

2. SECTION I: ABOUT THE RESPONDENT

1. From which perspective are you providing this feedback?

The view of an organization

Please complete:

Your name:

Your organization (if applicable):

E-mail address:

Please complete:

Organization:

MAH, Chartered Accountants

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

Mohammed Haque

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

enquiries@mah.uk.com

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

Accounting Firm

Please specify the type of accounting firm:

Small- or Medium-Sized 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:

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Europe

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).

try not to change the standards unless they result in significant improvements

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?

AI use is increasing dramatically. We have come across some audit risks ourselves or when speaking with other auditors:

1) using tools like Chat GPT or Gemini to help write documents or working papers: the AI tools made things up / hallucinated and inserted things that were not true. We had to delete them. But there is a risk that as the use of these kinds of tools increase people rely on them more and more and don't check them carefully and the working papers or documents could be incorrect.

2) Data analytics: the AI tools can make lots of charts and analysis and graphs etc, there is a danger that auditors just put this in the audit file and don't really think about the findings. Or they could use AI to try and analyse the findings without thinking about it themselves.

If the AI tools are poorly setup/calibrated the results may not be reliable.

3) There are now also AI audit software tools available which will perform sample testing, build working papers and complete various audit tests. There is a danger that auditors will not check the work or think about the results. The AI tools could have made mistakes, they're not 100% perfect, but the audit team could miss things.

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?

no

A.3 Digital Transformation – Financial Crimes Enabled by Technology

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?

We have audited some companies involved in crypto currencies/tokens and they can sometimes be so complicated that its possible auditors may not fully understand them or miss potential fraud. Some countries have strong controls or taxes over certain currency flows or transactions. So its possible that some companies could try to use digital assets to evade the controls and make illegal transfers.

7. SECTION IV: KEY TRENDS IMPACTING THE SSBs

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

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?

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

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?

With ISA 600 requiring greater co-operation between the group/component auditors, increasing fragmentation can make things more difficult. In today's economy, groups seem to be getting more and more spread out through the world

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

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?

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?

8. SECTION IV: KEY TRENDS IMPACTING THE SSBs

C.1 Evolving Expectations Concerning Sustainability Information – Continuing

Demand for Sustainability Reporting and Assurance

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?

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?

9. SECTION IV: KEY TRENDS IMPACTING THE SSBs

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

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 end goal of private equity is usually seen as exiting and selling the business for a profit, in a short/medium term. Although traditional ownership structures also wanted to make a profit each year, they would normally be assumed as taking care of the long term benefit of the firm, as this would also be in their self interest if they planned to work there for the long term future.

But the private equity owners may try to aggressively cut costs or boost sales etc and there could be pressure to increase profits in the short term, but which could lead to problems later down the line.

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

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?

we have heard from auditors working at private equity backed firms that the new owners are implementing new methods of working, including introducing senior staff who are not auditors/accountants. Whilst the new methods may make sense to the non-accountants, they may go against the usual practice.

For example, treating staff as resources who can be moved around jobs at will. But breaking continuity in audit teams by moving people around engagements unnecessarily can lead to audit risks or errors being missed as new staff don't have a full understanding of the client or the work that was already performed.

The non-accountants/owners could also place an over reliance on technology.

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

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?

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?

They may look to aggressively cross sell and overpromote non-assurance services, leading to threats to independence and objectivity

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.

Additional trends

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

Please describe the additional trend

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.

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

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 : A.1

Rank 2 : A.3

Rank 3 : D.2

Rank 4 : B.2

Rank 5 : D.1

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.