The main topics for discussion at the IFAC during the month of June 2023 were with respect to:

1. **WITH MANDATORY CLIMATE DISCLOSURE ON THE HORIZON, NEW GUIDE SHOWS ACCOUNTANTS HOW TO GET GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING IN ORDER**

2. **THE-five OPPORTUNITIES THAT MAKE ACCOUNTANCY A PASSPORT TO MEANINGFUL CAREERS IN THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS**

3. **IFAC APPLAUDS RELEASE OF ISSB'S FIRST TWO SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS**
1. WITH MANDATORY CLIMATE DISCLOSURE ON THE HORIZON, NEW GUIDE SHOWS ACCOUNTANTS HOW TO GET GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING IN ORDER

New guidance to help professional accountants and finance professionals deliver robust greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting has been released by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and We Mean Business Coalition (WMBC), in partnership with Accounting for Sustainability (A4S), Global Accounting Alliance (GAA) and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

The guidance is a response to rapidly escalating impacts of climate change and emerging mandatory requirements that companies disclose robust information about their GHG emissions and climate risks and opportunities to help investors allocate capital to the ‘greenest’ companies.

It aims to guide CFOs, accountants and finance professionals to build on existing systems and processes in order to undertake or enhance cost-effective and investor-grade GHG reporting. The first part of the guidance, **8 Steps to Enhance GHG Reporting: A Roadmap for Accounting and Finance Professionals**, provides finance and accounting professionals with a roadmap to engage with others across their business to prepare for GHG emissions reporting requirements aligned to financial reporting processes. While the second, GHG Reporting Building Blocks for Accountants, equips accountants with the technical guidance necessary to collect and enhance the quality of data related to all scopes of GHG emissions at individual entity and group levels.

The publications have been released in preparation for the upcoming international and jurisdictional standards and regulations that will make it mandatory for companies to advance GHG reporting to new levels and provide investors with decision-useful information related to climate risks and opportunities. These include the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) General Sustainability-related Disclosures (IFRS S1) and Climate-related Disclosures (IFRS S2), the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group's (EFRAG) European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) and proposed rules for climate change disclosures by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

"With their ideal positioning to champion an integrated mindset by connecting financial and emissions data and processes and analyses, professional accountants and finance professionals play a crucial role in providing decision-useful and trusted GHG reporting to management and capital markets,” said Kevin Dancey, IFAC CEO. “The release of this guidance is a significant step towards enabling these professionals to prepare for the increasing demand for investor-grade climate reporting by aligning GHG emissions accounting with financial accounting.”

Maria Mendiluce, CEO, We Mean Business Coalition said: “This guidance demonstrates that robust GHG reporting is not an onerous task, but rather one that can be incorporated, at minimal cost, into existing systems and processes. By working together, finance and sustainability professionals can report in the most efficient way and, in doing so, attract greater investment from those capital providers looking for the most sustainable companies.”
2. **THE FIVE OPPORTUNITIES THAT MAKE ACCOUNTANCY A PASSPORT TO MEANINGFUL CAREERS IN THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS**

With the myriad of opportunities available to professional accountants across positions, locales and sectors with the ability to progress in many different roles, accountancy is a passport to meaningful and rewarding careers in both the private and public sectors. This was the theme of the latest meeting of IFAC’s Professional Accountants in Business (PAIB) Advisory Group held in New York City on 13 June 2023, which convenes a global and diverse group of professional accountants working in a variety of leadership positions in business and the public sector.

*A new article from IFAC* explores five opportunities identified by the PAIB Advisory Group available to professional accountants to shape a career for themselves with lasting impact. By enabling digital transformation, connecting organizational goals to corporate sustainability targets and the sustainability development goals (SDGs), and by helping to manage short and long-term trade-offs, professional accountants are contributing to more resilient and sustainable organizations and economies.

“The accountancy profession is evolving, and there has never been a better time to be an accounting and finance professional,” said Sanjay Rughani, IFAC PAIB Advisory Group Chair. "Professional accountants are critical to driving sustainable prosperity, and we are at a time of unprecedented opportunity to meet the increasing demands for finance and accountancy skills from our multiple stakeholders, including society at large.”

3. **IFAC APPLAUDS RELEASE OF ISSB’S FIRST TWO SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS**

As the global voice of the accountancy profession, IFAC has long supported the establishment of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) to develop a comprehensive global baseline of sustainability disclosures, endorsed by IOSCO, and used around the world. The goal is a global system for consistent, comparable, reliable, and assurable sustainability information that can be complemented by local standards or broader public policy needs.

With the release of its first two standards on 26 June 2023 in New York, the ISSB has answered stakeholders’ calls to move with pace, to focus on the needs of investors and capital markets, and to build upon existing and respected frameworks and standards.

IFAC CEO Kevin Dancey said, “In one sense, the finalization of S1 and S2 by the ISSB marks the beginning of the work to be done by the accountancy profession. All professional accountants—whether working in business, as preparers or auditors, or serving as leaders of professional accountancy organizations—must now advocate for and implement these standards so that high-quality corporate reporting of sustainability-related information becomes a reality. The ongoing work of the IAASB and IESBA will bring trust and confidence through high-quality—and hopefully mandatory—assurance.”

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“To that end, IFAC calls on the global accountancy profession to work with local regulators and stakeholders to support the adoption of ISSB standards, to help build capacity for their implementation alongside any local complementary reporting requirements, and to continue to contribute our expertise and feedback to the ISSB as its important standard setting work continues.”

For further information: http://www.ifac.org

Financial Reporting Council
July 2023