

2. SECTION I: ABOUT THE RESPONDENT

1. From which perspective are you providing this feedback?

A personal view

Please complete:

Your name:

Kaori Ito

Your organization (if applicable):

Yourmysyar Inc.

E-mail address:

kaori.ito@yourmystar.jp

Please complete:

Organization:

Name(s) of contact(s) for this submission:

E-mail address(es) of contact(s):

2. Please select from the following options to which stakeholder group you or your organization belongs:

Those Charged with Governance

Please specify the type of accounting firm:

Please specify:

Please specify:

Please specify:

Please specify:

3. Please select from the following options the geographical region that best matches you or your organization:

Asia Pacific

3. Please select from the following options the geographical region that best matches you or your organization:

4. SECTION III: SSBs' STRATEGIC POSITIONING FOR 2028–2031

4. As the SSBs look toward the 2028–2031 period, they are reflecting on how to position their strategies and work plans to best serve the public interest within a rapidly changing global environment. This involves careful consideration of how the SSBs remain relevant, responsive, and impactful in their standard-setting and other related work. In that context, what do you believe the SSBs should aspire to achieve during their next strategy period, 2028–2031?

Your answer may touch on different dimensions, for example:

The relevance, responsiveness and impact of the SSBs' standard-setting and related activities.

Broader adoption and effective implementation of the SSBs' standards.

The SSBs' interaction and engagement with key stakeholder groups.

The SSBs' ability to serve the public interest.

The examples above are for illustrative purposes only and should not limit, direct, or otherwise influence your response.

Your answer should address the IAASB and IESBA collectively; however, you may wish to also highlight matters specifically for the IAASB or IESBA (if applicable, you could use separate headings to address such matters).

During the 2028–2031 strategy period, the IAASB and IESBA should aspire to strengthen their public-interest impact by addressing not only what standards require, but how professional judgment is formed, communicated, and acted upon in increasingly complex organizational environments.

Many of the most significant governance and ethical challenges arise well before a clear breach of standards occurs, particularly when early concerns or contextual information are filtered through indirect communication channels. While independence and appropriate escalation pathways remain essential, there is a growing risk that judgment and meaning may be unintentionally diluted as information moves across multiple layers.

By complementing high-quality standards with clearer articulation of how timely, context-rich dialogue supports sound judgment among management, those charged with governance, and auditors, the SSBs can remain relevant and responsive in a more transparent, data-rich, and judgment-intensive environment—without compromising independence or professional boundaries.

6. SECTION IV: KEY TRENDS IMPACTING THE SSBs

A.1 Digital Transformation – Increasing Use of Emerging Technologies

6 – Strongly increasing in importance

Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:

Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?

The increasing use of AI and advanced data analytics is reshaping how professional judgment is exercised and evidenced, raising important questions about accountability and escalation in more automated environments.

A.2 Digital Transformation – Digital Assets and Institutionalization of Digital Assets

4 – Slightly increasing in importance

Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:

Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?

The institutionalization of digital assets raises important issues around valuation, custody, and control where such assets become material. However, their relevance remains uneven across sectors, suggesting that targeted guidance and consistent interpretation within existing frameworks may be more impactful than broad, system-wide standard-setting responses.

A.3 Digital Transformation – Financial Crimes Enabled by Technology

5 – Increasing in importance

Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:

Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?

Technology-enabled financial crimes continue to increase in speed and sophistication, challenging traditional detection and control mechanisms. This trend highlights the importance of strengthening how professional judgment and ethical responsibility are exercised earlier in the risk lifecycle, before issues crystallize into clear breaches.

7. SECTION IV: KEY TRENDS IMPACTING THE SSBs

B.1 Changes in the Geopolitical and Regulatory Landscape – Regulatory Changes

4 – Slightly increasing in importance

Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:

Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?

Regulatory changes will continue to shape the environment in which the SSBs operate, requiring ongoing monitoring and coordination. However, such changes largely represent external conditions rather than drivers of the SSBs' core strategic value, which lies in supporting sound judgment and consistency across differing regulatory contexts.

B.2 Changes in the Geopolitical and Regulatory Landscape – Risk of Fragmentation

5 – Increasing in importance

Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:

Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?

The risk of fragmentation across jurisdictions poses a growing challenge to the consistent interpretation and application of global standards. While this trend is not irreversible, increasing divergence in regulatory expectations and local practices risks diluting shared meaning and comparability if not carefully addressed.

B.3 Changes in the Geopolitical and Regulatory Landscape – Call for Greater Agility in Standard Setting

6 – Strongly increasing in importance

Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:

Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?

Calls for greater agility in standard setting are strongly increasing as the pace of technological, organizational, and risk-related change continues to outstrip traditional standard-setting cycles. Enhancing agility—particularly by clarifying how judgment can be exercised responsibly in evolving circumstances—is critical to maintaining the relevance and public-interest impact of the SSBs' work.

B.4 Changes in the Geopolitical and Regulatory Landscape – Greater Diversity of Voices Sought

4 – Slightly increasing in importance

Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:

Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?

The push for greater diversity of voices in standard-setting is likely to continue, reflecting broader expectations around inclusiveness and legitimacy. Its effectiveness, however, will depend less on the volume of input and more on the SSBs' ability to meaningfully interpret and integrate perspectives that operate within different professional and organizational languages.

