

ISAR 37

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on
International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

2-6 NOVEMBER 2020

2-4 p.m. Central European Time (CET) each day



Tentative Programme

Time	Topics and Speakers
Monday, 2 November 2020	
2-2.20 p.m.	<p>Agenda item 1. Election of officers Agenda item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work</p>
	<p>Opening remarks: <i>Mukhisa Kituyi</i>, Secretary-General, UNCTAD Introductory remarks: <i>James Zhan</i>, Director, Division on Investment and Enterprise</p>
2.20-3.30 p.m.	<p>High-level panel: Recent trends and key challenges in enterprise reporting agenda and impact of COVID-19</p> <p>The session will review key trends in financial and sustainability reporting, its increased role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and in post-COVID-19 resurgence. It will address issues of integration of sustainability information into companies reporting cycle and its alignments with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, discuss achievements and challenges towards the convergence of main reporting frameworks to facilitate comparability, reliability and usefulness of sustainability reporting, and elaborate on key constraints towards such convergence and the way forward.</p>
Keynote:	<i>Tajinder Singh</i> , Deputy Secretary-General, International Organization of Securities Commissions
Speakers:	<p><i>Tomas Dodd</i>, Policy Officer, Directorate-General, Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, European Commission <i>Jean-Paul Gauzès</i>, Board President, European Financial Reporting Advisory <i>Patrick de Cambourg</i>, President, Autorité des normes comptables <i>Rodney Irwin</i>, Managing Director, Redefining Value and Education World Business Council for Sustainable Development <i>Eric Hespeneide</i>, Chair, Board of Directors, Global Reporting Initiative <i>Robert Hirth</i>, Co-Vice Chair, Sustainability Accounting Standards Board</p>
3.30-4 p.m.	Plenary discussion
Tuesday, 3 November 2020	

Time	Topics and Speakers
2–3.30 p.m.	
	<p>Agenda item 3. Practical implementation, including measurement, of core indicators for entity reporting on the contribution towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals: Review of case studies</p>
	<p>Under this agenda item, the next two panels (Tuesday, 3 November, from 2–4 p.m. and Wednesday, 4 November, from 2–4 p.m.) will discuss the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can United Nations agencies contribute to facilitating the convergence of existing sustainability reporting frameworks and standards to ensure the usefulness of sustainability and Sustainable Development Goal reporting by companies for decision-making and assessing of the contribution of the private sector to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development? • What role can the UNCTAD/ISAR Guidance on Core Indicators play to facilitate baseline reporting by companies on a set of indicators that are common and universal across industries, and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework? • What are the main findings of cases studies concerning the application of the Guidance on Core Indicators by companies in different countries and diverse industries? What are specific challenges for small and medium-sized companies? • What are best practices and initiatives towards the harmonization of sustainability/Sustainable Development Goal reporting and improvement of its quality? • What are the key capacity-building needs in this area and how they can be addressed?
	<p>Introduction of agenda item 3: <i>Tatiana Krylova</i>, Head, Enterprise Branch, UNCTAD</p>
Speakers:	<p><i>Mathieu Verougstrate</i>, Economic Affairs Officer, Financing for Development Office, Department of Economic and Social Affairs</p>
	<p><i>Laura Palmeiro</i>, Senior Advisor, UN Global Compact</p>
	<p><i>Ilaria Di Matteo</i>, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs</p>
	<p><i>Ilcheong Yi</i>, Senior Research Coordinator, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development</p>
Case studies:	
	<p><i>Donna Street</i>, Director, Research and Educational Activities, International Association for Accounting Education and Research, Chair and Professor, Department of Accounting, School of Business, University of Dayton, United States</p>
	<p><i>Khaled Dahawy</i>, Professor of Accounting, School of Business, The American University in Cairo, Egypt</p>
	<p><i>Cliff Nyandoro</i>, Manager, Technical Services, Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya, Kenya</p>
	<p><i>Shireen Naidoo</i>, Sustainability Adviser</p>

