

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR



“With International Education Standards 1-8 now in effect, our 2017 – 2021 Strategy [<link to strategy>](#) reflects a commitment to continuous and innovative engagement with stakeholders, proactively identifying trends that impact the accounting profession to inform future standards development, providing impactful implementation support, and a post-effective date review that will be used in the continuous improvement of IESs.

The strategy sets ambitious targets for developing and maintaining relevant professional competence in an environment subject to rapid and substantial change. With a view towards transparency, accountability and flexibility, the Strategy will be supplemented each year with an annual work program setting out the evolution of Board activities informed by and responsive to evidence gathered.”

THE ENVIRONMENT TODAY

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE?

The IAESB has issued a suite of eight IESs. These IESs cover the foundational elements of professional accountancy education and require competence of the professional accountant through the inclusion of learning outcomes. Professional accounting education is relevant throughout the career of a professional accountant. Effectively meeting the public interest expectations of businesses and governments requires IESs to prepare and foster the growth of an accountant. Currently, the IESs address the following broad areas:

Mission

Through its activities, the IAESB enhances education by developing IESs that increase the competence of the global accountancy profession, contributing to strengthened public trust.



The IAESB completed the revision of the current suite of Standards during 2014 to 2016 with the publication in 2014 of [IES 8, Professional Competence for Engagement Partners Responsible for Audits of Financial Statements](#).

During this same period:

- Stakeholders provided valuable input on the IESs informed by their own adoption experiences,
- Implementation guidance for the IESs was published in response to stakeholder demand, and
- A study was performed to better understand IES usage.

These accomplishments were aligned with the prior Strategy and Work Plan and have informed the 2017 – 2021 Strategy.

Implementation Guidance Issued

The [Guiding Principles](#) for Implementing a Learning Outcomes Approach.

[Examples](#) from Members Bodies, demonstrating the Guiding Principles in practice.

[Support materials for IES 8](#) that include a Staff Q&A and a webcast series.

[Support Materials for IES 1](#), Entry Requirements to Professional Accounting Education Programs.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

Macro trends impacting the accountancy profession and input from stakeholders gathered during the IAESB Consultation Paper, *Meeting Future Expectations of Professional Competence: A Consultation on the IAESB's Future Strategy and Priorities* (2015), made it clear there is an expectation and need for professional accountants to demonstrate competence in an environment of constant change - change that will necessitate new and deeper levels of understanding and application of knowledge.

Implications of Macro Trends

“Information and Communications Technology (ICT): Disruptive potential of ICT and increasing pace of change...while the use of intelligent systems, data mining, and predictive analytics to exploit ‘big data’ will transform both the operational and interpretative aspects of accountancy, cyber security will continue to be a key risk.”

“Transparency and accountability in the public sector: Growing scrutiny of public finances and call for complete and accurate information for decision making...governments, under pressure to enhance transparency and accountability, will increasingly seek help with reporting”

IFAC Strategy 2016-2018

There is a broad based view to rethink education, training and development due to globalization and changing demographics.

There are also possible changes to the Standards issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) as set forth in their strategic objectives and work plans. Even without further change, the application of existing Standards is within an environment of constant movement. To support high quality services, accountants must develop and maintain their competence.

The IAESB must be diligent in anticipating whether the suite of IESs and portfolio of implementation guidance will be sufficient to develop the competent professional accountants of tomorrow. Implementation support that brings the principle-based Standards into focus within an environment that is characterized by constant change is a clear expectation of stakeholders.

A continuous watch of the environment is needed so that professional accountants possess the competence, and the agility, to perform their professional responsibilities on a timely basis with both confidence and quality. Serving the public interest demands IESs and implementation guidance relevant for tomorrow's accountant, **today**.

The 2017 – 2021 Strategy defines how the IAESB, Member Bodies and other stakeholders can work

together to meet these challenges and maintain the relevancy of the IESBs.

A STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE [\[insert hyperlink to the Strategy\]](#)

WHAT IS KNOWN

Demonstrating professional competence cannot occur without learning and development. **Professional accounting education serves as the foundation for Standards** issued by the IAASB, International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) and IPSASB.

The IESBA specifically recognizes the importance of experience, training and education in its Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants. It states:

“Circumstances that create a threat to a professional accountant in business performing duties with the appropriate degree of professional competence and due care include having insufficient experience, training and/or education”.¹

Achieving consistency and quality relies on dynamic standards development and evaluation to keep pace with, and remain relevant to, the competence expectations of professional accountants globally.

Challenges and Strategic Response	
Macro trends	Standards development activity in ICT and Public Sector
Changing standards	Standards development activity in professional scepticism and continuing professional development (IES 7)
Environment in flux	Implementation support and post-effective date review
Strategic Communication and Stakeholder Engagement	

THE IAESB

Our 2017 – 2021 Strategy has been developed with the continued, significant commitment of volunteer resources by Board members and technical advisors, and 6% of IFAC’s total budget for all four Standard Setting Boards.

IAESB
Board members: XX
Technical advisors: XX
Countries represented: XX
Females: XX
Advanced degrees: XX
Languages spoken: XX
Total years of professional experience: XX

[Insert photo of the Board and Technical Advisors]

*IAESB Board members and Technical Advisors
November 2016*

¹ IESBA Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, Section 330.2.