Stakeholder Survey July 2020 Responses due: November 23, 2020

International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board

Auditor Reporting Post-Implementation Review Stakeholder Survey



International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board

About the IAASB

The objective of the IAASB is to serve the public interest by setting high-quality auditing, assurance, and other related standards and by facilitating the convergence of international and national auditing and assurance standards, thereby enhancing the quality and consistency of practice throughout the world and strengthening public confidence in the global auditing and assurance profession.

The IAASB develops auditing and assurance standards and guidance for use by all professional accountants under a shared standard-setting process involving the Public Interest Oversight Board, which oversees the activities of the IAASB, and the IAASB Consultative Advisory Group, which provides public interest input into the development of the standards and guidance. The structures and processes that support the operations of the IAASB are facilitated by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

For copyright, trademark, and permissions information, please see page <u>82</u>.



International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

REQUEST FOR INPUT

Respondents are asked to submit the Stakeholder Survey for the Auditor Reporting Post-Implementation Review (PIR) electronically through the link provided on the IAASB's website. Access and complete the online survey using the "Audit Reporting PIR Survey" link.

We encourage stakeholders to further distribute the link to the online survey to their members or constituents, as applicable, within their jurisdictions or organizations, and as part of raising awareness or undertaking further outreach activities with all stakeholders, including those who engage with auditors or use auditor reports.

All responses to this survey, whether complete or partial, once submitted will be accepted and considered as input for the work of the Auditor Reporting Implementation Working Group (ARIWG) in relation to the Auditor Reporting PIR.

Comments are requested by November 23, 2020.

We request that you provide input by way of the online survey. This survey document as well as its individual parts may be downloaded from the IAASB website: <u>www.iaasb.org.</u> They are made available for reference purposes and to help facilitate any outreach activities that you may wish to undertake. The approved text is published in the English language.

STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

CONTENTS

Section 1 Introduction to the IAASB Auditor Reporting Post-Implementation Review	5
Section 2 IAASB Stakeholder Survey	8
Part A – Demographic Information	8
Part B – Investors and Other Users of Financial Statements	10
Part C – Regulators and Oversight Bodies	22
Part D – Preparers and Those Charged with Governance (TCWG)	35
Part E – National Standard Setters and Professional Accountancy Organizations	48
Part F – Practitioners, Auditors and Audit Firms	65

Section 1 Introduction to the IAASB Auditor Reporting Post-Implementation Review

Background to the New and Revised Auditor Reporting Standards

1. In January 2015, the IAASB issued the new and revised Auditor Reporting Standards that aimed to enhance the communicative value and relevance of the auditor's report.

Key proposals included:

- (a) For audits of financial statements of listed entities or when required by law or regulation (voluntarily application allowed for entities other than listed entities):
 - A new section in the auditor's report to communicate key audit matters (KAM). KAM are those matters that, in the auditor's professional judgment, were of most significance in the audit of the current period financial statements.
 - Disclosure of the name of the engagement partner.
- (b) For all audits:
 - Opinion section required to be presented first, followed by the Basis for Opinion section, unless law or regulation prescribe otherwise.
 - Enhanced auditor reporting on going concern including:
 - Description of the respective responsibilities of management and the auditor for going concern;

The new and revised Auditor Reporting Standards issued in January 2015 comprised:

- <u>ISA 700 (Revised)</u>, Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements
- <u>ISA 701</u>, Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report
- ISA 705 (Revised), Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report
- ISA 706 (Revised), Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report
- ISA 570 (Revised), Going Concern
- ISA 260 (Revised), Communication
 with Those Charged with
 Governance
- <u>Conforming amendments to other</u> <u>ISAs</u>.
 - ISA 720 (Revised), The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information, was issued in April 2015.
- A separate section when a material uncertainty exists and is adequately disclosed, under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern"; and
- A new requirement to challenge the adequacy of disclosures for "close calls" in view of the applicable financial reporting framework when events or conditions are identified that may cast significant doubt on an entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
- Affirmative statement about the auditor's independence and fulfillment of relevant ethical responsibilities, with disclosure of the jurisdiction of origin of those requirements or reference to the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (Including International Independence Standards).
- Enhanced description of the auditor's responsibilities and key features of an audit. Certain components of the description of the auditor's responsibilities may be presented

in an appendix to the auditor's report or, where law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permit, by reference in the auditor's report to a website of an appropriate authority.

- 2. In addition, in April 2015, the IAASB issued a revised standard addressing the auditor's responsibilities related to other information (ISA 720 (Revised)), which included responsibilities to communicate certain matters regarding other information in the auditor's report.
 - Other information comprises financial and non-financial information in the annual report, other than the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.
 - When other information is included in the annual report, the auditor's report includes an "Other Information" section which is required to include a statement that management is responsible for the other information, identify the other information, clarify that the auditor's opinion does not cover the other information, provide a description of the auditor's responsibilities, and to either state that the auditor has nothing to report or describe any uncorrected material misstatement of the other information.
- 3. The above new and revised standards became effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2016 (some jurisdictions may have adopted the standards with a different effective date).
- 4. Given the significance of these new and revised standards and the importance of improving communication between auditors and users of auditor's reports, the IAASB formed the Auditor Reporting Implementation Working Group (ARIWG), to provide ongoing support on this topic. To date, the ARIWG has undertaken various activities to raise awareness about the auditor reporting standards and promote and support adoption and implementation of the standards. The next phase of the ARIWG's work is to undertake a post-implementation review.

Post-Implementation Review (PIR)

- 5. The PIR comprises the following information gathering and research activities:
 - (a) A formal stakeholder survey;
 - (b) Targeted outreach activities with particular stakeholder groups who engage with auditors or use auditor reports; and
 - (c) A review of academic research.
- 6. Through its information gathering and research activities, the ARIWG aims to achieve the following:
 - (a) Determine whether the Standards are being consistently understood and implemented in a manner that achieves the IAASB's intended purpose in developing them.
 - (b) Identify how practical challenges and concerns are being addressed.
 - (c) Understand the extent of global demand for additional information in the auditor's report to improve transparency about the audit. This relates to, for example, whether there is demand for including the outcome of audit procedures with respect to key audit maters (KAM), additional communications about going concern, disclosures about materiality, and information about the scope of the audit.
 - (d) Understand the extent of global demand for wider application of those requirements that currently apply only to audits of financial statements of listed entities. This relates to, for example, whether

requirements dealing with the communication of KAM and disclosure of the name of the engagement partner, should apply to entities other than listed entities (or for all auditor reports).

- 7. As a result, this survey includes a series of questions to gather input on the above matters.
- 8. Furthermore, this survey seeks the views of respondents about the reporting aspects of the IAASB's Other Standards for which assurance reports are issued, i.e.:
 - (a) The International Standards on Review Engagements (ISREs); and
 - (b) The International Standards on Assurance Engagements (ISAEs).

In particular, the IAASB would like to gather input on whether reports issued in accordance with these standards should contain similar elements as an auditor's report on an audit of financial statements.

Completing the IAASB Stakeholder Survey

- 9. All responses to this survey, whether complete or partial, once submitted will be accepted and considered as input for the work of the ARIWG. The responses received will be summarized (in various ways, including, for example per stakeholder group) for purposes of progressing the PIR project, including providing feedback to the IAASB and in developing recommendations for possible further actions. Although the results of the survey may be made public through issues papers and related materials that may be tabled for the IAASB's consideration in plenary session, there will be no attribution of responses to any individual respondent.
- 10. The ARIWG appreciates the fact that different jurisdictions may be at different stages of adoption and implementation of the Auditor Reporting Standards, including that effective dates of equivalent national standards may differ from that of the respective ISAs (see also <u>IAASB Auditor Reporting</u> <u>Project Update</u>, <u>January 2020</u>, for information about the planned PIR and the results of a survey regarding the global implementation of the auditor reporting standards).
- 11. Apart from experience with the implementation and application of the auditor reporting standards and with auditor reports on financial statements, stakeholders' perspectives and views may also be informed by, for example, early adoption activities, information gathering or field testing undertaken in preparing for implementation, research and outreach activities, and pilot testing. Certain stakeholders also may have experience across multiple jurisdictions. The survey allows flexibility in terms of the options that are presented in relation to relevant questions so that respondents may appropriately respond to a topic based on their circumstances and experience.
- 12. Please note that the survey includes a supplemental question at the end regarding the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to individual aspects of auditor reporting. You are requested to please include any specific comments relating to the COVID-19 pandemic as part of your response to this separate question.

13. The survey will be open until November 23, 2020.

Please contact Armand Kotze (armandkotze@iaasb.org) for any questions.



Section 2 IAASB Stakeholder Survey

Format of Survey Questions

The survey includes conditional questions targeted for various stakeholder groups. Respondents to the survey will be prompted to provide their response only on the questions applicable to the stakeholder group they represent.

Part A – Demographic Information

Question 1

We would like to know to which stakeholder group you belong, i.e., from which perspective are you providing feedback?

- Investor or Investor Representative [Completes part B]
- Other Users of Financial Statements (e.g., analyst, creditor/supplier, lender, academics) [Completes part B]
- Audit Oversight Body [Completes part C]
- Regulator [Completes part C]
- Those Charged With Governance [Completes part D]
- Preparers and Professional Accountants in Business [Completes part D]
- National Standard Setter [Completes part E]
- Professional Accountancy Organization [Completes part E]
- Practitioners, Auditors and Audit Firms [Completes part F]

Question 2

Please provide the following information about your organization (if applicable) and other contact information:

- Your organization's name (or leave blank if you are completing the survey in your personal capacity)
- Your name and job title/role
- Your email address

Question 3

Please indicate the geographical profile which best represents your situation, i.e. from which geographical perspective are you providing feedback?