8. SECTION IV: KEY TRENDS IMPACTING THE SSBs

C.1 Evolving Expectations Concerning Sustainability Information – Continuing Demand for Sustainability Reporting and Assurance

5 – Increasing in importance

Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:

Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?

Demand for sustainability reporting and assurance is expected to continue increasing, driven by investor expectations, regulatory developments, and broader societal scrutiny. For the SSBs, the key challenge will be ensuring that assurance meaningfully addresses judgment, assumptions, and uncertainty embedded in sustainability information, rather than reinforcing compliance-driven or purely procedural approaches.

C.2 Evolving Expectations Concerning Sustainability Information – Regulatory and Geopolitical Changes

4 – Slightly increasing in importance

Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:

Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?

Regulatory and geopolitical developments will continue to influence how sustainability requirements are defined and applied across jurisdictions. However, these factors primarily shape the external environment, while the core challenge for the SSBs remains supporting consistent, judgment-based assurance in the face of differing local rules and political priorities.

9. SECTION IV: KEY TRENDS IMPACTING THE SSBs

D.1 Evolving Structure and Business Models of Accounting Firms – Alternative Ownership Structures

3 – Slightly decreasing in importance

Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:

Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?

Alternative ownership structures may continue to evolve in response to capital, governance, and growth pressures within accounting firms. While relevant to independence and oversight considerations, these structural changes are unlikely, on their own, to address the deeper challenges around judgment quality and professional capacity that underpin the public-interest role of the SSBs.

D.2 Evolving Structure and Business Models of Accounting Firms – Increased Involvement of Non-Professional Accountants in the Accounting and Auditing Profession

5 – Increasing in importance

Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:

Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?

The increasing involvement of non-professional accountants reflects the growing need for diverse skills in areas such as technology, data, and sustainability. This trend heightens the importance of clearly defining how professional judgment, ethical responsibility, and accountability are exercised and shared within increasingly multidisciplinary teams.

D.3 Evolving Structure and Business Models of Accounting Firms – Challenges to Attracting and Retaining Talent

6 – Strongly increasing in importance

Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:

Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?

Challenges in attracting and retaining talent are becoming a critical issue for the sustainability of the accounting and auditing profession. Beyond workforce considerations, this trend directly affects the availability and development of individuals capable of exercising sound professional judgment, which is essential to the credibility and long-term effectiveness of the SSBs' standards.

D.4 Evolving Structure and Business Models of Accounting Firms – Non-Assurance Service Line

4 – Slightly increasing in importance

Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend

for the SSBs:

Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?

The expansion and evolution of non-assurance service lines continue to raise familiar questions around independence and conflicts of interest. While these issues remain important, they largely represent the re-emergence of longstanding tensions rather than a fundamentally new driver of change in the SSBs' strategic priorities.

10. SECTION IV: KEY TRENDS IMPACTING THE SSBs - OTHER TRENDS AND RANKING

6. Are there trends or related areas or matters that you believe the SSBs should consider that are not covered? If so, please provide details.

Yes

Additional trends

Please number your additional trend (O.1, O.2, O.3, ...)

O.1

Please describe the additional trend

Degradation of Professional Judgment Through Indirect Communication and Escalation

On a scale of 1 to 6, indicate the extent to which you believe this trend will increase or decrease in importance for the SSBs for their next strategy period starting in 2028.

5 – Increasing in importance

Do you wish to explain your rating or highlight any matters relating to this trend for the IAASB, IESBA, or both the SSBs?

Across many of the trends identified, a common underlying risk is the unintentional degradation of professional judgment as information is filtered through multiple layers of communication and escalation. While independence and formal pathways remain essential, repeated indirect exchanges can dilute context, timing, and accountability, particularly in complex and fast-moving environments.

This trend suggests a need for the SSBs to more explicitly consider how early, context-rich concerns can be surfaced and addressed without compromising independence or professional boundaries.

7. Based on your evaluation of the identified trends, please rank what you believe are the TOP FIVE most important trends for the SSBs to consider for their next strategy period starting in 2028.

Rank 1 : B.3

Rank 2 : A.1

Rank 3 : D.3

Rank 4 : O.1

Rank 5 : B.2

11. SECTION V: AREAS FOR JOINT ACTIONS IN SSBs' WORK PLANS

8. Please share your views about areas of common interest and possible joint or parallel work plan topics (e.g., standard-setting or non-authoritative materials), or other initiatives or activities.

A key area of common interest for the IAASB and IESBA lies in how professional judgment is formed, communicated, and acted upon across the audit and governance ecosystem, particularly in complex and fast-moving environments. Many of the challenges highlighted by recent trends do not stem from a lack of standards, but from difficulties in surfacing early concerns, preserving context, and maintaining accountability as information moves between management, those charged with governance, and auditors.

Joint or parallel initiatives could therefore focus on clarifying expectations around early-stage judgment, escalation, and dialogue—such as non-authoritative guidance or practical materials that illustrate how timely, context-rich concerns can be raised and addressed without compromising independence or ethical boundaries. This may be particularly relevant in areas involving emerging technologies, technology-enabled financial crimes, and sustainability information, where judgment often precedes clearly identifiable breaches.

By coordinating more explicitly on these judgment-related interfaces, the IAASB and IESBA could enhance the interoperability of their standards and strengthen their collective impact, not by expanding requirements, but by supporting how standards are exercised in practice.