Time	Topics and Speakers
	Board Member, Social and Ethics and Remuneration Committee Member, South Africa
3–3.40 p.m.	Plenary discussions
3.40–4 p.m.	Announcement ceremony of ISAR Honourees 2020 The annual ceremony will acknowledge best practices and initiatives in the area of sustainability and Sustainable Development Goal reporting by companies
4.20–6 p.m.	Ceremony of ISAR Honourees 2020 (continued)
Wednesday, 4 November 2020	
2–3.45 p.m.	Agenda item 3 (continued). Practical implementation, including measurement, of core indicators for entity reporting on the contribution towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals: Review of case studies
Case studies:	<i>Joanna Krasodomska</i> , Associate Professor, Financial Accounting Department, Cracow University of Economics, Poland/ <i>Ewelina Zarzycka</i> , Associate Professor, Department of Accounting, University of Lodz, Poland
	<i>Uthman Alzahrani</i> , SABIC, Saudi Arabia
	<i>Caroline Seow</i> , Head of Sustainability, Family Business Network International
	<i>Ariela Caglio</i> , Director, Bocconi-ESSEC Double Degree and Associate Professor, Bocconi University
	<i>Baraka Cassian</i> , Managing Partner of Cassian and Associates, United Republic of Tanzania
	<i>Valerie Bizier</i> , Senior Statistician, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Discussants:	
	<i>Angela Bai</i> , Secretary-General, China Alliance of Social Value Investment
	<i>Guy Lalanne</i> , Economist and Policy Analyst, Productivity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
	<i>Karin Svensson</i> , Senior Advisor, SIDA’s project lead Global Investors for Sustainable Development
	<i>Jessica Fries</i> , Executive Chairman, Accounting for Sustainability
	<i>Vania Maria da Costa Borgerth</i> , Chair, thirty-second session of ISAR
	<i>Ewald Muller</i> , Managing Director, Supervision and Authorization, Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority, Chair Thirty-first session of ISAR
	<i>Alexandra Rogozinski</i> , Consultant for Guatemalan case study on GCI and comparison to UNGC CoP
3.45–4 p.m.	Consideration of outcome of agenda item 3
Thursday, 5 November 2020	
2–3.00 p.m.	Agenda item 4. Climate-related financial disclosures in mainstream entity reporting: Good practices and key challenges

Time	Topics and Speakers
	<p>This panel will discuss recent developments in climate-related financial disclosures in mainstream entity reporting. In particular, the following issues will be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key achievements and good practices on improving climate-related financial disclosures? • What progress has been made and what are the main challenges in the practical implementation of key pronouncements in this area, such as the 2017 report of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures? What role can Governments play in this regard? • How can the quality, comparability and reliability of such reporting and its consistency with accounting requirements be facilitated? What tools and guiding materials are needed to facilitate the process? • Should climate-related financial disclosure be voluntary or mandatory? • What is the most efficient way to build the technical capacities necessary to prepare meaningful climate-related financial disclosures? • Could the UNCTAD/ISAR Guidance on Core Indicators represent a useful tool to facilitate the comparability of baseline data related to climate change? • How can ISAR better support countries in their efforts to improve climate change related reporting and implement the TCFD recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures?
Keynote:	Erkki Liikanen , Chair, International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation Trustees
Speakers:	Eric Dugelay , Partner, Sustainability Services (Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures Expert, Deloitte)
	Mardi McBrien , Managing Director, Climate Disclosure Standards Board
	Pietro Bertazzi , Global Director Policy Engagement, CDP
	David Carlin , Programme Lead, United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures Banking Pilot
	Vladimir Skobarev , Partner, Head, Corporate Governance and Sustainability Department/ Elena Pertseva , Deputy Director, Corporate Governance and Sustainability Department, FBK Grant Thornton
	Céline Bilolo , Head of Stakeholder Outreach, Value Balancing Alliance
Discussant:	Vera Palea , Professor at the University of Torino, Member of the Scientific Committee and Chair of the WG on climate-related disclosure at the Italian Foundation for Business Reporting
3.00–3.45 p.m.	Plenary discussion
3.45–4 p.m.	Consideration of outcomes of agenda item 4

Time	Topics and Speakers
	Friday, 6 November 2020
2–2.40 p.m.	Informal consultations (by invitation only)
2.40–3.25 p.m.	Agenda item 5. Other business
	5 (a). Under this agenda item, experts will review the progress and challenges in Sustainable Development Goal data collection from companies towards the achievement of Goal 12.6.1, number of companies publishing sustainability reports
Speakers:	Madelyn Antoncic , CEO, Global Algorithmic Institute/ Richard V. Rothenberg , Executive Director, Global AI Corporation, United States of America
	Andreas Feiner , Chief Executive Officer, Arabesque S-Ray
	Juan Pablo Morataya , Executive Director, CentraRSE, Guatemala
	Richard Woods , European Union Public Policy Lead, World Benchmarking Alliance
	Tauni Lanier , Sustainability Director, World Wide Generation
	5 (b). During this segment, member States that implemented the UNCTAD–ISAR Accounting Development Tool and the Guidance on Core Indicators will share their experiences with participants at the session
Speakers:	Maria Ria Nonyana-Mokabane , Chief Director, Consumer and Corporate Regulation Division, Legislative Drafting, Department of Trade and Industry, South Africa
	Wilmar Franco Franco , Technical Council for Public Accountancy, Colombia
	Debora Ponce , Mission of Guatemala to the World Trade Organization, UNCTAD and other United Nations agencies
	Arman Bekturova , Director, Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan
3.25–3.35 p.m.	Consideration of outcomes of agenda item 5
3.35–3.45 p.m.	Agenda item 6. Provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of ISAR
3.45–4 p.m.	Agenda item 7. Adoption of the report