- Global
- Multiregional
- Regional
- Multiple jurisdictions
- Single jurisdiction

[Conditional on "Multiregional", "Regional" and "Multiple jurisdictions" to Question 3]

Please specify the region(s) and/or jurisdictions which apply to your situation:

Question 5

[Conditional on "Single jurisdiction" to Question 3]

Please select your jurisdiction:

[Selection from provided menu of countries]

Question 6

Did you undertake outreach activities with other stakeholders to inform your responses to this survey?

[Yes / No]

Question 7

[Conditional on "Yes" for response to Question 6]

Please provide further information about your outreach activities, including:

- The manner in which the outreach was undertaken.
- The nature and number (or estimate thereof) of stakeholders with whom you engaged.

Question 8

You are welcome to provide any additional information you believe may be relevant to clarify the context in which you are completing the survey, or the circumstances or experiences that have informed your views or perspectives (or you can choose to leave this question blank).

Part B – Investors and Other Users of Financial Statements

General matters regarding your interaction with the new auditor's report

Question 1

Are you aware that the format and contents of the auditor's report has changed, including a requirement for auditors of listed entities to communicate key audit matters (KAM)?

Awareness that the format and contents of the auditor's report has changed (including KAM)	Yes	No
I am aware that the format and contents of the auditor's report has changed (including communication of KAM)		

Question 2

Do you generally read the auditor's report?

Reading the auditor's report	Yes	No
I generally read the auditor's report		

Question 3

[Conditional on "Yes" to question 2 above]

Please indicate which of the following options best describe the extent to which you read the auditor's report:

Extent to which the auditor's report is read	Applicable	Not applicable
Entire auditor's report		
Only the key audit matters section of the auditor's report (i.e., matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period)		
Only the auditor's opinion (together with the basis for opinion)		
Only the auditor's opinion (together with the basis for opinion), as well as the key audit matters section		

Question 4

[Conditional on "No" to question 2 above]

Please provide a reason(s) why you choose not to read the auditor's report?

Overall perceptions about the new auditor's report

Question 5

Has the new auditor's report increased your confidence in the quality of the audit performed?

ncreased confidence in the quality of the audit performed	Yes	No	No particular view
The new auditor's report has increased my confidence in he quality of the audit performed			

Question 6

In your view, to what extent has the following information provided in the new auditor's report been useful?

Whether information provided in the new auditor's reports is useful	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view
Key audit matters (i.e., matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period)					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]
Changes to the presentation of the auditor's report (i.e., opinion section required to be presented first, followed by the basis for opinion section)					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]
When applicable, including a separate section under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern"					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				
Affirmative statement about the auditor's independence and fulfillment of relevant ethical responsibilities, as well as identification of the relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit					

Whether information provided in the new auditor's reports is useful	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view	
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					
Descriptions of the respective responsibilities of the auditor and of management and those charged with governance						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					
When applicable, a section on "Other Information" that describes the auditor's responsibilities and work with respect to such information						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					
Name of the engagement partner						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					

Key audit matters (KAM)

Question 7

The description of KAM in the auditor's report requires a reference to the related disclosure(s), if any, in the financial statements and is required to address:

- (a) Why the matter was considered to be one of most significance in the audit and therefore determined to be a key audit matter; and
- (b) How the matter was addressed in the audit.

Based on the descriptions of KAM in the auditor's reports you have read, is the information communicated meeting your expectations (indicated by how useful you have found the information in providing transparency about KAM)?

Information communicated about KAM	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view
A reference to the <u>related disclosure(s)</u> , if any, in the financial statements					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				
Description of <u>why</u> the matter was considered to be of most significance in the audit and therefore determined to be a KAM					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				
Description of <i>how</i> the matter was addressed in the audit					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				

Question 8

Based on the description of KAM in the auditor's reports you have read, indicate the extent to which you agree that the communication about the matters is:

Description of KAM	Strongly agree	Agree	No particular view	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Concise (i.e., a relatively short description of the matter and how it was addressed by the auditor)					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				
Understandable (i.e., the description of the matter and how it was addressed is not overly technical)					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				

Description of KAM	Strongly agree	Agree	No particular view	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Specific to the entity (i.e., boilerplate language was not used)					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				

Question 9

Please indicate the degree to which you agree with the following statements that represent certain perceptions about the communication of KAM in the auditor's report:

Certain perceptions about the communication of KAM in the auditor's report	Strongly agree	Agree	No particular view	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Fewer KAM in the auditor's report increase my confidence in the audit (and the financial statements)					
			to provide a - reasons, ob		
More KAM in the auditor's report increase my confidence in the audit (and the financial statements)					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				
An individual KAM often relates to a specific item(s) presented or disclosed in the financial statements, which increases my confidence about that particular item(s) in the financial statements					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				
The communication of KAM provides greater transparency about the audit that was performed – as a whole (i.e., not only in relation to the matters that are the subject of KAM)					

Certain perceptions about the communication of KAM in the auditor's report	Strongly agree	Agree	No particular view	Disagree	Strongly disagree
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				
KAM represent business risks or issues that need to be resolved by management					
			to provide a - reasons, ob		
In terms of the audit performed, KAM represent matters that have been resolved (i.e., they are not unresolved audit issues)					
			to provide a - reasons, ob		

Is it your perception that disclosures in the financial statements regarding the items to which KAM relate have changed or been enhanced since the new auditor's report was introduced?

Perception about disclosures in the financial statements	Yes	No	No particular view
My perception is that disclosures in the financial statements regarding the items to which KAM relate have changed or been enhanced			
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, etc.]		

Question 11

The standard does not prohibit an auditor from communicating additional information about a KAM, and provides guidance to auditors on additional information that the auditor may consider communicating. The IAASB is aware that some trends have evolved globally on additional information that is communicated by auditors.

The IAASB is particularly interested in those instances where, in addition to the required information about why a matter is a KAM and how the matter was addressed in the audit, the auditor also communicated information about the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to the matter (i.e., what the auditor found or observed).

Based on auditor's reports you have read, have you noticed that auditors provide additional information in terms of describing the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM?

Description of the outcome of audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM	Yes	No	Uncertain
I have noticed that auditors provide additional information in terms of describing the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM			

Question 12

In your view, are descriptions of the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM useful?

Description of the outcome of audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view
Descriptions of the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				

Question 13

The IAASB's standards currently only require KAM to be communicated in the auditor's reports for audits of listed entities. Jurisdictional requirements may require that auditors communicate KAM for certain other entities. Auditors may also decide to voluntarily communicate KAM in auditor's reports of other entities.

In your view, should the communication of KAM be mandatory for entities other than listed entities?

Communicating KAM in auditor reports of entities other than listed entities	Yes	No	No particular view	
For public interest entities (recognizing that "public interest entity" may be a jurisdictional determination)				
For all entities (i.e., in all instances where an audit of financial statements is performed)				
For certain specific types of entities				
	[If applicable, please use this box to indicate th types of entities which you have in mind]			

Based on and further to your responses to the previous questions, please provide any additional views about how you believe the communication of KAM can be improved.

Please provide input

Other Information section of the auditor's report

Question 15

Other information comprises financial and non-financial information in the annual report, other than the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. For example, depending on law, regulation or custom in a jurisdiction, other information may include: the directors' report, audit committee report, corporate governance statement, and management commentary.

When other information is included in the annual report, the auditor's report includes an "Other Information" section which is required to include a statement that management is responsible for the other information, identify the other information, clarify that the auditor's opinion does not cover the other information, provide a description of the auditor's responsibilities, and to either state that the auditor has nothing to report or describe any uncorrected material misstatement of the other information.

In your view, has the "Other Information" section provided you with greater clarity or transparency about the other information included in the annual report?

Greater clarity or transparency about the other information	Yes	No	No particular view
The "Other Information" section in the auditor's report has provided me with greater clarity or transparency about the other information included in the annual report			
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, etc.]		

Question 16

Is it clear to you that the auditor's opinion on the financial statements does not extend to the other information included in the annual report (i.e., that no form of assurance conclusion is being expressed on the other information)?

No assurance on the other information	Yes	No	No particular view
It is clear that the auditor's opinion on the financial statements does not extend to the other information included in the annual report			

No assurance on the other information	Yes	No	No particular view
		in relation to	k to provide additional your answer – reasons,

In your view, is it clear which other information was read and considered by the auditor, and is the description of the auditor's responsibilities regarding the other information clear and understandable?

Views about the clarity and understandability of the other information read and considered by the auditor	Clear	Unclear	No particular view	
The other information the auditor read and considered				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, etc.]			
The auditor's responsibilities regarding the other information				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, etc.]			

Additional information communicated in the auditor's report (i.e., in addition to what is required by the new and revised Auditor Reporting Standards)

Question 18

In your view, would communication of the following additional information in the auditor's report be useful in further enhancing the understanding of the audit that was performed:

Additional information that could be provided by auditors	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view
Information about materiality applied by the auditor in conducting the audit					
			•	additional ir observations	nformation in s, etc.]
Information about the scope of the audit (i.e., the auditor's approach to the audit)					

Additional information that could be provided by auditors	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view
	-		•	additional ir observations	nformation in s, etc.]
Information about the auditor's procedures relating to management's going concern assessment					
			•	additional ir observations	nformation in s, etc.]
Information about other aspects of the audit (please specify)					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				

Other types of engagements

Question 19

In addition to audits of financial statements, professional accountants perform other types of engagements for which assurance reports are issued. These include review engagements (e.g., a review of interim financial information) and other assurance engagements (e.g., assurance on greenhouse gas statements).

In your view, should the assurance reports for other types of engagements contain elements similar to those in the auditor's reports on an audit of financial statements, such as the structure of the report i.e., opinion/conclusion first, and the communication of key matters that would, in the context of those engagements, be similar to KAM?

Assurance reports for other types of engagements	Yes	No	No particular view
Review engagements, including reviews of interim financial information			
	[Please provide additional information in related to any elements of the report that may be particular interest to you, or elements that you not believe should be changed]		
Other assurance engagements (e.g., assurance reports on greenhouse gas statements or ISAE 3000 (Revised) assurance engagements)			

Assurance reports for other types of engagements	Yes	No	No particular view
	to any ele particular ir	ments of the	al information in relation report that may be of or elements that you do anged]

Any other input or feedback (including in relation to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic)

Question 20

The COVID-19 pandemic has had wide ranging impacts for society and business. The unpredictable circumstances in this environment have created pressures and challenges for entities when preparing their financial statements, as well as for auditors in obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence and considering the impact on the auditor's report.

