

**Meeting:** IESBA CAG  
**Meeting Location:** New York  
**Meeting Date:** March 6, 2017

## Agenda Item

# E

### IESBA Future Strategy

#### Objective of Agenda Item

- To obtain Representatives' views on the approach to, and content of, the survey of stakeholders for the purpose of developing the IESBA's Strategy and Work Plan (SWP) 2019-2023.

#### Working Group Members

- The Working Group comprises members of the IESBA Planning Committee (PC):
  - Dr. Stavros Thomadakis, IESBA Chairman
  - Richard Fleck, IESBA Deputy Chair
  - Gary Hannaford, IESBA Member
  - Reyaz Mihular, IESBA Member

*Observer*

  - Kristian Koktvedgaard, Chair, IESBA CAG

#### Status and Timeline

- At its December 2016 meeting, the IESBA began initial work on developing its SWP 2019-2023 by discussing the approach to, and possible content of, a survey of stakeholders. This survey is required under the IESBA's due process and working procedures to obtain stakeholder views about issues that they believe the IESBA should address in its next strategy period. The responses to the survey will inform the development of a draft SWP consultation paper which the IESBA will issue for public comment for no less than 60 days. The IESBA will then deliberate the feedback to the consultation paper in formulating its final SWP.
- At its March 2017 meeting, the IESBA will consider the draft survey and, taking into account the CAG's input, will finalize it for issuance. The draft survey is set out in **Agenda Item E-1**.
- The forward timeline for the development of the SWP is as follows:

Milestone	Expected Timing
Publication of survey	End March 2017
Survey closes	End May 2017
Update to IESBA	June 2017

IESBA Future Strategy  
IESBA CAG Meeting (March 2017)

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Expected Timing</b>
CAG discussion survey feedback	September 2017
Full IESBA review survey responses	September 2017
First read draft SWP consultation paper	December 2017
CAG discussion draft SWP consultation paper	March 2018
Approve SWP consultation paper	March 2018
CAG discussion consultation paper responses and draft SWP	September 2018
Full IESBA review consultation paper responses and first read draft SWP	September 2018
Final SWP approval	December 2018
PIOB approval	March 2019
Release of SWP 2019-2023	April 2019

### **Matters for Consideration**

#### APPROACH TO SURVEY

6. Broadly, the IESBA is taking an open-ended approach to the survey, with stakeholders' views sought on:
  - (a) The prioritization of a number of projects or initiatives identified as possible strategic commitments in the next SWP; and
  - (b) Other matters that they believe the IESBA should address in its next strategy period.
7. The survey will be distributed electronically to a wide range of stakeholders, including the following:
  - Current and former IESBA members and technical advisors
  - IESBA CAG member organizations
  - Other IFAC Public Interest Activity Committees
  - National standard setters
  - IFAC members and associates, and organizations affiliated to them
  - Regulatory and oversight bodies
  - Firms and their representatives, including the Forum of Firms and the IFAC SMP Committee
  - Associations of those charged with governance, including institutes of directors and regional corporate governance organizations
  - Representatives of the community of professional accountants in business (PAIBs), including the IFAC PAIB Committee
  - Investor organizations
  - INTOSAI members
  - Associations of academics

- Professional and academic ethics organizations
- Other professional organizations not already on the CAG, such as the International Fiscal Association and taxpayer associations
- Respondents to previous IESBA consultations who are not included above

**Matter for CAG Consideration**

1. Representatives are asked whether there are other stakeholder groups or particular organizations to which the survey should be distributed.

CONTENT OF SURVEY

8. Reflecting input received at the December 2016 IESBA meeting, the proposed survey covers the following matters:

- *Pre-existing commitments.* As background information, the survey identifies commitments related to standard setting or the Code more broadly that are already known and which will likely continue beyond 2018 or start in the new strategy period. These include:
  - Commitments arising from decisions on recently finalized standards and IOB input.
  - Active projects or initiatives, and commitments in the current SWP.
  - New commitments arising from discussions on current projects.
- *Possible future standards-related projects or initiatives.* The survey describes possible future projects or initiatives, grouped under two broad strategic themes:
  - Evolving the Code for continued relevance in a changing global environment.
  - Maintaining a high-quality Code for application by professional accountants globally.

The survey also flags as a possible initiative the development of guidance regarding the meaning of the global public interest from the perspective of the Code.

Stakeholders will be asked to indicate the level of importance they would assign to each project or initiative, and for comments on any aspects of the identified project or initiative.

- *Adoption and implementation.* The survey lists activities in relation to global adoption and implementation of the Code that the IESBA intends to continue in the next strategy period, and asks for views on any other actions stakeholders believe the IESBA should undertake in this area.
- *Any other matters.* The survey invites views on any environmental trends or developments (not otherwise covered earlier in the survey) that stakeholders believe could have a significant impact on the relevance or robustness of the Code, as well as any other issues they believe the IESBA should consider in developing its next SWP.

*Allowing Time for Changes to the Restructured Code to Bed Down*

9. The PC recognizes that concern exists among some stakeholders, particularly small and medium practices (SMPs) and others who adopt and implement changes to the Code, regarding standards overload. Further, with the changes that will be reflected in the restructured Code, including

substantive changes from revisions projects that were recently or will soon be completed, firms, national standard setters, IFAC member bodies and professional accountants will need time to digest and implement these changes. The PC therefore will be recommending to the IESBA that for any new changes to the Code issued after the completion of the Structure of the Code project, the IESBA consider not making them effective before June 15, 2020, i.e. a little over two years after the anticipated issuance of the restructured Code.

**Matter for CAG Consideration**

2. Representatives are asked for views on the proposed content of the strategy survey.

**Material Presented**

Agenda Item E-1 IESBA Strategy 2019-23 – Draft Survey