

SPLIT Proposal**Proposed ISA 701, “The Independent Auditor’s Report on Special Purpose Financial Statements”****Introduction**

1. The purpose of this International Standard on Auditing (ISA) is to establish standards and provide guidance on the independent auditor’s report issued as a result of an audit of special purpose financial statements. “Special purpose financial statements” are financial statements prepared in accordance with a financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users. Reference to “financial statements” in this ISA should be read as “special purpose financial statements,” and can be to a complete set of financial statements or a single financial statement. The requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework determine the form and content of the financial statements and what constitutes a complete set of financial statements.
2. ISA 700, “The Independent Auditor’s Report on General Purpose Financial Statements” contains standards and guidance on the independent auditor’s report issued as a result of an audit of financial statements prepared in accordance with a financial reporting framework designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users (“general purpose financial statements”).
3. ISA 800, “Special Considerations—Audits of Special Purpose Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement” contains additional standards and guidance on the independent auditor’s report issued as a result of an audit of specific elements, accounts or items of a financial statement.
4. ISA 705, “Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor’s Report” contains additional standards and guidance on circumstances that may result in a modified opinion, the type of modification required, and the form and content of the auditor’s report when the opinion is modified. ISA 706, “Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter(s) Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor’s Report” contains additional standards and guidance on circumstances when the auditor considers including an Emphasis of Matter paragraph or an Other Matter(s) paragraph in the auditor’s report, and the form and placement of such paragraphs.
5. **The auditor’s report should contain a clear expression of the auditor’s opinion on the financial statements.**

Elements of the Auditor’s Report

6. **When reporting on special purpose financial statements, the auditor should apply the standards and guidance in ISA 700 (Revised).** Additional elements of the auditor’s report on special purpose financial statements are set out in paragraphs 7-11 of this ISA. The Appendix to this ISA contains examples of auditors’ reports on special purpose financial statements.

Description of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework

7. **When management has a choice of financial reporting frameworks, the reference to the applicable financial reporting framework in the statement of management's responsibility for the financial statements should be expanded to include the responsibility for determining that the applicable financial reporting framework is acceptable in the circumstances of the engagement.**
8. **The reference to the applicable financial reporting framework in the statement of management's responsibility for the financial statements should make clear the purpose for which the financial statements are prepared and, if necessary, the intended users, or refer to a note in the financial statements that contains that information.**

Restriction on Distribution or Use

9. **The auditor's report should include a statement that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial reporting needs of specific users and that, as a result, the financial statements and related auditor's report may not be suitable for another purpose.** The statement is included in a separate paragraph following the auditor's opinion.
10. The financial statements and related auditor's report may be read for purposes other than those for which they were intended. For example, certain entities may be required by a regulator to place the financial statements and related auditor's report on public record. To avoid misunderstandings, the auditor alerts readers of the auditor's report that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users and, therefore, may not be suitable for another purpose.
11. The auditor may also consider including a statement in the auditor's report that it is intended solely for the intended users and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the intended users.

Effective Date

12. This ISA is effective for auditors' reports dated on or after [date].

Appendix

Examples of Auditors' Reports on Special Purpose Financial Statements

- Example 1: An auditor's report on a complete set of financial statements prepared in accordance with financial reporting provisions of a contract.
- Example 2: An auditor's report on a complete set of financial statements prepared in accordance with a financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users, but which is not a fair presentation framework.

- Example 3: An auditor's report on a single financial statement prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users.
- Example 4: An auditor's report on a specific element, account or item of a financial statement prepared in accordance with a financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users, but which is not a fair presentation framework.

Example 1:

Circumstances include the following:

- **Audit of a complete set of financial statements.**
- **The financial statements have been prepared by the management of the entity in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of a contract (i.e., a financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users, but which is not a fair presentation framework) to comply with the provisions of that contract (i.e., a specific purpose). Management does not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of ABC Company, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of section Z of the contract between ABC Company and DEF Company ("the contract"). This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements of ABC Company for the year ended December 31, 20X1 have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of section Z of the contract.

