

Sustainability Assurance (Adoption and Implementation) – Update

Objectives

The objectives of the IAASB discussion in September 2026 are to:

- **ISSA 5000¹ Adoption and Implementation (A&I) Update**
 - Provide the Board with an update on the progress made in encouraging adoption and supporting implementation of ISSA 5000.
 - Obtain the Board's view on whether the ISSA 5000 A&I resources published and planned are appropriate recognizing the current status of A&I and the fact that ISSA 5000 becomes effective December 15, 2026.
- **Sustainability Assurance Developments in the European Union (EU)**
 - Update the Board on sustainability assurance developments in the EU, including engagement with key stakeholders.
- **Sustainability Assurance Experiences in Practice**
 - Provide the Board with early insights into practitioners' experience in conducting assurance on sustainability information and implementing ISSA 5000.
- **ISSA 5000 A&I Observations**
 - Obtain the Board's observations and experiences relating to ISSA 5000 A&I.

Approach to the Board Discussion

The following sessions will be allocated 20 minutes each, for the presentation and questions and discussions with the Board:

- ISSA 5000 A&I Update
- Sustainability Assurance Developments in the EU
- Sustainability Assurance Experiences in Practice

A further 15 minutes will be allocated for an overall discussion of the Board's observations and experiences relating to ISSA 5000 A&I.

SECTION 1: ISSA 5000 A&I Update

1. Monitoring of ISSA 5000's adoption status, gathering implementation issues and questions arising, and developing implementation materials has been ongoing since ISSA 5000 was issued in November 2024. This work on supporting A&I of ISSA 5000 falls under [the Framework for Activities](#)

¹ International Standard on Sustainability Assurance™ (ISSA) 5000, *General Requirements for Sustainability Assurance Engagements*

(the Framework) Component IV.A *First-Time Implementation Support Activities*, which will continue through the end of 2026 to align with the effective date of ISSA 5000 (December 15, 2026).

2. From Q1, 2027, the IAASB's work on ISSA 5000 will comprise ongoing monitoring of relevant developments in sustainability assurance, including opportunities to further support A&I, as well as the consistent and effective application of ISSA 5000 (commensurate with Component I and, if applicable, Component IV.B of the Framework), while standing ready to respond to any significant or urgent issues that may come up and require action to meet the public interest. Work under Component IV.B, *Non-Authoritative Support Materials*, may be undertaken when necessary to address a specific or targeted issue(s)/challenge(s) that could be addressed through such material without the need for standard-setting activities.

Resources Developed for ISSA 5000

3. Since the March 2026 Board meeting, IAASB staff, with input from the Sustainability Assurance Implementation Working Group (SAIWG), developed the following resources to assist stakeholders when adopting and implementing ISSA 5000:
 - Jurisdictional Adoption: status of adoption globally, based on information provided by the IAASB Jurisdictional Standard Setters Liaison Group (IAASB-JSS) and through partnerships developed with regional professional bodies, including Accountancy Europe, Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA), Grupo Latinoamericano de Emisores de Normas de Información Financiera (GLENIF), and the Pan African Federation of Accountants (PAFA) was first published in early August 2025, then updated quarterly, with the most [recent update](#) to be issued in early September 2026.
 - [ISSA 5000 Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\): The Application of Materiality](#) (June 2026) to support the consistent understanding and approach to considering or determining materiality in the context of sustainability information.

Note that all A&I resources can be found on the focus page *Understanding the International Standard on Sustainability Assurance 5000* [here](#).

4. Further resources are under development for release in Q4, 2026, to address implementation issues and questions arising from stakeholder feedback, as follows (see paragraph 6 for more information):
 - FAQ on General Matters, covering:
 - General Considerations
 - Acceptance and continuance
 - Planning and risk assessment
 - Using the work of others
 - Further procedures
 - Estimates and forward-looking information
 - Evaluating the effect of uncorrected misstatements
 - Concluding and reporting
 - Comparatives

- Joint IAASB-IESBA FAQ, covering group engagements.