Have you noted or experienced any specific effects or challenges in relation to the following elements of the auditor's report (when applicable to a specific audit engagement)?

Comments relating to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic	Yes	Νο	Uncertain	
Modifications to the auditor's opinion, i.e., a qualified opinion, adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion (and the related basis for opinion)				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, suggestions, etc.]			
Inclusion of a separate section in the auditor's report under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern"				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, suggestions, etc.]			
Communication of key audit matters (KAM) in the auditor's report				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, suggestions, etc.]			

Comments relating to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic	Yes	Νο	Uncertain	
Inclusion of an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph (i.e. used by the auditor to draw attention to a matter presented or disclosed in the financial statements)				
	information in re	this box to pro elation to your an uggestions, etc.]		
Inclusion of an Other Matter Paragraph (i.e. used by the auditor to refer to a matter that is relevant to users' understanding of the audit, the auditor's responsibilities or the auditor's report)				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, suggestions, etc.]			
The "Other Information" section of the auditor's report (i.e. relating to information in the annual report, other than the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon)				
	information in re	this box to pro elation to your an uggestions, etc.]		
Any other challenges or matters to be highlighted				
	information in re	this box to pro elation to your an uggestions, etc.]		

Question 21

Please provide any further views, observations or suggestions you may have in relation to the auditor's report (and why).

Part C – Regulators and Oversight Bodies

General matters regarding key changes to the new auditor's report and their implementation

Question 1

In your view, to what extent has the following information provided in the new auditor's report been useful?

Whether information provided in the new auditor's reports is useful	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view
Key audit matters (i.e., matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period)					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]
Changes to the presentation of the auditor's report (i.e., opinion section required to be presented first, followed by the basis for opinion section)					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]
When applicable, including a separate section under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern"					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]
Affirmative statement about the auditor's independence and fulfillment of relevant ethical responsibilities, as well as identification of the relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]
Descriptions of the respective responsibilities of the auditor and of management and those charged with governance					

Whether information provided in the new auditor's reports is useful	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]
When applicable, a section on "Other Information" that describes the auditor's responsibilities and work with respect to such information					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]
Name of the engagement partner					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				

Regarding your inspections of audit engagements, have there been findings in respect of the following elements of the new auditor's report (note, the next question facilitates that you also may wish to attach or provide a link(s) to any recent reports or documents issued, summarizing key findings)?

Inspection findings in respect of certain elements of the new auditor's report	Yes	No	Not applicable	
Key audit matters (i.e., matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period)				
	[You may use this box to provide inform about the nature of key findings, com themes, observations, etc.]			
Changes to the presentation of the auditor's report (i.e., opinion section required to be presented first, followed by the basis for opinion section)				
		ure of key fii	ovide information ndings, common	

Inspection findings in respect of certain elements of the new auditor's report	Yes	No	Not applicable	
When applicable, including a separate section under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern"				
		ure of key fir	ovide information ndings, common	
Affirmative statement about the auditor's independence and fulfillment of relevant ethical responsibilities, as well as identification of the relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit				
	[You may use this box to provide information about the nature of key findings, common themes, observations, etc.]			
Descriptions of the respective responsibilities of the auditor and of management and those charged with governance				
	[You may use this box to provide information about the nature of key findings, common themes, observations, etc.]			
When applicable, a section on "Other Information" that describes the auditor's responsibilities and work with respect to such information				
	[You may use this box to provide information about the nature of key findings, common themes, observations, etc.]			
Name of the engagement partner				
		ure of key fir	ovide information ndings, common	

Please provide any other observations or input regarding inspection findings that have been raised in respect of the new auditor's report. You also may wish to attach or provide a link(s) to any recent reports or documents issued, summarizing key findings.

Additional input			

Key audit matters (KAM)

Question 4

In your view, has the communication of KAM enhanced the overall quality of audits performed? (Note, the next question addresses some individual aspects relating to quality).

Views about the impact of the communication of KAM on the quality of audits performed	Yes	No	No particular view
The communication of KAM has enhanced the overall quality of audits performed			
	[You may use this box to provide addit information in relation to your answer, specific observations or views on the topic]		

Question 5

Indicate the degree to which, in your view, the communication of KAM has enhanced the following aspects in relation to the quality of audits performed:

Views about certain aspects in relation to KAM and the quality of audits performed	Significant	High	Moderate	Low	No particular view	
Enhanced engagement among the auditor and management or those charged with governance						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer, e.g., specific observations or views on the topic]					
Higher level of involvement in the audit by the engagement partner						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation t your answer, e.g., specific observations or views on the topic]					

Views about certain aspects in relation to KAM and the quality of audits performed	Significant	High	Moderate	Low	No particular view	
Robustness of audit procedures (e.g., improved planning, more effective audit procedures to address the risks of material misstatement, improved documentation, etc.)						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer, e.g., specific observations or views on the topic]					
Other aspects (please specify)						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer, e.g., specific observations or views on the topic]					

Question 6

Have you observed improved communication with those charged with governance (TCWG) about the matters that were the subject of KAM?

Improved communication with TCWG	Yes	No	Not applicable	
Improved frequency of communications with TCWG				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer, e.g specific observations or views on the topic]			
Increased robustness of communications with TCWG				
	[You may use this box to provide additio information in relation to your answer, e specific observations or views on the topic]			

Question 7

Based on your inspections of audit engagements, indicate the degree to which you agree with the following statements relating to disclosures in the financial statements:

Observations relating to disclosures in the financial statements	Strongly agree	Agree	No particular view	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Disclosures in the financial statements regarding the items to which KAM relate have changed or been enhanced since the new auditor's report was introduced					
			to provide a e.g., specific c		
Changes or improvements were made to disclosures based on the interactions among the auditor, management and those charged with governance as the financial statements were prepared and finalized					
			to provide a e.g., specific c		
The level of consistency of the disclosures in the financial statements with the related KAM descriptions has been satisfactory					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer, e.g., specific observations or views on the topic]				

The standard does not prohibit an auditor from communicating additional information about a KAM, and provides guidance to auditors on additional information that the auditor may consider communicating. The IAASB is aware that some trends have evolved globally on additional information that is communicated by auditors.

The IAASB is particularly interested in those instances where, in addition to the required information about why a matter is a KAM and how the matter was addressed in the audit, the auditor also communicated information about the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to the matter (i.e., what the auditor found or observed).

Based on auditor's reports you have read, have you noticed that auditors provide additional information in terms of describing the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM?

Description of the outcome of audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM	Yes	Νο	Uncertain
I/we have noticed that auditors provide additional information in terms of describing the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM			

In your view, are descriptions of the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM useful?

Description of the outcome of audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view
Descriptions of the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				

Question 10

The IAASB's standards currently only require KAM to be communicated in the auditor's reports for audits of listed entities. Jurisdictional requirements may require that auditors communicate KAM for certain other entities. Auditors may also decide to voluntarily communicate KAM in auditor's reports of other entities.

In your view, should the communication of KAM be mandatory for entities other than listed entities?

Communicating KAM in auditor reports of entities other than listed entities	Yes	No	No particular view	
For public interest entities (recognizing that "public interest entity" may be a jurisdictional determination)				
For all entities (i.e., in all instances where an audit of financial statements is performed)				
For certain specific types of entities				
	[If applicable, please use this box to indicate the types of entities which you have in mind]			

Based on and further to your responses to the previous questions, please provide any additional views about how you believe the communication of KAM can be improved.

Other Information section of the auditor's report

Question 12

Other information comprises financial and non-financial information in the annual report, other than the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. For example, depending on law, regulation or custom in a jurisdiction, other information may include: the directors' report, audit committee report, corporate governance statement, and management commentary.

When other information is included in the annual report, the auditor's report includes an "Other Information" section which is required to include a statement that management is responsible for the other information, identify the other information, clarify that the auditor's opinion does not cover the other information, provide a description of the auditor's responsibilities, and to either state that the auditor has nothing to report or describe any uncorrected material misstatement of the other information.

Based on your observations, has the "Other Information" section provided users of financial statements with greater clarity or transparency about the other information included in the annual report?

Greater clarity or transparency about the other information	Yes	No	No particular view	
In my/our view, the "Other Information" section in the auditor's report has provided users with greater clarity or transparency about the other information included in the annual report				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, etc.]			

Question 13

Have you identified any issues or had any findings relating to which other information the auditor read and considered, or relating to the description of the auditor's responsibilities regarding the other information?

Issues or findings regarding certain aspects of the "Other Information" section	Yes	No	No particular view
Identifying which other information the auditor read and considered?			

Issues or findings regarding certain aspects of the "Other Information" section	Yes	No	No particular view	
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer, e specific observations or views on the topic]			
Instances where, in your view, certain information should have been part of the other information that was read and considered by the auditor, but wasn't?				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer, e.g specific observations or views on the topic]			
The required description of the auditor's responsibilities regarding the other information?				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer, e. specific observations or views on the topic]			
Any other issues regarding other information (please specify)?				
	[Please provide information relating to any su other issues]			

Question 14

In your experience, what types of information was generally considered to be other information?

Please provide	
input	

Any other issues with the new and revised auditor reporting standards

Question 15

Based on and further to your responses to the previous questions, if applicable, have you identified any other regulatory or inspection issues arising from the new and revised auditor reporting standards?

