

**Meeting:** IESBA  
**Meeting Location:** New York  
**Meeting Date:** September 26-30, 2016

## Agenda Item

# 8

### EIOC – Benchmarking of the Code

#### Objective of Agenda Item

1. To receive an update on the EIOC’s work in considering key differences between the Code and national ethical requirements in the G20 and major financial centers.<sup>1</sup>

#### Emerging Issues and Outreach Committee (EIOC)

2. Members:
  - Reyaz Mihular, Chair, IESBA Member (supported by Technical Advisor Tania Vanburen)
  - Liesbet Haustermans, IESBA Member
  - Chishala Kateka, IESBA Member
  - Patricia Mulvaney, IESBA Member

Observer:

- Kristian Koktvedgaard, Chair, IESBA CAG

#### Activities since last IESBA Emerging Issues Discussion

3. The EIOC last had a session on the Board’s agenda in March 2016. Since then, the EIOC met in person in the margins of the June 2016 Board meeting and by teleconference in August 2016. The EIOC will meet again in person on the Sunday immediately preceding the September 2016 Board meeting.

#### History and Work Performed

4. As part of its emerging issues initiative, the Board instructed the EIOC in October 2014 to undertake a review of the key differences between the Code and national ethical requirements in the G20 and major financial centers. In this regard, the EIOC approached various Board members and Technical Advisors based in some of these jurisdictions or who otherwise had access to relevant information from these jurisdictions to give country presentations. These presentations included an outline of the approach to adoption of, or convergence with, the Code in the particular jurisdictions. They also included highlights of key differences between the Code and national ethical requirements in the

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<sup>1</sup> Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, European Union (EU), Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States.

jurisdictions. Presentations began at the January 2015 Board meeting and continued periodically in subsequent Board meetings.

5. In addition to information obtained by Board members and Technical Advisors for their presentations,<sup>2</sup> the EIOC gathered information on key differences between the Code and national ethical requirements from feedback obtained from the National Standard Setters (NSS) liaison group in connection with the 2015 and 2016 IESBA-NSS meetings.
6. Data on the status of adoption<sup>3</sup> of the Code within the jurisdictions under review, obtained from the IFAC Quality & Membership (Q&M) team,<sup>4</sup> has also been considered by the EIOC in undertaking its review.

### **Approach to the Session**

7. The Chair of the EIOC will present an update on the review work performed to date, including any preliminary findings and areas for further investigation.

### **Action Requested**

8. IESBA members are asked to note the update and share any reactions.

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<sup>2</sup> Presentations were made with respect to Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, the USA and the EU. Data on adoption were also obtained by Board members and Technical Advisors on Argentina, China and Hong Kong SAR.

<sup>3</sup> Information obtained from the IFAC Quality and Membership department is by member body, not jurisdiction.

<sup>4</sup> The Q&M team manages the IFAC Member Compliance Program and the membership admission process. The Program is overseen by the Compliance Advisory Panel and the Public Interest Oversight Board as one of IFAC's public interest activities. The Q&M team acts as the primary point of contact for IFAC's 179 member organizations and conducts targeted support and outreach activities to support the adoption and implementation of international standards.