Feedback on Implementation issues

5. Implementation questions and issues are being identified through the following mechanisms:

- SAIWG meetings (see **Appendix 1**).
- ISSA 5000 Technical Implementation Contact Group (TICG), comprising assurance practitioners conducting sustainability assurance engagements and developing firm methodologies, through feedback provided at quarterly meetings and offline (see **Appendix 1**).
- On-line implementation form for electronic submission of questions or feedback on ISSA 5000 by stakeholders.
- IAASB-JSS responses to the IAASB's requests for input, discussions at annual meetings, and direct feedback.
- Outreach feedback received through Q&A and discussion at presentations by the IAASB members and staff, and stakeholder meetings (see IAASB – Outreach Activities provided in **Agenda Item 1** in the papers for this IAASB meeting and for the [June 2026](#) IAASB meeting).
- Liaison with IESBA, including observing at their *International Ethics Standards for Sustainability Assurance (including International Independence Standards)* (IESSA) Implementation Monitoring Advisory Group (IIMAG) meetings.

6. Implementation questions and issues raised by stakeholders are being tracked and triaged, to identify those of global relevance to ISSA 5000 A&I that inform development of suitable implementation resources. Overall, we continue to hear strong support for ISSA 5000, along with matters that warrant further clarification or additional support. These implementation matters are being addressed in the IAASB and joint IAASB-IESBA FAQs under development, as noted in paragraph 4, including the following topics:

- General Considerations
 - Reasons for key differences between ISAE 3000 (Revised)² and ISSA 5000.
 - Scalability of ISSA 5000 and ISQM 1.³
 - Whether ISSA 5000 can be applied for engagements on sustainability-related controls or digital tagging of reported sustainability information.
- Acceptance and continuance
 - Whether certain types of engagements can be accepted using ISSA 5000.
- Planning and Risk Assessment
 - Whether an understanding of control activities is always required for a reasonable assurance engagement.

² International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 (Revised), *Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information*

³ International Standards on Quality Management (ISQM) 1, *Quality management for firms that perform audits or reviews of financial statements, or other assurance or related services engagements*

- Whether access to value chain components is required.
- Reasons for differences in risk assessment terminology between ISSA 5000 and the ISAs.⁴
- Using the Work of Others
 - The differentiation between a practitioner's expert, another practitioner, a component practitioner, and a predecessor practitioner.
 - Use of ISO conformity assessments as evidence.
- Further Procedures
 - Performing procedures in a limited assurance engagement that are only required for reasonable assurance engagements.
 - The nature of procedures related to qualitative disclosures.
 - Reasons for requirements that appear to go beyond the ISAs.
 - Obtaining evidence with respect to:
 - The entity's controls
 - Value-chain information
 - Historical information used as a baseline for targets
 - Application of proportionality mechanisms
 - Responding when the entity identifies no material risks or opportunities when reporting of such is required in accordance with the criteria or reporting framework.
 - The differences between limited and reasonable assurance engagements regarding the required responses to assessed risk.
- Estimates and Forward-Looking Information
 - Evaluation of methods, assumptions and data for forward-looking information that is qualitative or subject to a high degree of uncertainty.
 - Distinction between estimates or forward-looking information and the related disclosures.
 - Whether development of a point estimate or range is relevant to forward-looking information.
 - Work effort required on historical information for targets compared to comparative information.
 - Evaluation of evidence from third party databases used by the entity for estimates or forward-looking information.