Any other regulatory or inspection issues	Yes	No	Not applicable
I/we have identified other regulatory or inspection issues arising from the new and revised auditor reporting standards			

Any other regulatory or inspection issues	Yes	Νο	Not applicable
		use this bo nformation in re	

Additional information communicated in the auditor's report (i.e., in addition to what is required by the new and revised Auditor Reporting Standards)

Question 16

In your view, would communication of the following additional information in the auditor's report be useful in further enhancing the understanding of the audit that was performed:

Additional information included in the auditor's report	Very useful	Useful	Limited Value	Not useful	No particular view	
Information about materiality applied by the auditor in conducting the audit						
		is box to provide Is, observations, e		rmation in re	elation to your	
Information about the scope of the audit (i.e., the auditor's approach to the audit)						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					
Information about the auditor's procedures relating to management's going concern assessment						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					
Information about other aspects of the audit (please specify)						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					

Other types of engagements

Question 17

In addition to audits of financial statements, professional accountants perform other types of engagements for which assurance reports are issued. These include review engagements (e.g., a review of interim financial information) and other assurance engagements (e.g., assurance on greenhouse gas statements).

In your view, should the assurance reports for other types of engagements contain elements similar to those in the auditor's reports on an audit of financial statements, such as the structure of the report i.e., opinion/conclusion first, and the communication of key matters that would, in the context of those engagements, be similar to KAM?

Assurance reports for other types of engagements	Yes	No	No particular view
Review engagements, including reviews of interim financial information			
	[Please provide additional information in relation to any elements of the report that may be of particular interest to you, or elements that you do not believe should be changed]		
Other assurance engagements (e.g., assurance reports on greenhouse gas statements or ISAE 3000 (Revised) assurance engagements)			
	[Please provide additional information in relation to any elements of the report that may be of particular interest to you, or elements that you do not believe should be changed]		

Any other input or feedback (including in relation to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic)

Question 18

The COVID-19 pandemic has had wide ranging impacts for society and business. The unpredictable circumstances in this environment have created pressures and challenges for entities when preparing their financial statements, as well as for auditors in obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence and considering the impact on the auditor's report.

Have you noted or experienced any specific effects or challenges in relation to the following elements of the auditor's report (when applicable to a specific audit engagement)?

Comments relating to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic	Yes	Νο	Uncertain
Modifications to the auditor's opinion, i.e., a qualified opinion, adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion (and the related basis for opinion)			
	information in re	this box to pr elation to your an uggestions, etc.]	
Inclusion of a separate section in the auditor's report under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern"			
	information in re	this box to pre elation to your an uggestions, etc.]	
Communication of key audit matters (KAM) in the auditor's report			
	information in re	this box to pre elation to your an uggestions, etc.]	
Inclusion of an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph (i.e. used by the auditor to draw attention to a matter presented or disclosed in the financial statements)			
	information in re	this box to pre elation to your an uggestions, etc.]	
Inclusion of an Other Matter Paragraph (i.e. used by the auditor to refer to a matter that is relevant to users' understanding of the audit, the auditor's responsibilities or the auditor's report)			
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, suggestions, etc.]		
The "Other Information" section of the auditor's report (i.e. relating to information in the annual report, other than the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon)			

Comments relating to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic	Yes	No	Uncertain	
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons observations, suggestions, etc.]			
Any other challenges or matters to be highlighted				
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, suggestions, etc.]			

Question 19

Please provide any further views, observations or suggestions you may have in relation to the auditor's report (and why).

Part D – Preparers and Those Charged with Governance (TCWG)

Overall perceptions about the new auditor's report

Question 1

Has the new auditor's report increased your confidence in the quality of the audit performed?

Increased confidence in the quality of the audit performed	Yes	No	No particular view
The new auditor's report has increased my confidence in the quality of the audit performed			

Question 2

In your view, to what extent has the following information provided in the new auditor's report been useful?

Whether information provided in the new auditor's reports is useful	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view
Key audit matters (i.e., matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period)					
	[You may use this box to provide additional inf relation to your answer – reasons, observations,				
Changes to the presentation of the auditor's report (i.e., opinion section required to be presented first, followed by the basis for opinion section)					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in าร, etc.]
When applicable, including a separate section under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern"					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in าร, etc.]
Affirmative statement about the auditor's independence and fulfillment of relevant ethical responsibilities, as well as identification of the relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit					

Whether information provided in the new auditor's reports is useful	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				
Descriptions of the respective responsibilities of the auditor and of management and those charged with governance					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				
When applicable, a section on "Other Information" that describes the auditor's responsibilities and work with respect to such information					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				
Name of the engagement partner					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]

Key audit matters (KAM)

Question 3

In your view, has the communication of KAM enhanced the overall quality of audits performed?

Views about the impact of the communication of KAM on the quality of audits performed	Yes	No	No particular view
The communication of KAM has enhanced the overall quality of audits performed			
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer, e specific observations or views on the topic]		

Question 4

Indicate the degree to which, in your view, the communication of KAM in the auditor's report has provided **benefits for you or your organization** as it relates to the following aspects:

Perceptions about benefits arising from the communication of KAM in the auditor's reports	Significant	High	Moderate	Low	No particular view	
Enhanced communication among the auditor and management throughout the audit						
	[You may use your answer – r	-		al informatio	on in relation to	
Enhanced frequency and robustness of communication among the auditor and those charged with governance						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					
Enhanced communication internally, among management and those charged with governance						
	[You may use your answer – r			al informati	on in relation to	
Enhanced involvement (more focused and frequent) in the audit by the engagement partner						
	[You may use your answer – r			al information	on in relation to	
Enhanced understanding of the matters to which KAM relate, including the risks of material misstatement associated with the related items in the financial statements or the audit procedures performed in this regard						
	[You may use your answer – r			al informatio	on in relation to	

Perceptions about benefits arising from the communication of KAM in the auditor's reports	Significant	High	Moderate	Low	No particular view	
Changes or enhancements to disclosures in the financial statements regarding the matters to which KAM relate						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					
In relation to other aspects of the audit (please specify)						
[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]						

Question 5

The communication of KAM was expected to require additional time and effort, not only from auditors, but also from management and those charged with governance of entities, especially when the new auditor's report first became effective. Do you believe that the additional time and effort required in relation to the following aspects have been, and continues to be, acceptable in terms of being proportionate to the benefits?

Views about the time and effort required to address KAM	Yes	No	No particular view	
The entity's financial reporting process, including the preparation of disclosures in the financial statements				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, etc.]			
Reviewing and discussing the wording of the KAM paragraphs in the auditor's report				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reaso observations, etc.]			
Any other aspects – please specify				

Views about the time and effort required to address KAM	Yes	No	No particular view	
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, etc.]			

[Conditional on Part A Question 1, for "Those charged with governance (TCWG)"]

Were you required to comment on (or communicate about) the matters that were identified by the auditors as KAM, for example, a requirement in law or regulation that the audit committee communicates its views on KAM in an audit committee report?

Mandatory communication as a result of KAM	Yes	No	Not applicable
TCWG are required to communicate about the matters that were identified by the auditor as KAM (mandatory communication)			
			box to provide further such requirement]

Question 7

[Conditional on "No" to Question 6]

Did the communication of KAM lead to a desire to, or need for communication about the matters that were identified by the auditor as KAM, for example, the audit committee voluntarily communicating its views on KAM in an audit committee report?

Voluntary communication by TCWG as a result of KAM	Yes	No	Not applicable	
TCWG decided to voluntarily communicate about the matters that were identified by the auditor as KAM				
	[You may use this box to provide additio information in relation to your answer – reaso observations, etc.]			

Question 8

Based on the description of KAM in auditor's reports you have read, indicate the extent to which you agree that the communication about the matters is:

Description of KAM	Strongly agree	Agree	No particular view	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
Concise (i.e., a relatively short description of the matter and how it was addressed by the auditor)						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					
Understandable (i.e., the description of the matter and how it was addressed is not overly technical)						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					
Specific to the entity (i.e., boilerplate language was not used)						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					

Question 9

Please indicate the degree to which you agree with the following statements that represent certain perceptions about the communication of KAM in the auditor's report:

Certain perceptions about the communication of KAM in the auditor's report	Strongly agree	Agree	No particular view	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
Fewer KAM in the auditor's report increase my confidence in the audit (and the financial statements)						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					
More KAM in the auditor's report increase my confidence in the audit (and the financial statements)						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					

Certain perceptions about the communication of KAM in the auditor's report	Strongly agree	Agree	No particular view	Disagree	Strongly disagree
An individual KAM often relates to a specific item(s) presented or disclosed in the financial statements, which increases my confidence about that particular item(s) in the financial statements					
			to provide a - reasons, ob		
The communication of KAM provides greater transparency about the audit that was performed – as a whole (i.e., not only in relation to the matters that are the subject of KAM)					
			to provide a - reasons, ob		
KAM represent business risks or issues that need to be resolved by management					
			to provide a - reasons, ob		
In terms of the audit performed, KAM represent matters that have been resolved (i.e., they are not unresolved audit issues)					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				

The standard does not prohibit an auditor from communicating additional information about a KAM, and provides guidance to auditors on additional information that the auditor may consider communicating. The IAASB is aware that some trends have evolved globally on additional information that is communicated by auditors.

The IAASB is particularly interested in those instances where, in addition to the required information about why a matter is a KAM and how the matter was addressed in the audit, the auditor also communicated information about the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to the matter (i.e., what the auditor found or observed).

Based on auditor reports you have read, have you noticed that auditors provide additional information in terms of describing the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM?

Description of the outcome or key observations arising from the audit procedures performed regarding KAM	Yes	No	Uncertain
I have noticed that auditors provide additional information in terms of describing the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM			

Question 11

In your view, are descriptions of the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM useful?

Description of the outcome or key observations arising from the audit procedures performed regarding KAM	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view	
Descriptions of the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					

Question 12

The IAASB's standards currently only require KAM to be communicated in the auditor's reports for audits of listed entities. Jurisdictional requirements may require that auditors communicate KAM for certain other entities. Auditors may also decide to voluntarily communicate KAM in auditor's reports of other entities.

In your view, should the communication of KAM be mandatory for entities other than listed entities?

