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ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ADVISORY FORUM: CALL FOR CANDIDATES

The IFRS Foundation invites nominations of suitable candidates for membership of the Accounting Standards Advisory Forum (ASAF). National Standard-setters and regional bodies may nominate themselves or another eligible organisation.

ASAF was established in 2013 with the objective to provide an advisory forum in which members can constructively contribute towards the achievement of the International Accounting Standards Board's (Board) goal of developing globally accepted high-quality accounting standards.

In 2018 the Trustees undertook a narrow-scope review of ASAF and are pleased with the positive feedback on the review. The feedback highlights that ASAF continues to be a key component of the IFRS Foundation's engagement strategy with National Standard-setters. The Feedback Statement *Review of the Accounting Standards Advisory Forum 2018* can be accessed on the [IFRS Foundation's website](#).

The Trustees are amending the Terms of Reference, to remove the formal requirement for the IFRS Foundation to review the ASAF every three years and to permit one ASAF meeting a year to be held via videoconference. The updated Terms of Reference are set out in Appendix A of this Call for Candidates.

The Trustees are not proposing any changes to the Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum of Understanding is set out in Appendix B of this Call for Candidates.

Candidates for membership

ASAF is chaired by the IASB Chairman or Vice-Chair and consists of 12 other members, with the following geographical balance:

- Africa - 1 seat
- Americas - 3 seats
- Asia-Oceania - 3 seats
- Europe (including non-EU) - 3 seats
- World at large - 2 seats.

Membership of ASAF is open to all recognised accounting standard-setters of jurisdictions and regional bodies. Existing ASAF members are eligible for reappointment.

Candidates for membership are asked to confirm that they would be willing to sign or reaffirm agreement to the Memorandum of Understanding with the IFRS Foundation and provide the required commitments as set out in Section 2 of the attached Memorandum of Understanding.

For its part, the IFRS Foundation confirms that it will formally meet the commitments set out in Section 3 of the attached Memorandum of Understanding.

Criteria for membership

Candidates should explain how they meet, or plan to meet, the criteria for membership in support of the commitments set out in the Memorandum of Understanding, in particular:

- technical competence—having the necessary technical resources, including human capital resources with standard-setting expertise, technical experience and practical knowledge of financial reporting issues, to enable them to contribute meaningfully and participate actively in substantive technical discussions; and
- the scale, degree and expertise of the resources available to the organisation that will enable it to participate as an active member of ASAF, including funding the travel and accommodation costs of representatives and the ability and willingness to devote the time and resources, where necessary, to the preparation of material for ASAF meetings.

Other factors

Candidates are also invited to submit any additional material they consider relevant to support their nomination to be a member of ASAF, including on the following:

- the organisation's knowledge and experience of IFRS Standards and their application;
- the organisation's contribution to the activities of the IFRS Foundation and the Board's standard-setting process and its knowledge of the issues and concerns from its jurisdiction/region—together with examples; and
- details of the scale of the capital market in their jurisdiction/region; and how the organisation intends to seek input from and represent other perspectives of National Standard-setters within its region (where relevant).

Nominations

Nominations and applications are invited by 31 July 2018 and are to be sent to Ms Katherine Maybin at the following email address: kmaybin@ifrs.org. Membership will be on the basis of organisational representation. Candidate organisations are required to select a single designated individual who will

be their representative on ASAF. The individuals should meet the criteria set out in paragraph 2.2.3 of the proposed Terms of Reference at Appendix A.

Process for selection

Candidates will be selected on the basis of a geographical balance, the membership criteria and other factors referred to above. The IFRS Foundation will consider all candidates for selection by taking these issues into account. The final selection of members of the group will be made by the Trustees of the IFRS Foundation, having taken advice from the Board.

The first ASAF meeting of the new membership will take place on 6-7 December 2018 in London.

Any personal data supplied to the IFRS Foundation by you will [only] be used for this application process. The IFRS Foundation will retain such data [no longer than is necessary] for that purpose [and its records] in accordance with its data retention policy and data protection laws. If you have any questions in relation to the above please contact Kmaybin@IFRS.org.

For additional information please see the IFRS Foundation's [Terms and Conditions](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

Appendix A: Terms of Reference

The Accounting Standards Advisory Forum (ASAF) is a group of nominated members from both National Standard-Setters ('NSS') and regional bodies involved with accounting standard-setting (regional bodies). The members of ASAF and the IFRS Foundation (the Foundation) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on [date to be inserted]. This document sets out ASAF's terms of reference.

