
Sustainability Consultative Committee (SCC)

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This document summarises a meeting of the Sustainability Consultative Committee (SCC). The SCC's remit is to identify, inform and advise the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) on priority sustainability matters and related technical protocols, as well as significant interdependencies between sustainability matters.

Participants on behalf of the IFRS Foundation

- Jingdong Hua (ISSB Vice-Chair)
- Sue Llyod (ISSB Vice-Chair)
- Jonathan Bravo (Director of Regulatory Affairs)
- Samuel Prestidge (ISSB Technical Staff – Strategy Lead)
- Lebogang Senne (Director of Regulatory Implementation)
- Evie Robertson (Regulatory Affairs Manager)
- Ahmeerah Ajibola (Strategic Affairs Assistant)

Participating organisations

- Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)
- Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ)
- Global Steering Group for Impact Investment (GSG)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)
- World Bank
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

Meeting summary

The meeting began with an introduction by Mr Jingdong Hua, who provided an update on the rapid progress of worldwide adoption of IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards. Since the last meeting, more than 30 jurisdictions have moved towards integrating these Standards into their regulatory frameworks, collectively accounting for nearly 60% of global GDP.

More than 1,000 entities have already referenced the ISSB in their sustainability reports between October 2023 and March 2024. Mr Hua emphasised that emerging markets—including Brazil, Turkey, the Philippines and Kenya—are well-represented in this shift. The sustainability reports that reference the ISSB send a strong signal to stakeholders about the global move towards standardised sustainability disclosures, with the IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards serving as the global baseline.

Mr Hua outlined several important milestones achieved since the previous meeting. These milestones include the publication of a digital reporting taxonomy aimed at increasing efficiency in sustainability reporting and the formal issuance of the *Inaugural Jurisdictional Guide for the adoption or other use of ISSB Standards* alongside a regulatory implementation programme.

He emphasised the importance of collaborations, such as those with GRI, to achieve interoperability between IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards and other standards and frameworks. Interoperability between these sets of standards ensures organisations can comply with multiple reporting requirements efficiently and without redundancy—thereby streamlining the reporting process. These initiatives aim to support the transition from promoting awareness and advocacy among stakeholders towards providing training and education that helps preparers to apply the Standards effectively.

Mr Hua noted partnerships with entities like the World Bank and the African Development Bank, emphasising the widespread jurisdictional commitment to adopting IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards, particularly in emerging and developing economies.

Update on jurisdictional adoption and interoperability

Mr Jonathan Bravo summarised the progress in jurisdictions adopting or otherwise using ISSB Standards. He emphasised significant developments since the ISSB issued the inaugural IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards and, in May 2024, published the *Inaugural Jurisdictional Guide for the adoption or other use of ISSB Standards (Jurisdictional Guide)*. In May, 20 jurisdictions had finalised or were taking steps towards integrating ISSB Standards into their regulatory frameworks following the publication of the Jurisdictional Guide. This number has grown to 30 as of November 2024, including jurisdictions from both the global north and south, with recent adopters such as Thailand and Indonesia illustrating a positive trend towards jurisdictions strengthening their capital markets through the adoption or other use of ISSB Standards, contributing to the goal of delivering globally comparable disclosures for capital markets.

Mr Bravo provided a high-level overview of global trends in relation to the inclusion by jurisdictions of requirements for the disclosure of industry-specific information or Scope 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. He also noted that some jurisdictions are adopting a climate-first approach, with plans to expand in the near future their frameworks to include broader sustainability-related risks and opportunities.

In relation to Scope 3 GHG emissions, 29 out of 30 jurisdictions are considering requiring its disclosure as part of their climate disclosure requirements. Stakeholders also see the inclusion of industry-specific disclosure requirements as critical to ensuring investors can compare information between jurisdictions and industries. Comparable information helps investors to assess and price entities' sustainability-related risks and opportunities.

Mr Bravo introduced the Regulatory Implementation Programme, a strategic framework central to supporting jurisdictions, particularly in emerging markets and developing economies in the adoption or other use of ISSB Standards, providing guidance on how to progress on their pathways for adoption. This programme includes the development of materials and tools like the roadmap development tool—designed to help jurisdictions plan their adoption strategies effectively—and ensuring that Implementation Partners have the materials and tools necessary to assist jurisdictions in their adoption journeys. Additionally, the IFRS Foundation is making educational resources available via the IFRS Sustainability Knowledge Hub, which is intended to upskill stakeholders and help them successfully implement IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards. Participants acknowledged that collaboration with important international bodies, such as International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), and national agencies, is critical for capacity building and ensuring that the Standards are adopted consistently. The IFRS Foundation recognises the need for jurisdictions to receive suitable educational materials and support to facilitate a smooth transition. The discussion emphasised the importance of engagement and cooperation with local and global partners.

