will provide an update on its A&I outreach for these high priority jurisdictions at the September 2025 IESBA meeting. For further information on the jurisdictional profiles, refer to Section D of A&I WG's Updated Action Plan – September 2025 (**Agenda Item 6-A**).

IESBA Response to IFAC's SMO Exposure Draft

17. IFAC issued an [Exposure Draft](#) on proposed revisions to its Statements of Membership Obligations 1-7 in April 2025, which was open for public comment until August 8, 2025. The IESBA submitted its response to this Exposure Draft on August 1. Among other matters, the response emphasizes the importance of IFAC's Member Compliance Program and International Standards Adoption Map, the

IESBA's shared commitment to promoting and supporting global A&I of its standards, and enhancing IFAC and IESBA collaboration on A&I.

IESSA Implementation Monitoring Advisory Group (IIMAG)

18. During the June 2025 IESBA meeting, the IESBA discussed the A&I WG's proposed criteria for the recruitment of IIMAG members and agreed on the list of 9 initial members. Informed by the IESBA's discussion, the WG advised the IESBA via email in July 2025 on the selection of two additional candidates. The list of the IIMAG members is available on the IESBA [website](#). As more jurisdictions implement the IESSA, Staff and the WG will continue the recruitment process towards the target size of the IIMAG, ensuring appropriate diversity through the representation of more stakeholder groups and regions on the IIMAG.
19. The IIMAG held its first meeting on July 29, 2025. During the first meeting, IIMAG members were asked to identify and discuss:
 - Any implementation issues that have arisen related to the IESSA that might be of global relevance.
 - Any high-priority implementation materials the IESBA should consider commissioning, in addition to those already released.

During the September 2025 IESBA meeting, the IIMAG Chair will provide a report back on the IIMAG's discussion.

20. At the next IIMAG meeting in Q4 2025, the IIMAG members will deep-dive into the pre-identified implementation issues and discuss options to address such challenges for the A&I WG and IESBA's consideration.

Tax Planning and Related Services

21. At its June 2025 meeting, the IESBA discussed possible ways to promote and monitor A&I of the IESBA's Tax Planning and Related Services standards, which became effective after June 30, 2025. To advance this, IESBA Staff updated the A&I WG at its July 2025 meeting on jurisdictional adoption of these standards. Australia has adopted the standards with minor amendments, including replacing the term "credible basis" with "reasonably arguable position" and making documentation mandatory. Hong Kong, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and South Africa have also adopted the standards. Consultations are in progress in India and Japan, and work is ongoing in other jurisdictions, such as the United Kingdom, which is updating the Professional Conduct in Relation to Taxation (PCRT) as a result of IESBA's tax planning standards.
22. The update also covered outreach and implementation support activities since January 2025. This included a webinar organized by the Pan African Federation of Accountants (PAFA) attended by more than 400 participants across multiple African jurisdictions, regular touchpoints with the Global Tax Leaders of the Global Public Policy Committee (GPPC), and the development of communication materials such as quizzes and a "Myths and Facts" series to be published on LinkedIn. Current monitoring of A&I relies on multiple informal sources. A more structured mechanism to track adoption and enhance stakeholder engagement is being established to ensure jurisdictions adopting the standards are readily identified.

Way Forward

23. The A&I WG's proposed way forward and next steps include:

- Analyzing the responses to the draft jurisdictional profiles from IESBA Members/Technical Advisors;
- Prioritizing within the list of jurisdictions identified based on an analysis of their profiles, needs for A&I and capacity building support, and expected timelines for A&I of the IESBA Sustainability and Experts Standards;
- Identifying and prioritizing additional jurisdictions for the next phase, based on developments since June 2025;
- Further developing tailored stakeholder engagement approaches for each jurisdiction, including where relevant outreach with standard setters, professional accountancy organizations, and regulators;
- Developing collaborative partnerships that can assist in awareness raising, capacity building and promoting A&I; and
- Continuing existing and additional planned outreach.

Action Requested

24. IESBA Members are asked to:

- (a) Provide views on the A&I WG's approach and activities set out in **Agenda Item 6-A**;
- (b) Share any comments or questions regarding the A&I WG's proposed way forward; and
- (c) Share any comments or questions regarding the IIMAG.

Material Presented

Agenda Item 6-A A&I WG Updated Action Plan September 2025