Other Matter – Restriction on Use *[and Distribution]*

As indicated above, the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of section Z of the contract to assist ABC Company to comply with the provisions of the contract. The financial statements and related auditor's report may not be suitable for another purpose. *[Our report is intended solely for ABC Company and DEF Company and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than ABC Company or DEF Company.]*

[Auditor's signature]

[Date of the auditor's report]

[Auditor's address]

Example 2:

Circumstances include the following:

- **Audit of a complete set of financial statements.**
- **The financial statements have been prepared by the management of a partnership in accordance with the tax basis of accounting in Country X (i.e., a financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial information of specific users, but which is not a fair presentation framework) to assist the partners in preparing their individual income tax returns (i.e., a specific purpose). Management does not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of ABC Partnership, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1 and the income statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the tax basis of accounting in Country X. They have been prepared to assist the partners of ABC Partnership in preparing their individual income tax returns. Management's responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements of ABC Partnership for the year ended December 31, 20X1 have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with [describe the applicable income tax law] of Country X.

Other Matter – Restriction on Use *[and Distribution]*

As indicated above, the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the tax basis of accounting in Country X to assist the partners of ABC Partnership in preparing their individual income tax returns. The financial statements and related auditor's report may not be suitable for another purpose. *[Our report is intended solely for ABC Partnership and its partners and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than ABC Partnership or its partners.]*

[Auditor's signature]

[Date of the auditor's report]

[Auditor's address]

Example 3:

Circumstances include the following:

- **Audit of a statement of cash receipts and disbursements (i.e., a single financial statement).**
- **The financial statement has been prepared by the management of the entity in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting (for purposes of this example a fair presentation financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users) to respond to a request for cash flow information received from a creditor (i.e., a specific purpose). Management has a choice of financial reporting frameworks.**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have audited the accompanying statement of cash receipts and disbursements of ABC Company for the year ended December 31, 20X1 and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes (together 'the financial statement').

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this financial statement in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting described in Note X for the purpose of providing information to XYZ Creditor. This responsibility includes: determining that the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for preparing and presenting the financial statement in the circumstances; designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates, if any, that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in order to

design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, if any, made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash receipts and disbursements of ABC Company for the year ended December 31, 20X1 in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting described in Note X.

Other Matter – Restriction on Use *[and Distribution]*

The financial statement has been prepared in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting described in Note X for purposes of providing information to XYZ Creditor. The statement and related auditor's report may not be suitable for another purpose. *[Our report is intended solely for ABC Company and XYZ Creditor and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than ABC Company or XYZ Creditor.]*

[Auditor's signature]

[Date of the auditor's report]

[Auditor's address]

Example 4:

Circumstances include the following:

- **Audit of the liability for “incurred but not reported” claims in an insurance portfolio (i.e., element, account or item of a financial statement).**
- **The financial information has been prepared by the management of the entity in accordance with the financial reporting provisions established by a regulator (i.e., a financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users, but which is not a fair presentation framework) to meet the requirements of that regulator (i.e., a specific purpose). Management does not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

We have audited the accompanying schedule of the liability for “incurred but not reported” claims of ABC Insurance Company as of December 31, 20X1 (‘the schedule’).

Management's Responsibility for the Schedule

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the schedule in accordance with [describe the financial reporting provisions established by the regulator]. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the schedule that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the schedule based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the schedule is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the schedule. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the schedule, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and presentation of the schedule in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the schedule.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial information in the schedule of the liability for "incurred but not reported" claims of ABC Insurance Company as of December 31, 20X1 has been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with [describe the financial reporting provisions established by the regulator].

Other Matter – Restriction on Use *[and Distribution]*

The schedule has been prepared in accordance with [describe the financial reporting provisions established by the regulator] and it and the related auditor's report may not be suitable for another purpose. *[Our report is intended solely for ABC Insurance Company and [insert name of regulator] and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than ABC Insurance Company or [insert name of regulator].]*

[Auditor's signature]

[Date of the auditor's report]

[Auditor's address]

Proposed ISA 800, “Special Considerations—Audits of Special Purpose Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement”

Introduction

1. The International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) apply to the audit of historical financial information. This ISA contains additional considerations in an audit of:
 - (a) Special purpose financial statements; and
 - (b) A specific element, account or item of a financial statement, including related explanatory notes.

