

IESBA Technology Working Group

Approved Updated Terms of Reference

March 2026

A. Background

1. From 2019 to 2022, the IESBA conducted extensive information gathering and stakeholder outreach on the latest technology developments and the ethical challenges they create for professional accountants (PAs). The insights and recommendations arising from that work were detailed in the Technology Working Group (TWG)'s [Phase 1](#) (2019-2020) and [Phase 2](#) (2021-2022) Reports, and served to inform the [Technology-related Revisions¹ to the Code](#), released in April 2023. These revisions strengthened the Code's robustness and expanded its relevance as technology continues to advance rapidly. In addition, the TWG or IESBA Staff developed, or contributed to the development of, a series of thought leadership and other non-authoritative materials related to technology (see [Appendix 1](#)).
2. Following the issuance of the technology-related revisions, the TWG focused on facilitating the implementation of those changes to the Code and engaging with stakeholders, while continuously monitoring emerging technology ethics-related issues. The TWG monitored areas such as AI, data analytics, and blockchain in order to identify any new ethical challenges and assess whether any further enhancements to the Code or additional guidance would be needed.
3. The IESBA also reaffirmed through its [Strategy and Work Plan](#) (SWP) 2024-2027 its commitment to continuously monitor the rapidly evolving landscape of technological transformations and the related impacts on the activities and services performed by professional accountants from an ethical perspective. The IESBA recognizes that technology is a strategic environmental driver that has the potential to impact the relevance of the Code.

B. Objectives

4. The objectives of the Technology Working Group (TWG) are to:
 - (a) Promote awareness and support the adoption and effective implementation of the technology-related revisions to the Code;
 - (b) Raise awareness of ethical issues and challenges arising from PAs' and sustainability assurance practitioners' (SAPs) use of technology, and related guidance where appropriate;
 - (c) Conduct ongoing environmental scanning to monitor developments in existing and emerging technologies, their application, and related ethical issues;
 - (d) Assess technology-related developments identified through environmental scanning to determine whether they give rise to new or evolving ethical challenges, potential implications for the Code including the need for any further enhancements, or the need for additional non-authoritative guidance or other supporting materials or initiatives;

¹ [IESBA Technology Project](#)

- (e) Contribute to, or facilitate the development of, non-authoritative resources and educational materials to support the application of the Code; and
- (f) Provide the Board with educational sessions, briefings, and environmental updates on emerging technology topics, as needed.

C. Focus

- 5. The focus of the TWG is on ethical issues and challenges arising from existing and emerging technologies.
- 6. The TWG will assess whether the Code continues to support PAs and SAPs in addressing those issues and challenges in the public interest. This includes consideration of the ethical implications of the design, implementation, and use of technological solutions in the context of professional services or activities performed by PAs (both in public practice and in business) and SAPs.

D. Approach and Key Deliverables

- 7. The TWG will adopt an ongoing, forward-looking approach to its work, informed by environmental scanning, stakeholder input, and advice from subject matter experts. The TWG's role is advisory in nature, and its assessments, insights, and recommendations are provided to the IESBA for the Board's consideration.
- 8. The key deliverables of the TWG, provided on an ongoing or as-needed basis, include the following assessment, awareness and reporting activities:
 - Identifying and assessing potential implications of technology-related developments for the Code, including whether revisions to the Code or the development of additional non-authoritative guidance or other supporting materials or initiatives may be warranted. In this regard, the TWG will seek advice from the [Technology Experts Group](#) (TEG) as needed.
 - Raising awareness of relevant provisions of the Code in the context of the design, implementation and use of technological solutions, and contributing to, or facilitating the development of, non-authoritative guidance and other supporting materials or initiatives.
 - Through close coordination with the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), assessing the ethical implications of technology-related developments being explored or advanced on IAASB projects and initiatives, and identifying the need for, and recommending, any actions to the IESBA.
 - Providing periodic environmental updates and briefings to the Board on significant technology trends and developments relevant to ethics, informed by the TEG on technical and technological matters.
 - Recommending and arranging educational sessions for the Board on technology developments and related ethical considerations, including identifying appropriate topics and subject matter experts.

E. Working Group Composition

9. The TWG will consist of:

- (a) 4 - 5 IESBA members, and chaired by one of the members; and
- (b) An IAASB Staff member, who will participate as an observer.

IESBA staff will support the TWG in the performance of its activities and participate as an observer to the IAASB's technology workstream.

10. The composition of the TWG shall be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains appropriate to the TWG's objectives and focus.
11. The need for additional members will be monitored and considered by the IESBA, as appropriate.

F. Other Matters

12. The TWG's activities and deliverables will be informed and guided by the IESBA's SMART framework.²
13. The TWG will coordinate, as appropriate, with the Emerging Issues and Outreach Committee (EIOC),³ to support effective information sharing and to avoid duplication of effort. Technology-related issues identified by the TWG that fall outside its remit will be communicated to the EIOC. Similarly, the EIOC will communicate to the TWG technology-related matters identified through its environmental scanning activities, in accordance with the EIOC's revised Terms of Reference.⁴
14. The TWG will continue to coordinate closely with the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) on matters of mutual interest related to technology and ethics.
15. Where requested by other IESBA workstreams or stakeholders, drafts of non-authoritative materials may be reviewed from a technology-related ethics perspective by IESBA staff and, where appropriate, the TWG prior to issuance.
16. With support from the IESBA's Communications team, the TWG will consider appropriate means to promote awareness of the Code and relevant non-authoritative guidance or other resources issued by the IESBA to support PAs and SAPs in effectively addressing ethics issues relating to technology.

² The SMART framework (Simplification, Mobilization, Adoption, Responsiveness and Targeted Action) is a stakeholder-centric approach to how the IESBA plans, delivers, and communicates its work.

³ Agenda Item 8 contains a proposal to change the name of EIOC. The revised name will be reflected in the final updated TWG Terms of Reference.

⁴ As presented under Agenda Item 8 and to be agreed by the Board at its March 2026 meeting

Appendix 1**IESBA Technology Resources**

Reports	
IESBA Technology Working Group's Phase 2 Report	November 2022
IESBA Technology Working Group's Phase 1 Report	February 2020
Non-Authoritative Guidance and Other Materials	
Applying The Code's Conceptual Framework To Independence: Practical Guidance for Auditors In Technology-related Scenarios (IESBA, APESB)	July 2023
Ethical Leadership In A Digital Era: Applying The IESBA Code To Selected Technology-Related Scenarios (IESBA, JICPA)	September 2022
Exploring the IESBA Code: A Focus on Technology	November 2022
Exploring the IESBA Code: Focus on Technology - Artificial Intelligence (IFAC, IESBA)	March 2022
Mindset and enabling skills of professional accountants: Paper 4 (CPA Canada, ICAS, IFAC, IESBA)	April 2022
Identifying Mitigating Bias and Mis- and Dis-information: Paper 3 (CPA Canada, ICAS, IFAC, IESBA)	February 2022
Technology is a double-edged sword with opportunities and challenges for the accountancy profession: Paper 2 (CPA Canada, ICAS, IFAC, IESBA)	December 2021
Ethical Leadership in an Era of Complexity and Digital Change: Paper 1 (CPA Canada, ICAS, IFAC, IESBA)	June 2021
Ethical Leadership in an Era of Complexity and Digital Change: Exploratory Paper (CPA Canada, ICAS, IFAC, IESBA)	February 2021