# IFAC G20 Call to Action 2021



### Four priorities, two actions, one goal: A more sustainable, inclusive and prosperous economy and society.

As the world continues to battle the COVID pandemic, cause for optimism is emerging. But the pandemic has reinforced the notion that we cannot simply hope for a better future, we must build it—and there is no time to waste. The four priorities from our <u>2020</u> <u>Call to Action</u> remain central to building that better future. Delivering on these will take a concerted effort from policymakers, businesses, other organizations, investors and individuals. Beyond these four priorities, IFAC calls on the G20 to focus on two key actions—where the global accountancy profession is a strongly committed partner—that will move the needle on sustainability, inclusivity, and prosperity.

**Four Priorities** 

#### ACCELERATE SUSTAINABILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

Time is running out to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals; governments, business, and all other stakeholders must play their part.

#### RECOMMIT TO GLOBAL COLLABORATION

Working together through global institutions is the only way to solve the challenges of the 21st century.

#### RESIST REGULATORY FRAGMENTATION

The cost of fragmentation is enormous; society simply cannot afford it—particularly with respect to global issues like climate change and sustainability.

#### FOCUS ON PUBLIC SECTOR TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY

The social contract between citizens and governments is under stress; transparency and integrity are essential for trust.

**Two Actions** 

## SUPPORT THE IFRS FOUNDATION INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

Achieving a more sustainable and inclusive economy with the necessary speed requires mobilizing the private sector and governments to work together. The <u>G20 Finance</u> <u>Ministers and Central Bank Governors</u> have identified the critical role of high-quality and comparable data and disclosures in mobilising sustainable finance. The B20 Finance & Infrastructure Task Force recognizes the same.

Momentum is growing around developing a global baseline of sustainability standards, with the IFRS Foundation poised to deliver. IFAC strongly supports this crucial work. IFAC encourages all jurisdictions to embrace the IFRS Foundation's initiative to achieve timely and coordinated progress on a global system for sustainability disclosures, vitally enhancing their consistency and reliability. Global policy makers have a unique opportunity to avoid costly regulatory fragmentation, build a comprehensive global system for corporate reporting, and deliver on the sustainability agenda. We must seize this opportunity.

IFAC and the accountancy profession stand ready to be part of the solution.

#### CHAMPION PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

At the heart of <u>public sector transparency and integrity</u> and prosperity for all individuals—is public financial management (PFM). A robust PFM system means that resources are appropriately allocated against public policy objectives that are in the public interest. Governments must endeavour to achieve the most with the resources they have, while minimizing loss through waste, fraud, or corruption—highquality PFM makes this happen. IFAC calls on the G20 to set an example for all jurisdictions worldwide in championing a continued focus on high-quality PFM, which is founded on:

**Commitment**—from political leaders and senior management within public sector entities.

**Framework**—which is comprehensive, interconnected, principles-based and outcomes-focused.

**Standards**—such as accrual standards, as recognized by the B20 Integrity & Compliance Task Force, in particular the <u>International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)</u> and any future public sector sustainability standards.

**People**—with the appropriate training, skills, and ethics.