This ISA does not override any of the standards of the other ISAs; nor does it purport to contain all additional considerations that may be relevant in the circumstances of the engagement.

2. “Special purpose financial statements” are financial statements prepared in accordance with a financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users. Reference to “financial statements” in this ISA should be read as “special purpose financial statements,” and can be to a complete set of financial statements or a single financial statement. The requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework determine the form and content of the financial statements and what constitutes a complete set of financial statements.
3. Examples of specific elements, accounts or items of a financial statement are listed in the Appendix to the ISA.

Audits of Special Purpose Financial Statements

Considerations when Planning and Performing the Audit

4. ISA 200, “Objective and General Principles Governing an Audit of Financial Statements” requires the auditor to comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to an audit engagement and, in determining the audit procedures to be performed in conducting an audit in accordance with ISAs, to comply with each of the ISAs relevant to that audit. Consequently, an audit of special purpose financial statements in accordance with the ISAs involves compliance with each of the ISAs relevant to the audit. However, in the case of an audit of special purpose financial statements, application of some of the ISAs may require special consideration by the auditor. For example, in ISA 320 (Revised), “Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit,” judgments about matters that are material to users of the financial statements are based on a consideration of the common financial information needs of users as a group. In the case of an audit of special purpose financial statements, however, those judgments are based on a consideration of the financial information needs of the specific users.
5. Furthermore, in the case of special purpose financial statements prepared for a specific purpose, management may agree a materiality level with the intended users. In this case,

the auditor obtains evidence of such agreement and determines whether the agreed materiality level is reasonable in the circumstances of the engagement and for purposes of the audit. An audit conducted in accordance with an agreed materiality level that is not reasonable in the circumstances of the engagement and for purposes of the audit does not comply with the ISAs.

6. Communication with those charged with governance in accordance with the ISAs is based on the relationship between those charged with governance and the financial statements subject to audit, in particular whether those charged with governance have a responsibility to oversee the preparation and presentation of those financial statements. In the case of special purpose financial statements prepared for a specific purpose, those charged with governance may not have such a responsibility. For example, when the financial statements are prepared solely for management's use, or when the party engaging the auditor is not the entity responsible for the financial statements. In these cases, the requirements of ISA 260 (Revised), "Communication with Those Charged with Governance" may not be relevant to the audit of the special purpose financial statements prepared for a specific purpose, except when the auditor is also responsible for the audit of the entity's general purpose financial statements or, for example, has agreed with those charged with governance of the entity to communicate to them relevant matters identified during the audit of the special purpose financial statements prepared for a specific purpose.

Audits of Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement

Considerations when Accepting the Engagement

7. When the auditor is not also engaged to audit the entity's financial statements, compliance with each of the ISAs relevant to the audit of the specific element, account or item of a financial statement, including related explanatory notes, requires careful consideration and may not be practicable. The auditor ordinarily does not have the same understanding of the entity and its environment, including its internal control, as an auditor who also audits the entity's financial statements. In this case, the auditor considers whether the auditor has sufficient understanding of the entity and its environment, including its internal control, to perform an audit of the specific element, account or item. Where an audit in accordance with ISAs is not practicable, the auditor discusses with management whether another type of engagement may be more practicable.

Considerations when Planning and Performing the Audit

8. As explained in paragraph 4 of this ISA, ISA 200 requires the auditor to comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to an audit engagement and, in determining the audit procedures to be performed in conducting an audit in accordance with ISAs, to comply with each of the ISAs relevant to that audit. These requirements also apply to an audit of a specific element, account or item of a financial statement, including related explanatory notes.
9. When the audit of the specific element, account or item of a financial statement, including related explanatory notes, is conducted in conjunction with the audit of the entity's

financial statements, the auditor may be able to use audit evidence obtained as part of the audit of the entity's financial statements in the audit of the specific element, account or item. It is important, however, that the auditor plans and performs the audit of the specific element, account or item to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to reduce audit risk for that specific element, account or item to an acceptably low level.

