IESBA International
Ethics Standards
Board for Accountants®

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Meeting:	IESBA	**Agenda Item**
Meeting Location:	Athens, Greece	**9**
Meeting Date:	June 18–20, 2018	

eCode

Objective of Agenda Item

1.   To brief Board members on scope, timing and planned features for the eCode.

Working Group

2.   The Working Group (WG) comprises:

- Don Thomson, Chair
- Brian Friedrich, IESBA Member
- Liesbet Haustermans, IESBA Member
- Andrew Pinkney, IESBA Technical Advisor

Activities Since Last IESBA Meeting

3.   Based on the recommendation of the IFAC Communications Department, the WG has engaged in discussions with a potential vendor – Finn Partners – to explore how they can deliver on the WG's vision for the eCode.

4.   The WG met in-person in May 2018 to discuss the path forward, including the scope of the eCode initiative, possible features, functionality and timing for each phase. As part of this meeting, the WG liaised with, and sought input from Finn Partners on its initial scope and timing plans. The WG met again by teleconference later in May 2018 to reflect on progress since the in-person meeting and to prepare for the June 2018 IESBA meeting.

5.   The WG Chair presented at the IESBA-National Standard Setters (NSS) meeting in early May 2018 and sought input about possible features and functionality for the eCode. IESBA representatives briefed stakeholders about the eCode initiative as part of the Board's routine outreach program (see list of outreach at Agenda Item 1-A).

Background

6.   On April 9, 2018, the IESBA released the *International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards)* (the Code) – the culmination of a four-year-long project to revamp and update the Code. It is expected that the 2018 edition of the IESBA Handbook (the print version) will be released by September 2018. The Handbook will incorporate the inducements provisions that the Board approved in April 2018 and which are now with the PIOB for its consideration and approval at its June 2018 meeting.

7. The IESBA website currently includes an electronic version of the 2016 Handbook of the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the "2016 web-based Code") which is based on the text of the extant Code.

8. In December 2017, the IESBA established the WG to progress the eCode initiative. The WG is exploring how best to leverage existing technologies to revamp and improve the current electronic features in the 2016 web-based Code in order to enhance the functionality, ease of access and navigation through the new Code – thereby creating an overall improved user experience. The first phase of the eCode will be based on the text of the 2018 edition of the IESBA Handbook. It is not intended to replace the traditional print version of the Code.

9. The eCode initiative is a pre-existing Board commitment as described in the IESBA's Consultation Paper, *Proposed Strategy and Work Plan 2019-2023 – Elevating Ethics in a Dynamic and Uncertain World* which is out for comment until July 16, 2018. The eCode initiative is in the public interest because it is focused on facilitating learning, compliance and enforcement, thereby contributing to the adoption and effective implementation of the Code.

Action Requested

10. IESBA are asked to consider the presentation and provide reactions to the WG.

    (A slide deck will form the basis for discussion at the June 2018 IESBA meeting. The slide deck will be posted in advance of the meeting.)