Communicating KAM in auditor reports of entities other than listed entities	Yes	No	No particular view
For public interest entities (recognizing that "public interest entity" may be a jurisdictional determination)			
For all entities (i.e., in all instances where an audit of financial statements is performed)			
For certain specific types of entities			

Communicating KAM in auditor reports of entities other than listed entities	Yes	No	No particular view	
	[If applicable, please use this box to indicate types of entities which you have in mind]			

Based on and further to your responses to the previous questions, please provide any additional views about how you believe the communication of KAM can be improved.

Other Information section of the auditor's report

Question 14

Other information comprises financial and non-financial information in the annual report, other than the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. For example, depending on law, regulation or custom in a jurisdiction, other information may include: the directors' report, audit committee report, corporate governance statement, and management commentary.

When other information is included in the annual report, the auditor's report includes an "Other Information" section which is required to include a statement that management is responsible for the other information, identify the other information, clarify that the auditor's opinion does not cover the other information, provide a description of the auditor's responsibilities, and to either state that the auditor has nothing to report or describe any uncorrected material misstatement of the other information.

In your view, has the "Other Information" section provided you with greater clarity or transparency about the other information included in the annual report?

Greater clarity or transparency about the other information	Yes	No	No particular view	
The "Other Information" section in the auditor's report has provided me with greater clarity or transparency about the other information included in the annual report				
	[You may use this box to provide addit information in relation to your answer – reas observations, etc.]			

Question 15

Is it clear to you that the auditor's opinion on the financial statements does not extend to the other information included in the annual report (i.e., that no form of assurance conclusion is being expressed on the other information)?

No assurance on the other information	Yes	No	No particular view	
It is clear that the auditor's opinion on the financial statements does not extend to the other information included in the annual report				
	[You may use this box to provide addi information in relation to your answer – rea observations, etc.]			

Question 16

In the circumstances of your organization, or based on your experience with external reporting more broadly, what types of information is generally considered to be other information?

Please provide input

Additional information communicated in the auditor's report (i.e., in addition to what is required by the new and revised Auditor Reporting Standards)

Question 17

In your view, would communication of the following additional information in the auditor's report be useful in further enhancing the understanding of the audit that was performed:

Additional information included in the auditor's report	Very useful	Useful	Limited Value	Not useful	No particular view	
Information about materiality applied by the auditor in conducting the audit						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					
Information about the scope of the audit (i.e., the auditor's approach to the audit)						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					
Information about the auditor's procedures relating						

Additional information included in the auditor's report	Very useful	Useful	Limited Value	Not useful	No particular view		
to management's going concern assessment							
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]						
Information about other aspects of the audit (please specify)							
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to you answer – reasons, observations, etc.]						

Other types of engagements

Question 18

In addition to audits of financial statements, professional accountants perform other types of engagements for which assurance reports are issued. These include review engagements (e.g., a review of interim financial information) and other assurance engagements (e.g., assurance on greenhouse gas statements).

In your view, should the assurance reports for other types of engagements contain elements similar to those in the auditor's reports on an audit of financial statements, such as the structure of the report i.e., opinion/conclusion first, and the communication of key matters that would, in the context of those engagements, be similar to KAM?

Assurance reports for other types of engagements	Yes	No	No particular view	
Review engagements, including reviews of interim financial information				
	[Please provide additional information in relation to any elements of the report that may be of particular interest to you, or elements that you do not believe should be changed]			
Other assurance engagements (e.g., assurance reports on greenhouse gas statements or ISAE 3000 (Revised) assurance engagements)				
	[Please provide additional information in relation to any elements of the report that may be particular interest to you, or elements that you not believe should be changed]			

Any other input or feedback (including in relation to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic)

Question 19

The COVID-19 pandemic has had wide ranging impacts for society and business. The unpredictable circumstances in this environment have created pressures and challenges for entities when preparing their financial statements, as well as for auditors in obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence and considering the impact on the auditor's report.

Have you noted or experienced any specific effects or challenges in relation to the following elements of the auditor's report (when applicable to a specific audit engagement)?

Comments relating to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic	Yes	No	Uncertain		
Modifications to the auditor's opinion, i.e., a qualified opinion, adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion (and the related basis for opinion)					
	information in re	this box to pro elation to your an uggestions, etc.]			
Inclusion of a separate section in the auditor's report under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern"					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, suggestions, etc.]				
Communication of key audit matters (KAM) in the auditor's report					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasonal observations, suggestions, etc.]				
Inclusion of an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph (i.e. used by the auditor to draw attention to a matter presented or disclosed in the financial statements)					
	[You may use this box to provide additiona information in relation to your answer – reasons observations, suggestions, etc.]				
Inclusion of an Other Matter Paragraph (i.e. used by the auditor to refer to a matter that is relevant to users'					

Comments relating to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic	Yes	No	Uncertain		
understanding of the audit, the auditor's responsibilities or the auditor's report)					
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, suggestions, etc.]				
The "Other Information" section of the auditor's report (i.e. relating to information in the annual report, other than the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon)					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons observations, suggestions, etc.]				
Any other challenges or matters to be highlighted					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, suggestions, etc.]				

Question 20

Please provide any further views, observations or suggestions you may have in relation to the auditor's report (and why).

Part E – National Standard Setters and Professional Accountancy Organizations

General matters regarding key changes to the new auditor's report and implementation of the new and revised auditor reporting standards

Question 1

In your view, to what extent has the following information provided in the new auditor's report been useful?

Whether information provided in the new auditor's reports is useful	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view
Key audit matters (i.e., matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period)					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in าร, etc.]
Changes to the presentation of the auditor's report (i.e., opinion section required to be presented first, followed by the basis for opinion section)					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in าร, etc.]
When applicable, including a separate section under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern"					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in าร, etc.]
Affirmative statement about the auditor's independence and fulfillment of relevant ethical responsibilities, as well as identification of the relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in าร, etc.]
Descriptions of the respective responsibilities of the auditor and of management and those charged with governance					

Whether information provided in the new auditor's reports is useful	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view	
			ox to provide er – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]	
When applicable, a section on "Other Information" that describes the auditor's responsibilities and work with respect to such information						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					
Name of the engagement partner						
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]					

Question 2

In your jurisdiction, have there been any changes or modifications (e.g., new or different or incremental requirements) to the equivalent national standards of the new and revised auditor reporting standards of the IAASB (note, the next question facilitates that you also may wish to attach or provide a link(s) to relevant material in this regard)?

[Please note, ISA 720 (Revised) that deals with "Other Information", is addressed in a separate section of this survey.]

Changes or modification to national standards related to the new and revised auditor reporting standards	Yes	Νο	Not applicable
ISA 700 (Revised), <i>Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements</i> – in particular in relation to the new items of information in the auditor's report as referred to in question 1 above			
	[lf applicable, pro your answer]	vide additional info	rmation to support
ISA 701, Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report			
	[If applicable, pro your answer]	vide additional info	rmation to support

Changes or modification to national standards related to the new and revised auditor reporting standards	Yes	Νο	Not applicable	
ISA 705 (Revised), <i>Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report</i>				
	[If applicable, pro your answer]	vide additional info	rmation to support	
ISA 706 (Revised), Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report				
	[If applicable, provide additional information to support your answer]			
ISA 570 (Revised), Going Concern				
	[If applicable, provide additional information to support your answer]			
ISA 260 (Revised), <i>Communication with Those Charged with Governance</i>				
	[If applicable, provide additional information to support your answer]			
Any other national requirements relating to auditor reporting – please specify				
	[lf applicable, pro your answer]	vide additional info	rmation to support	

Question 3

Referring to your responses in relation to the previous question, if, in your jurisdiction, there have been changes or modifications to the equivalent national standards of the new and revised auditor reporting standards of the IAASB, you also may wish to attach or provide a link(s) to relevant material in this regard.

Additional input		

Question 4

What actions have been taken in your jurisdiction to support the adoption and implementation of the new and revised auditor reporting standards (including, for example, practice guidance, support materials or training)?

Description

Question 5

If you are aware of additional practice guidance or support materials developed to support the implementation of the new and revised auditor reporting standards, it will be helpful to the IAASB if you can attach or provide a link(s) to such materials.

Description and links (as applicable)

Question 6

If you are aware of any information gathering or research activities that have been undertaken regarding the implementation and impact of the new auditor's report, it will be helpful to the IAASB if you can attach or provide a link(s) to the related reports or documents.

Description and		
links		
(as applicable)		

Issues or implementation challenges with the new and revised auditor reporting standards (<u>other</u> <u>than</u> pertaining to KAM or "Other Information", which are addressed in separate sections of this survey)

Question 7

Based on your experience and interactions with your constituents and stakeholders, are you aware of any issues or implementation challenges regarding the following elements of the new auditor's reports?

[Please note, KAM and "Other Information" are addressed in separate sections of this survey]

Any issues or implementation challenges regarding certain elements of the new auditor's reports	Yes	Νο	No particular view
Changes to the presentation of the auditor's report (i.e., opinion section required to be presented first, followed by the basis for opinion section)			
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer (reasons observations, etc.), as well as any suggestions]		
When applicable, including a separate section under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern"			

Any issues or implementation challenges regarding certain elements of the new auditor's reports	Yes	No	No particular view	
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer (reason observations, etc.), as well as any suggestions			
Affirmative statement about the auditor's independence and fulfillment of relevant ethical responsibilities, as well as identification of the relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit				
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer (reasons observations, etc.), as well as any suggestions]			
Descriptions of the respective responsibilities of the auditor and of management and those charged with governance				
	[You may use this box to provide additiona information in relation to your answer (reasons, observations, etc.), as well as any suggestions]			
Name of the engagement partner				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer (reason observations, etc.), as well as any suggestion			

Question 8

Based on your experience and interactions with your constituents and stakeholders, do you believe the differences between the following sections in the new auditor's report are clear and understandable: KAM, material uncertainty related to going concern (MU related to GC), Emphasis of Matter (EOM) paragraphs and Other Matter (OM) paragraphs?