10. Many financial statement items are interrelated, and are presented with related explanatory notes. Accordingly, when auditing a specific element, account or item of a financial statement, including related explanatory notes, the auditor may not be able to consider the specific element, account or item in isolation. Consequently, the auditor may need to perform additional procedures to meet the objective of an audit.
11. Furthermore, the materiality level determined for the specific element, account or item may be lower than the materiality level or levels determined for the entity's financial statements; this will affect the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures.
12. In the case of an audit of a specific element, account or item of a financial statement, including related explanatory notes, the auditor also considers whether, in view of the specific requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework, the specific element, account or item of a financial statement, including related explanatory notes, provide adequate disclosures to enable the intended users to understand the effect of material transactions and events on the information conveyed in the specific element, account or item.

Reporting Considerations

13. Unless otherwise required by law or regulation, in accordance with ISA 200 in conjunction with ISA 700, the opinion paragraph of the auditor's report on a specific element, account or item of a financial statement, including related explanatory notes, states that the specific element, account or item gives a true and fair view or presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework when that framework is a fair presentation framework. In all other cases, the auditor's opinion states that the specific element, account or item is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
14. **When the auditor undertakes an engagement to report on a specific element, account or item of a financial statement, including related explanatory notes, in conjunction with an audit of the entity's financial statements, the auditor should express a separate opinion for each of the engagements.**
15. When the entity intends to publish an audited element, account or item of a financial statement, including related explanatory notes, together with its audited financial statements, the entity's presentation of the audited element, account or item should differentiate it sufficiently from the audited financial statements. The opinion on the element, account or item should also be sufficiently differentiated from the opinion on the financial statements. If the auditor concludes that the differentiation is insufficient, the auditor asks management to rectify the situation. The auditor does not issue the auditor's report on the element, account or item until satisfied with the differentiation.

16. **When a modified auditor’s report has been issued on an entity’s financial statements, the auditor should consider the effect that this may have on the auditor’s report on an element, account or item of a financial statement, including related explanatory notes.**
17. When a modified opinion on the entity’s financial statements or an Emphasis of Matter paragraph relates to the audited element, account or item of a financial statement, including related explanatory notes, the auditor considers whether to modify the auditor’s report on the element, account or item in a similar manner. When a modified opinion on the entity’s financial statements or an Emphasis of Matter paragraph does not relate to the audited element, account or item, the auditor considers whether it may be necessary to refer to the modified opinion or Emphasis of Matter in an Other Matter(s) paragraph in the auditor’s report on the element, account or item (see ISA 706, “Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter(s) Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor’s Report”).
18. In accordance with ISA 705, “Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor’s Report,” if the auditor has expressed an adverse opinion or disclaimed an opinion on the entity’s financial statements as a whole, the auditor is not permitted to express an unmodified opinion on a specific element, account or item of those financial statements in the same auditor’s report and with respect to the same applicable financial reporting framework. However, where the opinion on the specific element, account or item is expressed in a separate auditor’s report, the auditor may be able to express an unmodified opinion on it, provided that the matters to be reported on and the related scope of the audit were not intended to, and did not, encompass so many elements, accounts or items as to constitute a major portion of those financial statements.

Effective Date

19. This ISA is effective for audits of a specific element, account or item of a financial statement, including related explanatory notes, for periods beginning on or after [date].

Appendix

Example of Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement

- Accounts receivable, allowance for doubtful accounts receivable, inventory, the liability for accrued benefits of a private pension plan, the recorded value of identified intangible assets, or the liability for “incurred but not reported” claims in an insurance portfolio, including related explanatory notes.
- A schedule of externally managed assets and income of a private pension plan, including related explanatory notes.
- A schedule of net tangible assets, including related explanatory notes.

