Objective of Agenda Item

1. To receive a presentation on the topic of Auditor Communications from Ms. Julie Erhardt, Chairman of the International Organization of Securities Commissions' (IOSCO) Standing Committee No. 1.

Background

2. Pursuant to an Audit Quality roundtable in May 2007 that involved a wide range of public- and private-sector stakeholders in the capital markets, IOSCO decided in mid-2008 to pursue three areas of inquiry selected from the subjects that had been raised in the roundtable. These three areas concerned:

- Communications that auditors make to the public and to others about findings in the audits they conduct of the financial statements of publicly listed companies (auditor communications);
- Communications that audit firms make to the public and to others about their own internal firm structure, governance, audit quality control and operations (auditor transparency); and
- Whether any changes should be made in the prevailing form of private professional partner ownership of audit firms in the interest of promoting audit quality and increasing the choices of audit firms for public companies (auditor ownership).

3. The outcome of this effort was IOSCO’s publication in September 2009 of the following three consultation papers for public comment: Auditor Communications; Transparency of Firms that Audit Public Companies; and Exploration of Non-Professional Ownership Structures for Audit Firms.

4. On 28 October 2010, IOSCO issued its feedback statement (Agenda Item 12-A) summarizing the comments received from stakeholders on the three consultation papers.

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1 The lists of respondents to the consultation papers are included in Appendices A-C of the feedback statement.
5. With reference to the feedback statement in Agenda Item 12-A, Ms. Erhardt’s presentation will focus specifically on the topic of auditor communications.

Material Presented

Agenda Item 12-A
IOSCO Feedback Statement, Comments Received in Response to Consultation Reports on Issues Pertaining to the Audit of Publicly Listed Companies