⁴ International Standard on Auditing

- Evaluating the Effect of Uncorrected Misstatements
 - Determining the materiality of misstatements in other information or from the omission of disclosures.
- Concluding and Reporting
 - The impact of specific circumstances on the assurance conclusion, including when both mandatory and voluntary disclosures are reported, transition relief is used, only selected disclosures required by the reporting framework are reported, and assurance is limited to certain disclosures reported under a fair presentation framework.
 - Considering other information, including the scope and work effort.
 - Whether the minimum basic elements of the assurance report refer only to the content or also its location.
 - Whether the work effort for subsequent events differs between limited and reasonable assurance engagements.
- Comparatives
 - Applying ISSA 5000 to comparative information when:
 - Presented voluntarily;
 - Subject to an assurance engagement in the prior period;
 - Covered by the assurance report; or
 - Revised.
 - Reporting on comparative information when the criteria applied differ from the current period.
- Group Engagements
 - The implications of changes to the value chain entities and whether they need to be considered in acceptance and continuance procedures.
 - Implications of the deferred effective date of the IESSA with respect to value chain components.
 - Using the work of another practitioner or component practitioner who applies standards other than ISSA 5000 or the IESSA, or is in a jurisdiction that has not adopted these standards.
 - Using the non-assurance work of another practitioner, and what ethical requirements apply.
 - Whether an engagement leader can act as engagement quality reviewer on related engagements.

IESBA-IAASB Liaison on Sustainability-Related Projects

7. The IAASB has continued to coordinate closely with IESBA, through regular staff liaison meetings, to identify topics for joint FAQs, conducting joint liaison meetings when appropriate, such as joint

quarterly meetings with ISSB⁵ representatives, and presenting in tandem at some outreach events on sustainability assurance. In addition, the staff teams have obtained comments from the other Board's staff in finalizing their respective resources when, for example, there is an intersection on a topic(s) addressed by the two Boards' various standards.

8. IAASB or IESBA observers continue to attend each other's implementation group quarterly meetings, being IAASB's TICG and IESBA's IIMAG (as noted in paragraph 5) to identify cross-cutting issues.

Matters for IAASB Consideration:

1. Board members are asked to share their views on whether the ISSA 5000 A&I resources published and planned are appropriate as well as recognizing the current status of A&I and the fact that ISSA 5000 becomes effective December 15, 2026.

SECTION 2: Sustainability Assurance Developments in the EU

9. In July 2026, the European Commission (EC) adopted the revised European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), which will become effective for financial years beginning on or after January 1, 2027. In addition, the EC requested that the CEAOB⁶ develop technical advice for EU sustainability assurance standards based on ISSA 5000 by September 30, 2026.
10. Board member, Chrystelle Richard, will provide the Board with an:
 - Update on the EU regulatory landscape for sustainability assurance, including the Omnibus I driven revision of the ESRS and Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) scope and the confirmed requirement for the EC to adopt a limited assurance Delegated Act by July 1, 2027 (with reasonable assurance definitively not mandated).
 - Overview of IAASB's ongoing support to the CEAOB's technical work in considering the need for EU-specific add-ons or carve-outs to ISSA 5000.
 - Stakeholder feedback gathered through outreach in France and across Europe (academic, professional, and preparer forums) on, for example, limited assurance in practice, fair presentation, materiality, use of the work of others, and digital tagging, as well as market data on assurance costs.

Matters for IAASB Consideration:

2. Board members are asked to share their reflections on the developments that will be highlighted during this discussion and their views on ISSA 5000 A&I experiences in their jurisdictions, including regulatory challenges.

SECTION 3: Sustainability Assurance Experiences in Practice

11. As the [jurisdictional adoption status](#) demonstrates, adoption of ISSA 5000 continues to grow, and many jurisdictions are actively supporting its implementation. For example, in Australia, mandatory assurance of sustainability reports for certain entities commenced for annual reporting periods

⁵ International Sustainability Standards Board.

⁶ Committee of European Auditing Oversight Bodies

beginning on or after January 1, 2025. Board member, Neil Morris, will provide the Board with early insights into practitioners' experiences in conducting assurance on sustainability information and implementing ISSA 5000.

Matters for IAASB Consideration:

3. Board members are asked to share their reflections on the insights that will be highlighted during this discussion and their experiences on implementation of ISSA 5000 in their jurisdictions, including practical challenges.