Perceptions about differences between KAM, MU related to GC, EOM paragraphs and OM paragraphs	Yes	No	No particular view
The differences between KAM, MU related to GC, EOM paragraphs and OM paragraphs are clear and understandable			
	[You may use this box to provide add information in relation to your answer (rea observations, etc.), as well as any suggesti		answer (reasons,

Based on and further to your responses to the previous questions, if applicable, are you aware of any other issues or implementation challenges arising from the new and revised auditor reporting standards?

[Please note, KAM and "Other Information" are addressed in separate sections of this survey]

Any other issues or implementation challenges	Yes	No	No particular view
Other issues or implementation challenges arising from the new and revised auditor reporting standards			
	[You may use this box to provide additi information in relation to your answer (reas observations, etc.), as well as any suggesti		

Key audit matters (KAM)

Question 10

In your view, has the communication of KAM enhanced the overall quality of audits performed?

Views about the impact of the communication of KAM on the quality of audits performed	Yes	Νο	No particular view
The communication of KAM has enhanced the overall quality of audits performed			
	[You may use this box to provide add information in relation to your answer specific observations or views on the topic		to your answer, e.g.,

Question 11

Based on your experience, information gathering and interactions with your constituents and stakeholders, please indicate your perception about the degree to which the communication of KAM in the auditor's report **has provided benefits** to stakeholders as it relates to the following aspects:

Perceptions about benefits arising from the communication of KAM in the auditor's reports	Significant	High	Moderate	Low	No particular view
Enhanced communication among the auditor and management throughout the audit					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				

Perceptions about benefits arising from the communication of KAM in the auditor's reports	Significant	High	Moderate	Low	No particular view
Enhanced frequency and robustness of communication among the auditor and those charged with governance					
	[You may use to your answe	-			on in relation
Enhanced communication internally, among management and those charged with governance					
	[You may use to your answe	-			on in relation
Enhanced involvement (more focused and frequent) in the audit by the engagement partner					
	[You may use to your answel				on in relation
Enhanced understanding of the matters to which KAM relate, including the risks of material misstatement associated with the related items in the financial statements or the audit procedures performed in this regard					
	[You may use to your answe				on in relation
Robustness of audit procedures (e.g., improved planning, more effective audit procedures to address the risks of material misstatement, improved documentation, etc.)					
	[You may use to your answe	-			on in relation
Changes or enhancements to disclosures in the financial statements					

Perceptions about benefits arising from the communication of KAM in the auditor's reports	Significant	High	Moderate	Low	No particular view
regarding the matters to which KAM relate					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				
In relation to other aspects of the audit (please specify)					
	[You may use this box to provide additional info to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				ion in relation

Question 12

Based on your experience, information gathering (including relating to auditor reports issued in your jurisdiction) and interactions with your constituents and stakeholders about the **descriptions of KAM** in auditor reports, indicate the extent to which you agree that the communication about the matters is:

Description of KAM	Strongly agree	Agree	No particular view	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Concise (i.e., a relatively short description of the matter and how it was addressed by the auditor)					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				
Understandable (i.e., the description of the matter and how it was addressed is not overly technical)					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				
Specific to the entity (i.e., boilerplate language was not used)					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				

Based on your experience, information gathering and interactions with your constituents and stakeholders about KAM, indicate the degree to which you agree with the following statements that represent **certain perceptions** about the communication of KAM in the auditor's report:

Certain perceptions about the communication of KAM in the auditor's report	Strongly agree	Agree	No particular view	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Fewer KAM in the auditor's report increase the confidence of stakeholders in the audit (and the financial statements)					
			to provide a - reasons, ob		
More KAM in the auditor's report increase the confidence of stakeholders in the audit (and the financial statements)					
			to provide a - reasons, ob		
An individual KAM often relates to a specific item(s) presented or disclosed in the financial statements, which increases the confidence of stakeholders about that particular item(s) in the financial statements					
			to provide a - reasons, ob		
The communication of KAM provides greater transparency about the audit that was performed – as a whole (i.e., not only in relation to the matters that are the subject of KAM)					
			to provide a - reasons, ob		
KAM represent business risks or issues that need to be resolved by management					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				

Certain perceptions about the communication of KAM in the auditor's report	Strongly agree	Agree	No particular view	Disagree	Strongly disagree
In terms of the audit performed, KAM represent matters that have been resolved (i.e., they are not unresolved audit issues)					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				

Question 14

The standard does not prohibit an auditor from communicating additional information about a KAM, and provides guidance to auditors on additional information that the auditor may consider communicating. The IAASB is aware that some trends have evolved globally on additional information that is communicated by auditors.

The IAASB is particularly interested in those instances where, in addition to the required information about why a matter is a KAM and how the matter was addressed in the audit, the auditor also communicated information about the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to the matter (i.e., what the auditor found or observed).

Based on auditor reports you have read, have you noticed that auditors provide additional information in terms of describing the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM?

Description of the outcome of audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM	Yes	Νο	Uncertain
I have noticed that auditors provide additional information in terms of describing the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM			

Question 15

In your view, are descriptions of the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM useful?

Description of the outcome of audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view
Descriptions of the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM					

Description of the outcome of audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				

Question 16

The IAASB's standards currently only require KAM to be communicated in the auditor's reports for audits of listed entities. Jurisdictional requirements may require that auditors communicate KAM for certain other entities. Auditors may also decide to voluntarily communicate KAM in auditor's reports of other entities.

In your view, should the communication of KAM be mandatory for entities other than listed entities?

Communicating KAM in auditor reports of entities other than listed entities	Yes	Νο	No particular view		
For public interest entities (recognizing that "public interest entity" may be a jurisdictional determination)					
For all entities (i.e., in all instances where an audit of financial statements is performed)					
For certain specific types of entities					
	[If applicable, please use this box to indicate the types of entities which you have in mind]				

Question 17

Based on and further to your responses to the previous questions, please provide any additional views about other issues or implementation challenges relating to KAM or how you believe the communication of KAM can be improved.

Please provide input

Other information section of the auditor's report

Question 18

Other information comprises financial and non-financial information in the annual report, other than the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. For example, depending on law, regulation or custom in a jurisdiction, other information may include: the directors' report, audit committee report, corporate governance statement, and management commentary.

When other information is included in the annual report, the auditor's report includes an "Other Information" section which is required to include a statement that management is responsible for the other information,

identify the other information, clarify that the auditor's opinion does not cover the other information, provide a description of the auditor's responsibilities, and to either state that the auditor has nothing to report or describe any uncorrected material misstatement of the other information.

Based on your observations, has the "Other Information" section provided users of financial statements with greater clarity or transparency about the other information included in the annual report?

Greater clarity or transparency about the other information	Yes	Νο	No particular view	
In my/our view, the "Other Information" section in the auditor's report has provided users with greater clarity or transparency about the other information included in the annual report				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, etc.]			

Question 19

In your jurisdiction, have there been any changes or modifications (e.g., new or different or incremental requirements) to the equivalent national standard of ISA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*, or any additional practice guidance or support materials related to other information (note, the next question facilitates that you also may wish to attach or provide a link(s) to relevant material in this regard)?

National standards, practice guidance or support materials related to other information	Yes	Νο	Not applicable
Changes or modifications (e.g., new or different or incremental requirements) to the equivalent national standard of ISA 720 (Revised)			
	[If applicable, provide additional information to support your answer]		
Additional practice guidance or support materials related to other information as it applies in your jurisdiction			
	[If applicable, provide additional information to support your answer]		

Question 20

Referring to your responses in relation to the previous question, if, in your jurisdiction, there have been changes or modifications to the equivalent national standard of ISA 720 (Revised), you also may wish to attach or provide a link(s) to relevant material in this regard.

Additional input	but		

Question 21

Based on your experience with external reporting within your jurisdiction, what types of information is generally considered to be other information?

Please provide			
input			

Question 22

Based on your experience and interactions with your constituents and stakeholders, is it clear that the auditor's opinion on the financial statements does not extend to the other information included in the annual report (i.e., that no form of assurance conclusion is being expressed on the other information)?

No assurance on the other information	Yes	No	No particular view
It is clear that the auditor's opinion on the financial statements does not extend to the other information included in the annual report			
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer (reason observations, etc.), as well as any suggestions		

Question 23

Has it come to your attention or are you aware that there are issues being experienced relating to which other information the auditor has read and considered, or should have read and considered, or relating to the description of the auditor's responsibilities regarding the other information?

Issues or implementation challenges regarding the "Other Information" section	Yes	No	No particular view
Identifying which other information the auditor read and considered?			
	information	in relation to	x to provide additional your answer (reasons, ell as any suggestions]
Instances where certain information should have been part of the other information that was read and considered by the auditor, but wasn't?			

Issues or implementation challenges regarding the "Other Information" section	Yes	Νο	No particular view
	information	n in relation to	x to provide additional o your answer (reasons, rell as any suggestions]
The required description of the auditor's responsibilities regarding the other information?			
	information	n in relation to	x to provide additional o your answer (reasons, rell as any suggestions]
Any other issues or implementation challenges regarding other information (please specify)?			
	- ,	mplementatio	tion relating to any other n challenges, as well as

Additional information communicated in the auditor's report (i.e., in addition to what is required by the new and revised Auditor Reporting Standards)

Question 24

In your jurisdiction, if not otherwise required, has there been demand for additional information to be included in the auditor's report to enhance users' understanding of the audit that was performed:

Additional information that could be included in the auditor's report	High demand	Some demand	No demand	No particular view
Information about materiality applied by the auditor in conducting the audit				
		in relation to		de additional er – reasons,
Information about the scope of the audit (i.e., the auditor's approach to the audit)				
		in relation to	-	de additional er – reasons,

Additional information that could be included in the auditor's report	High demand	Some demand	No demand	No particular view
Information about the auditor's procedures relating to management's going concern assessment				
		in relation to	-	de additional er – reasons,
Information about other aspects of the audit (please specify)				
	-	in relation to		de additional er – reasons,

Other types of engagements

Question 25

In addition to audits of financial statements, professional accountants perform other types of engagements for which assurance reports are issued. These include review engagements (e.g., a review of interim financial information) and other assurance engagements (e.g., assurance on greenhouse gas statements).