- A schedule of disbursements in relation to a lease property, including related explanatory notes.
- A schedule of profit participation or employee bonuses, including related explanatory notes.

Proposed Appendix 3 to ISA 210—Financial Reporting Frameworks Designed to Meet the Financial Information Needs of Specific Users

1. ISA 210, “Terms of Audit Engagements” contains standards and guidance for agreeing, and determining the acceptability of, the applicable financial reporting framework. In the case of special purpose financial statements, the financial information needs of the intended users are a key factor in determining the acceptability of the applicable financial reporting framework. An understanding of the following assists the auditor in determining the acceptability of the financial reporting framework: (a) the purpose for which the financial statements are prepared, (b) the intended users, and (c) the steps taken by management to determine that the financial reporting framework is appropriate in the circumstances. In the case of financial statements prepared in accordance with the provisions of a contract, it is also important to have an understanding of any significant interpretations of the contract that have been made by management in preparing the financial information.¹
2. Examples of financial reporting frameworks designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users are:
 - A tax basis of accounting for a set of financial statements that accompany an entity’s tax return;
 - The cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting for cash flow information that an entity may be requested to prepare for creditors;
 - The financial reporting provisions established by a regulator to meet the requirements of that regulator; or
 - The financial reporting provisions of a contract, such as a bond indenture or a loan agreement.
3. Financial statements prepared and presented in accordance with a financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users may be the only financial statements prepared by an entity and, in such circumstances, are often used by users in addition to those for whom the financial reporting framework is designed. Despite the broad distribution of the financial statements in those circumstances, the financial statements are still considered to be special purpose financial statements for purposes of the ISAs. Paragraphs 9 and 10 of ISA 701 describe reporting considerations when these circumstances occur.
4. Where the applicable financial reporting framework encompasses the financial reporting standards established by an organization that is authorized or recognized to promulgate standards for special purpose financial statements, those standards will be presumed to be acceptable for that purpose, provided the organization follows an established and transparent process involving deliberation and consideration of the views of relevant

¹ An interpretation is significant when adoption of another reasonable interpretation would have produced a material difference in the financial statements.

stakeholders. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation may prescribe the financial reporting framework to be used by management in preparing and presenting special purpose financial statements for certain types of entity, for example, the financial reporting provisions established by a regulator to meet the requirements of that regulator. In the absence of indications to the contrary, such a financial reporting framework is presumed to be acceptable for special purpose financial statements prepared and presented by such entities.

5. Where the financial reporting standards referred to in paragraph 4 are supplemented by legislative or regulatory requirements, the auditor determines whether any conflicts between the financial reporting standards and the additional requirements exist. If such conflicts exist, the auditor follows the procedures in ISA 210.
6. Where the applicable financial reporting framework encompasses the financial reporting provisions of a contract, or sources other than those described in paragraphs 4 and 5, the acceptability of the financial reporting framework in the circumstances of the engagement is determined by considering whether it exhibits attributes normally exhibited by acceptable financial reporting frameworks (see Appendix 2). In the case of a financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users, the relative importance of each of these attributes to a particular engagement is a matter of professional judgment. For example, for purposes of a balance sheet prepared to establish the value of net assets of an entity at the date of its sale, the vendor and the purchaser may have agreed that very prudent estimates of allowances for uncollectible accounts receivable are to be made. This may result in financial information that is not neutral, but it may nevertheless be acceptable in the circumstances of the engagement.
7. There may be circumstances where a financial reporting framework designed to meet the financial information needs of specific users is based on, but does not comply with all the requirements of an established financial reporting framework; for example, a contract that requires financial statements to be prepared in accordance with most, but not all, of the Financial Reporting Standards of Country X. When this is acceptable in the circumstances of the engagement, it may be inappropriate for the description of the applicable financial reporting framework in the financial statements to imply full compliance with the established financial reporting standards. In the example of the contract above, the description of the applicable financial reporting framework may refer to the financial reporting provisions of the contract.

[Blank Page]