During the discussion, representatives from GSG Impact expressed strong support for the IFRS Foundation's materials and guidance. They shared experiences of promoting awareness and educating various jurisdictions about IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards, emphasising how support from the IFRS Foundation has been invaluable in these efforts. Questions centred on the direct support available from the IFRS Foundation for training and engagement, particularly as jurisdictions progress from being aware of IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards to implementing them. The IMF was interested in understanding the specific challenges faced by jurisdictions, especially in emerging markets, to better tailor IMF's support and collaboration strategies. The dialogue also covered potential roles for prudential regulators and the significance of proportionality and scalability in jurisdictional adoption plans. The UNEP FI discussed the possibility of testing the collaboration between UNEP FI and the IFRS Foundation through webinars and workshops organised for its global community.

The discussion on interoperability, led by Sam Prestidge, detailed efforts to align IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards with others, like European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) and GRI Standards. Participants showcased the successful mapping and alignment of climate-related standards, resulting in guidance that will help entities to comply with both sets of standards.

Interoperability is embedded into the ISSB's ongoing work with the aim to reduce complexity. Upcoming projects include enhancing industry-based disclosures and coordinating with EFRAG the European Commission and GRI. This co-ordination also extends to the ISSB's research projects on biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystems services and human capital. Participants were encouraged to engage with consultations notably the forthcoming consultations on enhancements to the SASB Standards.

The ISSB's work on interoperability has included detailed mapping of IFRS S2 *Climate-related Disclosures* against related ESRS requirements, aimed at reducing complexity. Interoperability mechanisms have been built into both sets of standards, with IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards referencing ESRS for non-climate disclosures and ESRS using the IFRS Foundation's industry-based guidance. The guidance emphasises that compliance with one set of standards does not equate to compliance with the other, and entities must navigate distinct requirements within each set of standards.

Update on ISSB–GRI collaboration

Mr Bastian Buck (GRI) and Mr Samuel Prestidge (IFRS Foundation) jointly presented on GRI–ISSB collaboration. Mr Buck discussed the collaboration between the ISSB and GRI—driven by market demand for i companies to understand how the ISSB Standards and the GRI Standards can be used together.

A major milestone was the further co-operation agreement announced in May 2024, aimed at creating full interoperability between the standards. The collaboration will inform both the ISSB and GRI's work in biodiversity, human capital and sector projects, aiming to rationalise global reporting standards.

The discussion highlighted the importance of clarifying the concept of interoperability between sustainability standards, particularly in the context of jurisdictions adopting IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards alongside GRI Standards and ESRS.

After the presentation, the IMF emphasised that understanding what interoperability means—and, importantly, what it does not mean—is crucial. The potential for further dialogue on adoption was suggested, which could be included in an upcoming implementation workshop by the ISSB. Additionally, the IMF raised a point on sustainability disclosure standards for SMEs. Although the ISSB is not currently focusing on SME-specific standards, efforts in the European Union are being closely monitored. Similarly, GRI has chosen not to issue SME-specific standards but provides regional guidance, which plays a role in informing processes of the European Union.

Next steps

The meeting concluded with participants expressing gratitude for the fruitful discussion and partnership. They placed emphasis on transitioning from stakeholder awareness of IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards to the critical phase of supporting implementation and adoption of the Standards. Participants will be contacted individually to engage important stakeholders for this purpose. Additionally, participants emphasised the importance of the ISSB and GRI teams regularly interacting to support research and other standard-setting activities. More public outputs from this collaboration are expected in the coming months.

Participants discussed the implementation roadmap, noting the importance of the initial policy rationale stage, which involves jurisdictions or entities setting out reasoning and justifications for adopting specific standards, such as the IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards, within their regulatory or operational frameworks. Although there is momentum in many emerging markets, some jurisdictions still need help developing policies, where collaboration with international development agencies and the UN is vital.

IOSCO's role in regulatory adoption is central, with efforts also focusing on voluntary adoption in areas where regulatory processes are slower. The session wrapped up with participants expressing a commitment to ongoing partnerships and preparations for the next meeting.