In your view, should the assurance reports for other types of engagements contain elements similar to those in the auditor's reports on an audit of financial statements, such as the structure of the report i.e., opinion/conclusion first, and the communication of key matters that would, in the context of those engagements, be similar to KAM?

Assurance reports for other types of engagements	Yes	No	No particular view
Review engagements, including reviews of interim financial information			
	to any ele particular ir	ments of the	al information in relation report that may be of or elements that you do anged]
Other assurance engagements (e.g., assurance reports on greenhouse gas statements or ISAE 3000 (Revised) assurance engagements)			
	- /		al information in relation report that may be of

Assurance reports for other types of engagements	Yes	No	No particular view
	· ·	nterest to you, should be ch	or elements that you do anged]

Any other input or feedback (including in relation to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic)

Question 26

The COVID-19 pandemic has had wide ranging impacts for society and business. The unpredictable circumstances in this environment have created pressures and challenges for entities when preparing their financial statements, as well as for auditors in obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence and considering the impact on the auditor's report.

Have you noted or experienced any specific effects or challenges in relation to the following elements of the auditor's report (when applicable to a specific audit engagement)?

Comments relating to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic	Yes	Νο	Uncertain
Modifications to the auditor's opinion, i.e., a qualified opinion, adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion (and the related basis for opinion)			
	information in r	this box to pro elation to your an uggestions, etc.]	
Inclusion of a separate section in the auditor's report under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern"			
	information in r	this box to pro elation to your an uggestions, etc.]	
Communication of key audit matters (KAM) in the auditor's report			
	information in r	e this box to pro elation to your an uggestions, etc.]	
Inclusion of an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph (i.e. used by the auditor to draw attention to a matter presented or disclosed in the financial statements)			

Comments relating to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic	Yes	No	Uncertain
	information in re	this box to pro elation to your an uggestions, etc.]	
Inclusion of an Other Matter Paragraph (i.e. used by the auditor to refer to a matter that is relevant to users' understanding of the audit, the auditor's responsibilities or the auditor's report)			
	information in re	this box to pro elation to your an uggestions, etc.]	
The "Other Information" section of the auditor's report (i.e. relating to information in the annual report, other than the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon)			
	information in re	this box to pro elation to your an uggestions, etc.]	
Any other challenges or matters to be highlighted			
	information in re	this box to pro elation to your an uggestions, etc.]	

Question 27

Please provide any further views, observations or suggestions you may have in relation to the auditor's report (and why).

Additional input	al input			

Part F – Practitioners, Auditors and Audit Firms

General matters regarding key changes to the new auditor's report

Question 1

In your view, to what extent has the following information provided in the new auditor's report been useful?

Whether information provided in the new auditor's reports is useful	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view
Key audit matters (i.e., matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period)					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]
Changes to the presentation of the auditor's report (i.e., opinion section required to be presented first, followed by the basis for opinion section)					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]
When applicable, including a separate section under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern"					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]
Affirmative statement about the auditor's independence and fulfillment of relevant ethical responsibilities, as well as identification of the relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]
Descriptions of the respective responsibilities of the auditor and of management and those charged with governance					

Whether information provided in the new auditor's reports is useful	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]
When applicable, a section on "Other Information" that describes the auditor's responsibilities and work with respect to such information					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]
Name of the engagement partner					
			x to provide r – reasons,		information in ns, etc.]

Question 2

What actions have been taken by your firm to address and support the implementation of the new and revised auditor reporting standards (including, for example, practice guidance, support materials or training)?

|--|

Question 3

If your firm (or others who you are aware of) have developed publicly available guidance or support materials, or undertaken information gathering or research activities in relation to the implementation and impact of the new auditor's report, it will be helpful to the IAASB if you can attach or provide a link(s) to such materials, reports or documents.

Issues or implementation challenges with the new and revised auditor reporting standards (<u>other</u> <u>than</u> pertaining to KAM or "Other Information", which are addressed in separate sections of this survey)

Question 4

Have you experienced any issues or implementation challenges regarding the following elements of the new auditor's reports?

Any issues or implementation challenges regarding certain elements of the new auditor's reports	Yes	Νο	No particular view	
Changes to the presentation of the auditor's report (i.e., opinion section required to be presented first, followed by the basis for opinion section)				
	information in r	elation to your a	rovide additional answer (reasons, ny suggestions]	
When applicable, including a separate section under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern"				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer (reason observations, etc.), as well as any suggestions			
Affirmative statement about the auditor's independence and fulfillment of relevant ethical responsibilities, as well as identification of the relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit				
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer (reasons observations, etc.), as well as any suggestions]			
Descriptions of the respective responsibilities of the auditor and of management and those charged with governance				
	information in r	elation to your a	rovide additional answer (reasons, ny suggestions]	
Name of the engagement partner				
	information in r	elation to your a	rovide additional answer (reasons, ny suggestions]	

[Please note, KAM and "Other Information" are addressed in separate sections of this survey]

In you view, are the differences between the following sections in the new auditor's report clear and understandable: KAM, material uncertainty related to going concern (MU related to GC), Emphasis of Matter (EOM) paragraphs and Other Matter (OM) paragraphs?

Perceptions about differences between KAM, MU related to GC, EOM paragraphs and OM paragraphs	Yes	No	No particular view
The differences between KAM, MU related to GC, EOM paragraphs and OM paragraphs are clear and understandable			
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer (reason observations, etc.), as well as any suggestions		

Question 6

Based on and further to your responses to the previous questions, if applicable, are you aware of any other issues or implementation challenges arising from the new and revised auditor reporting standards?

[Please note, KAM and "Other Information" are addressed in separate sections of this survey]

Any other issues or implementation challenges	Yes	Νο	No particular view	
Other issues or implementation challenges arising from the new and revised auditor reporting standards				
	[You may use this box to provide additio information in relation to your answer (reaso observations, etc.), as well as any suggestio			

Key audit matters (KAM)

Question 7

In your view, has the communication of KAM enhanced the overall quality of audits performed?

Views about the impact of the communication of KAM on the quality of audits performed	Yes	No	No particular view
The communication of KAM has enhanced the overall quality of audits performed			
	[You may use this box to provide additi information in relation to your answer, specific observations or views on the topic]		

Indicate the degree to which, in your view, the communication of KAM **has provided benefits** to you as the auditor and to intended other stakeholders as it relates to the following aspects:

Perceptions about benefits arising from the communication of KAM in the auditor's reports	Significant	High	Moderate	Low	No particular view
Enhanced communication among the auditor and management throughout the audit					
	[You may use t your answer – r	-		information	in relation to
Enhanced frequency and robustness of communication among the auditor and those charged with governance					
	[You may use t your answer – r	-		information	in relation to
Enhanced communication internally, among management and those charged with governance					
	[You may use t your answer – r			information	in relation to
Enhanced involvement (more focused and frequent) in the audit by the engagement partner					
	[You may use t your answer – r	-		information	in relation to
Robustness of audit procedures (e.g., improved planning, more effective audit procedures to address the risks of material misstatement, improved documentation, etc.)					
	[You may use t your answer – r			information	in relation to

Perceptions about benefits arising from the communication of KAM in the auditor's reports	Significant	High	Moderate	Low	No particular view
Changes or enhancements to disclosures in the financial statements regarding the matters to which KAM relate					
	[You may use t your answer – r	•		information	in relation to
In relation to other aspects of the audit (please specify)					
	[You may use t your answer – r			information	in relation to

Question 9

Indicate the degree to which, in your view, the following aspects relating to the determination of KAM during an audit and the communication of KAM in the auditor's report **have given rise to challenges** for the audit team.

[**Please note**, the communication of information in addition to what is required in terms of the standard, are addressed in separate questions below]

Challenges – views on specific aspects relating to the determination and communication of KAM	Significant	High	Moderate	Low	No particular view
Determining, from the matters communicated with those charged with governance, those matters that required significant auditor attention in performing the audit					
	[You may use relation to you any suggestion	r answer (re	•		
Determining from the matters above, which were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period (i.e., are KAM)					

Challenges – views on specific aspects relating to the determination and communication of KAM	Significant	High	Moderate	Low	No particular view
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer (reasons, observations, etc.), as well as any suggestions]				
Interactions among the auditor, management and those charged with governance regarding the adequacy of related disclosures in the financial statements (i.e., in terms of having to refer to such disclosures, if any, in the description of KAM)					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer (reasons, observations, etc.), as well as any suggestions]				
Preparing the description of KAM – the wording around <u>why</u> the matter was considered to be one of most significance in the audit and therefore determined to be a KAM					
	[You may use relation to you any suggestion	r answer (re	•		
Preparing the description of KAM – the wording around <u>how</u> the matter was addressed in the audit					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer (reasons, observations, etc.), as well as any suggestions]				
Wording of the KAM paragraph(s) – describing KAM in terms that are concise (i.e., relatively short description), understandable (i.e., not overly technical) and specific to the entity (i.e., not using boilerplate language)					

Challenges – views on specific aspects relating to the determination and communication of KAM	Significant	High	Moderate	Low	No particular view
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer (reasons, observations, etc.), as well as any suggestions]				
KAM in subsequent periods – continuing to use wording that is specific to the entity (i.e., avoiding boilerplate language); taking a 'fresh look' and maintaining the communicative value of KAM					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer (reasons, observations, etc.), as well as any suggestions]				
Any other aspects – please specify					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer (reasons, observations, etc.), as well as any suggestions]				

The communication of KAM was expected to require additional time and effort from the auditor (and from management and those charged with governance of entities), especially when the new auditor's report first became effective. Do you believe that the additional time and effort required by the audit team in relation to the following aspects have been, and continues to be, acceptable in terms of being proportionate to the benefits?