Appendix 1

SAIWG and TICG Activities

Members

1. Information about the SAIWG and TICG members, including the Terms of Reference, can be found [here](#).

SAIWG and TICG Activities Since the March 2026 IAASB Meeting

2. The SAIWG continued to meet every 4-8 weeks to provide input on the IAASB staff's work on ISSA 5000 A&I, in monitoring and publishing the global adoption status information, reporting on outreach conducted, identifying implementation issues, and developing implementation resources. Meetings were held on April 22, May 21, and August 11, 2026. The SAIWG also provided detailed input on the draft materials developed, provided updates on developments in their jurisdictions and conducted outreach on ISSA 5000 on behalf of the IAASB (see outreach summary provided in **Agenda Item 1**).
3. The TICG meetings are held quarterly, with meetings held on April 14 and June 8, 2026. The focus of these meetings has been on sustainability assurance implementation issues arising in practice and through developing firms' methodologies. These matters were triaged and those of global relevance addressed in the FAQ on Application of Materiality published in June 2026, and outstanding matters are being addressed through general FAQs and joint IAASB-IESBA FAQs (see the Issues Paper, paragraphs 4 and 6 above). Future issues raised of global relevance will be considered and triaged for possible implementation materials, as appropriate. In addition, the TICG are called upon from time to time to review draft materials or provide specific examples for inclusion in implementation materials.

Appendix 2

SUSTAINABILITY ASSURANCE A&I OBJECTIVES AND MESSAGING⁷

1. The IAASB's objectives for ISSA 5000 A&I are:

- **Adoption**

Objective: To encourage adoption of ISSA 5000 as the global baseline for sustainability assurance, for both mandatory and voluntary assurance engagements on sustainability information reported.

Benefits: Widespread global adoption will reduce fragmentation in the approach taken to accepting, performing and reporting on sustainability assurance engagements and provide users with consistent, comparable and trustworthy sustainability assurance reports that enhance the confidence of intended users about the sustainability information reported.

- **Implementation**

Objective: To support effective and consistent implementation of ISSA 5000 across different jurisdictions and firms, globally.

Benefits: Providing materials and forums that appropriately support implementation and address implementation issues that practitioners encounter will provide a consistent approach to addressing these issues and an informed basis for the guidance and educational materials that professional bodies, national standard setters, regulators or others are likely to develop to support effective implementation and capacity-building in their regions.

2. Key Messaging for A&I of ISSA 5000

Why Jurisdictions Should Adopt ISSA 5000:

- A strong global sustainability reporting ecosystem brings together key elements: suitable reporting frameworks established by authorized or recognized organizations paired with ISSA 5000 for sustainability assurance engagements, which is underpinned by the IAASB's quality management standards⁸ and the ethical requirements of the IESBA's IESSA.
- High-quality, robust assurance enhances trust and confidence in reported sustainability information.
- ISSA 5000 establishes a global baseline for robust and reliable sustainability assurance, promoting consistent requirements and ensuring a level playing field for all assurance practitioners.
- Adopting a globally accepted sustainability assurance standard helps prevent regulatory fragmentation and promotes interoperability and comparability of assurance reports across jurisdictions.
- ISSA 5000 was designed to work in tandem with the IESBA Code of Ethics and is intended to be adopted alongside it.

⁷ This appendix was already shared with the Board in [March 2026 \(Appendix 2 in Agenda Item 5\)](#).

⁸ ISQM 1 *Quality management for firms that perform audits or reviews of financial statements, or other assurance or related services engagements*, and ISQM 2, *Engagement quality reviews*.

The Implementation Journey:

- Consistent implementation of ISSA 5000 across practitioners, firms and regions ensures assurance reports are comparable and easily understood.
- Early identification and prompt resolution of implementation issues of global relevance will drive a common approach globally.
- Developing ISSA 5000 resources and encouraging stakeholders to leverage those resources provide a sound basis for stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and education at the jurisdictional level.