| | | **Agenda Item** |
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| **Meeting:** | IESBA | |
| **Meeting Location:** | New York, NY | **7** |
| **Meeting Date:** | December 3–6, 2019 | |

## eCode

### I.  Objective of Agenda Item

1.  To receive an update on Phase 2 of the eCode initiative.

### II.  Working Group

2.  The Phase 2 Working Group (WG) comprises:

- Brian Friedrich, IESBA Member, Chair

- Liesbet Haustermans, IESBA Member

- Jens Engelhardt, IESBA Technical Advisor

- Joseph Bryson, Director, Quality & Development, IFAC

- Michelle Korman, Senior Manager, Head of Intellectual Property, IFAC

### III.  Background

3.  Phase 1 of the eCode was successfully launched in June 2019. The Phase 2 eCode initiative is a collaborative effort between the IESBA, IFAC and an external developer. In future, it may also involve national standard setters (NSS) and PAOs who wish to leverage the eCode platform within their jurisdiction.

4.  At the September meeting, the Board received an update on the developing plans for Phase 2 of the eCode under the identified three work streams:

- Operations and maintenance

- New features

- Transfer of platform to selected NSS and PAOs

5.  Funding for identified key enhancements and new features will be provided by IFAC, with work to be substantially completed by the developer by year end 2019.  The same external developer who developed the eCode platform in Phase 1, Finn Partners, has been contracted to complete the Phase 2 work.

## IV.   Update

*Promotion and usage of the eCode*

6.   There is ongoing promotion and awareness building activity to promote both the restructured Code and the eCode, including:

- The Global Ethics webinar co-hosted by IESBA, ASEAN Federation of Accountants and the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants
- China outreach including a keynote address from Dr. Stavros Thomadakis to the National Accounting Institute in Beijing
- Presentation to members of Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus
- Presentation to the Committee of European Auditing Oversight Bodies

7.   IFAC continues to collect usage information for both the eCode and PDF downloads of the 2018 Handbook. The Phase 2 Working Group Chair will provide a brief update of the usage stats at the December meeting. IFAC and the WG continue to monitor usage to develop a history of data for more meaningful analysis going forward.

*New Features and enhancements*

8.   IFAC has agreed the terms of the Statement of Work (SOW) for Phase 2 with the developer.  The SOW sets out the new features and enhancements that have been agreed as key priorities to be actioned by the developer by year end 2019. This SOW includes functionality tied to the ability to transfer the platform externally, as well as additional items including:

Operations (fixes)

- Alternative search terms - identify the cause of and apply a fix to ensure that all alternative search terms return the alternative terms set in the eCode.

- Bullet indent styles on mobile – adjust nested bullets to prevent cutting off text on mobile devices.

- Page jumps after clicking link to open in new window.

- Remove drawer images and improve readability of headers when copying and pasting text from the eCode.

New features

- Add an automatic check on the site for broken links.

- Add an effective date selection mechanism to enable users to travel between versions of the Code as it is updated.  There will be prominent notification when the user is in a non-current version.

- Add a feature to create a new copy of the Handbook sections and definitions.  This is needed to update the eCode with newly approved content.

  We are exploring the most efficient way to upload new content with the developer. One possibility, that may streamline the upload, is that the content is imported from an Excel document rather than a Word document. The revisions to Part 4B will be

> used as the first test case for updating the content. The process to check the content and the timing of the release of the new content will be agreed after the process to update the content is agreed and tested. The WG will evaluate the updated content in a test environment before this is made public.

- Add a Forthcoming Pronouncements page linked from the Menu.

- Add an option to expand all accordions in the Menu.

Transfer Platform

- Write up detailed installation/configuration instructions to be shared with the agreed third parties. Finn Partners will also offer further support to assist installation to other jurisdictions that would like such support.

- Add a checkbox to enable jurisdictions to indicate paragraphs they have modified with a visual indication appearing in the national jurisdiction's eCode where paragraphs differ from the IESBA eCode.

9. Given that this is a new product for IFAC, a draft updated license agreement has been developed to incorporate the new type of product (i.e., transfer of the eCode platform) in conjunction with the content of the Code with interested third parties. This is in preparation for the pilot test of the transfer to New Zealand and when additional interest is expressed.

## V.   Timeline and next steps

10. The operational fixes and the design of the new features and the key elements to enable the transfer of the eCode will be developed by year end 2019.

11. The fixes may be operationalized in the live (public) eCode as and when ready.

12. The new features (including the effective date filter and the jurisdictional checkbox) will be designed by year end but will require additional work to the content to test how the feature operates before these "go live" (i.e. can be accessed by the public).

13. New Zealand will be the pilot case for the transfer of the eCode platform. The eCode WG aim to enable the transfer to be tested by New Zealand in the first quarter of 2020, and report back to the Board at the March meeting.

14. In addition, the eCode WG aim to establish a process for IFAC staff to update the content of the eCode to reflect the revisions made to Part 4B and showcase this feature in a test environment at the March 2020 meeting.

## VI.   Actions Requested

15. The Board will be asked to consider a presentation from the Phase 2 WG Chair and provide comments and feedback.