Views about the time and effort required to address KAM	Yes	No	No particular view
Drafting and finalizing the wording of KAM paragraphs, with respect to the internal processes of the firm			
		n in relation to	x to provide additional your answer – reasons,
Drafting and finalizing the wording of KAM paragraphs, with respect to the engagement /			

Views about the time and effort required to address KAM	Yes	No	No particular view	
interaction among the auditor, management and those charged with governance				
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons observations, etc.]			
Any other aspects – please specify				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, etc.]			

Question 11

The standard does not prohibit an auditor from communicating additional information about a KAM, and provides guidance to auditors on additional information that the auditor may consider communicating. The IAASB is aware that some trends have evolved globally on additional information that is communicated by auditors.

The IAASB is particularly interested in those instances where, in addition to the required information about why a matter is a KAM and how the matter was addressed in the audit, the auditor also communicated information about the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to the matter (i.e., what the auditor found or observed).

Have auditors in your jurisdiction (or your firm) chosen to include a description of the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM?

Description of the outcome of audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM	Yes	Νο	Uncertain
Auditors provide additional information in terms of describing the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM			

Question 12

In your view, are descriptions of the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM useful?

Description of the outcome of audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM	Very useful	Useful	Limited value	Not useful	No particular view
Descriptions of the outcome of the audit procedures or key observations with respect to KAM					
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, etc.]				

The IAASB's standards currently only require KAM to be communicated in the auditor's reports for audits of listed entities. Jurisdictional requirements may require that auditors communicate KAM for certain other entities. Auditors may also decide to voluntarily communicate KAM in auditor's reports of other entities.

In your view, should the communication of KAM be mandatory for entities other than listed entities?

Communicating KAM in auditor reports of entities other than listed entities	Yes	No	No particular view	
For public interest entities (recognizing that "public interest entity" may be a jurisdictional determination)				
For all entities (i.e., in all instances where an audit of financial statements is performed)				
For certain specific types of entities				
	[If applicable, please use this box to indi types of entities which you have in mine			

Question 14

Based on and further to your responses to the previous questions, please provide any additional views about other issues or implementation challenges relating to KAM or how you believe the communication of KAM can be improved.

Other information section of the auditor's report

Question 15

Other information comprises financial and non-financial information in the annual report, other than the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. For example, depending on law, regulation or custom in a

jurisdiction, other information may include: the directors' report, audit committee report, corporate governance statement, and management commentary.

When other information is included in the annual report, the auditor's report includes an "Other Information" section which is required to include a statement that management is responsible for the other information, identify the other information, clarify that the auditor's opinion does not cover the other information, provide a description of the auditor's responsibilities, and to either state that the auditor has nothing to report or describe any uncorrected material misstatement of the other information.

Based on your observations, has the "Other Information" section provided users of financial statements with greater clarity or transparency about the other information included in the annual report?

Greater clarity or transparency about the other information	Yes	No	No particular view
The "Other Information" section in the auditor's report has provided users with greater clarity or transparency about the other information included in the annual report			
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reaso observations, etc.]		

Question 16

In your view, is it clear to the entity and users of the financial statements that the auditor's opinion on the financial statements does not extend to the other information included in the annual report (i.e., that no form of assurance conclusion is being expressed on the other information)?

No assurance on the other information	Yes	No	No particular view
It is clear that the auditor's opinion on the financial statements does not extend to the other information included in the annual report			
	[You may use this box to provide addition in relation to your answer (reasonable observations, etc.), as well as any suggestion		

Question 17

Indicate the degree to which, in your view, the following aspects relating to the "Other Information" section of the auditor's report **have given rise to challenges** for the audit team.

Views on challenges regarding certain aspects relating to other information	Significant	High	Moderate	Low	No particular view
Identifying which information is "other information" included in the annual report and, therefore, within the scope of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements					
		ur answer (re	to provide a easons, obser		
Obtaining the relevant other information from the entity, and reading and considering such information as required by ISA 720 (Revised)					
		ur answer (re	to provide a easons, obser		
Drafting and finalizing the "Other Information" section in the auditor's report (including instances where the auditor concludes that a material misstatement of the other information exists)					
		ur answer (re	to provide a easons, obser		
Any other aspects – please specify					
		ur answer (re	to provide a easons, obser		

Question 18

Based on your experience what types of information is generally considered to be other information?

Additional information communicated in the auditor's report (i.e., in addition to what is required by the new and revised Auditor Reporting Standards)

Question 19

In your jurisdiction, if not otherwise required, has there been demand for additional information to be included in the auditor's report to enhance users' understanding of the audit that was performed:

Additional information that could be included in the auditor's report	High demand	Some demand	No demand	Not applicable / no particular view
Information about materiality applied by the auditor in conducting the audit				
		in relation to		de additional er – reasons,
Information about the scope of the audit (i.e., the auditor's approach to the audit)				
		in relation to	•	de additional er – reasons,
Information about the auditor's procedures relating to management's going concern assessment				
		in relation to	•	de additional er – reasons,
Information about other aspects of the audit (please specify)				
		in relation to	•	de additional er – reasons,

Question 20

In general and if not otherwise required in your jurisdiction, has your firm provided additional information beyond what is required by the standard to enhance users' understanding of the audit that was performed:

Additional information included by firms in the auditor's report	Yes	Νο	Not applicable / No particular view	
Information about materiality applied by the auditor in conducting the audit				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, etc.]			
Information about the scope of the audit (i.e., the auditor's approach to the audit)				
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, etc.]			
Information about the auditor's procedures relating to management's going concern assessment				
		elation to your a	rovide additional nswer – reasons,	
Information about other aspects of the audit (please specify)				
		elation to your a	rovide additional nswer – reasons,	

Other types of engagements

Question 21

In addition to audits of financial statements, professional accountants perform other types of engagements for which assurance reports are issued. These include review engagements (e.g., a review of interim financial information) and other assurance engagements (e.g., assurance on greenhouse gas statements).

In your view, should the assurance reports for other types of engagements contain elements similar to those in the auditor's reports on an audit of financial statements, such as the structure of the report i.e., opinion/conclusion first, and the communication of key matters that would, in the context of those engagements, be similar to KAM?

Assurance reports for other types of engagements	Yes	No	No particular view
Review engagements, including reviews of interim financial information			
	[Please provide additional information in relation to any elements of the report that may be particular interest to you, or elements that you of not believe should be changed]		
Other assurance engagements (e.g., assurance reports on greenhouse gas statements or ISAE 3000 (Revised) assurance engagements)			
	[Please provide additional information in relati to any elements of the report that may be particular interest to you, or elements that you not believe should be changed]		

Any other input or feedback (including in relation to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic)

Question 22

The COVID-19 pandemic has had wide ranging impacts for society and business. The unpredictable circumstances in this environment have created pressures and challenges for entities when preparing their financial statements, as well as for auditors in obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence and considering the impact on the auditor's report.

Have you noted or experienced any specific effects or challenges in relation to the following elements of the auditor's report (when applicable to a specific audit engagement)?

Comments relating to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic	Yes	Νο	Uncertain
Modifications to the auditor's opinion, i.e., a qualified opinion, adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion (and the related basis for opinion)			
	[You may use this box to provide addition information in relation to your answer – reason observations, suggestions, etc.]		
Inclusion of a separate section in the auditor's report under the heading "Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern"			

Comments relating to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic	Yes	No	Uncertain
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, suggestions, etc.]		
Communication of key audit matters (KAM) in the auditor's report			
	information in re	this box to pro elation to your an uggestions, etc.]	
Inclusion of an Emphasis of Matter Paragraph (i.e. used by the auditor to draw attention to a matter presented or disclosed in the financial statements)			
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, suggestions, etc.]		
Inclusion of an Other Matter Paragraph (i.e. used by the auditor to refer to a matter that is relevant to users' understanding of the audit, the auditor's responsibilities or the auditor's report)			
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, suggestions, etc.]		
The "Other Information" section of the auditor's report (i.e. relating to information in the annual report, other than the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon)			
	[You may use this box to provide additional information in relation to your answer – reasons, observations, suggestions, etc.]		
Any other challenges or matters to be highlighted			
	information in re	this box to pro elation to your an uggestions, etc.]	

Please provide any further views, observations or suggestions you may have in relation to the auditor's report (and why).

nal input		

The structures and processes that support the operations of the IAASB are facilitated by the International Federation of Accountants[®] or IFAC[®].

The IAASB and IFAC do not accept responsibility for loss caused to any person who acts or refrains from acting in reliance on the material in this publication, whether such loss is caused by negligence or otherwise.

International Standards on Auditing, International Standards on Assurance Engagements, International Standards on Review Engagements, International Standards on Related Services, International Standards on Quality Control, International Auditing Practice Notes, Exposure Drafts, Consultation Papers, and other IAASB publications are published by, and copyright of, IFAC.

Copyright © July 2020 by IFAC. All rights reserved. Permission is granted to make copies of this work to achieve maximum exposure and feedback provided that each copy bears the following credit line: "Copyright © July 2020 by the International Federation of Accountants® or IFAC®. All rights reserved. Used with permission of IFAC. Permission is granted to make copies of this work to achieve maximum exposure and feedback."

The 'International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board', 'International Standards on Auditing', 'International Standards on Assurance Engagements', 'International Standards on Review Engagements', 'International Standards on Related Services', 'International Standards on Quality Control', 'International Auditing Practice Notes', 'IAASB', 'ISA', 'ISAE', 'ISRE', 'ISRS', 'ISQC', 'IAPN', and IAASB logo are trademarks of IFAC, or registered trademarks and service marks of IFAC in the US and other countries.

For copyright, trademark, and permissions information, please go to <u>permissions</u> or contact <u>permissions@ifac.org</u>.



International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board 529 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017 T + 1 (212) 286-9344 F +1 (212) 286-9570 www.iaasb.org