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASAF

- 1.1. The G20 has consistently emphasised the importance of working towards a single set of high quality global accounting standards, and called upon accounting standards setters to continue their efforts to achieve this goal. The IFRS Foundation (the 'Foundation') has set as its objectives the aim to develop in the public interest, a single set of high quality, understandable, enforceable and globally accepted financial reporting standards based upon clearly articulated principles; to promote, and facilitate the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards ('IFRSs') around the globe and to promote the consistent application of IFRSs around the globe. These standards should serve investors and other market participants in making informed resource allocation and other economic decisions. The International Accounting Standards Board ('IASB') is the standard-setting body of the Foundation.
- 1.2. The objective of the ASAF is to provide an advisory forum where members can constructively contribute towards the achievement of the IASB's goal of developing globally accepted high-quality accounting standards. More particularly ASAF is established to:
 - support the Foundation in its objectives, and contribute towards the development, in the public interest, of a single set of high quality understandable, enforceable and globally accepted financial reporting standards to serve investors and other market participants in making informed resource allocations and other economic decisions;
 - formalise and streamline the IASB's collective engagement with the global community of NSS and regional bodies in its standard setting process to ensure that a broad range of national and regional input on major technical issues related to the IASB's standard setting activities are discussed and considered; and
 - facilitate effective technical discussions on standard-setting issues, primarily on the IASB's work plan but which may include other issues that have major implications for the IASB's work, in sufficient depth, with representatives at a high level of professional capability and with a good knowledge of their jurisdictions/regions.

2. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND WORKING MECHANISMS

2.1. Chairmanship

- 2.1.1. The IASB Chair or the Vice-Chair shall be the Chair of the ASAF.
- 2.1.2. The Chair shall have the discretion to draw up the ASAF technical agenda, following consultation with the IASB and ASAF members, and structure the meetings in such a way as to ensure optimal and constructive, in-depth technical discourse to achieve the ASAF's objectives.

2.2. Membership

- 2.2.1. The ASAF shall comprise twelve non-voting members, represented by twelve individuals, plus the Chair.
- 2.2.2. The twelve individuals shall represent twelve NSS and regional bodies from around the globe. The appointment is not in their personal capacity.
- 2.2.3. The individual representatives of the ASAF members should be capable of providing technical expertise, experience and practical knowledge of accounting issues from within their jurisdiction/regions to enable them to contribute meaningfully to technical discussions and provide reliable and relevant technical advice to the IASB.
- 2.2.4. Every ASAF member shall be capable of, and willing to, allocate and commit necessary staffing and resources to meet the objectives of the ASAF and the IASB.
- 2.2.5. In order to ensure a broad geographical representation and balance of the major economic regions in the world, the twelve members shall be from the following geographical regions:
 - One member from Africa;
 - Three members from the Americas (North and South);
 - Three members from the Asia/Oceania region;
 - Three members from Europe (including non EU); and
 - Two members appointed from any area of the world at large, subject to maintaining overall geographical balance.
- 2.2.6. In order to ensure efficiency and continuity, there shall be a single designated representative for each member organisation. The single designated representative may be the Chair, or another senior member of staff from the organisation, who fulfils the requirements of section 2.2.3. The single designated representative may delegate another member of his/her organisation with specialist expertise to represent the organisation in discussions on particular agenda items.
- 2.2.7. The Chair shall have the discretion to invite a representative of a non-member NSS or regional body to attend and participate in ASAF meetings, subject to any attendee having the technical expertise and capability to make a valuable contribution to the ASAF in accordance with section 2.2.3 above. Where possible, the Chair will endeavour to obtain the prior consensus of the meeting.
- 2.2.8. Members of the IASB may attend ASAF meetings.
- 2.2.9. Membership of ASAF, which is renewable, is subject to review every three years (which itself is subject to the continued existence of ASAF). As well as achieving the geographical balance referred to in section 2.5.5 above, the review, as well as the initial composition, of the membership will take into account factors such as technical competence, the scale of the jurisdiction's capital market, the organisation's contribution to the IASB's standard-setting process and the scale and degree of the human capital resources available to the organisation, among others.
- 2.2.10. Members of ASAF will be selected by the Trustees of the IFRS Foundation, following a call for candidates.

2.3. Meetings

- 2.3.1. Meetings shall normally be held in London, utilising the Foundation's secretariat and resources to host the meeting, including the meeting venue and relevant catering. The Chair and ASAF members may agree to hold meetings in other locations.
- 2.3.2. Travel and accommodation costs of attending ASAF meetings shall be borne by the members attending the meeting.
- 2.3.3. Foundation staff shall prepare the proposed agenda for each meeting, in consultation with ASAF members, in order to provide a summary of the key issues under consideration. Supporting papers for the meetings will be prepared by Foundation staff or by ASAF members. The agenda and the supporting papers shall be circulated in advance in order to ensure that ASAF members are fully prepared and capable of actively and constructively participating in all ASAF discussions and work.
- 2.3.4. Members of the ASAF are recommended to attend all meetings in person. If attendance in person is not possible members may attend by using teleconferencing, videoconferencing or any other electronic means.
- 2.3.5. The ASAF shall normally meet four times per year; where appropriate one meeting per year may be held by videoconference.

2.4. Communication

- 2.4.1. All ASAF meetings shall be held in public and webcast for the benefit of stakeholders and observers around the globe. Agenda papers and a meeting summary will be posted on the Foundation's website.
- 2.4.2. The Foundation shall maintain a separate section of its website for ASAF, with the intention of providing information and support for all stakeholders.

~~2.5. Review of ASAF~~

- ~~2.5.1. All aspects of ASAF and its operations shall be reviewed by the IFRS Foundation every three years (as from the date of signing or reaffirming agreement to the Memorandum of Understanding).~~

Appendix B: Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding is to be signed on []

BETWEEN

THE IFRS FOUNDATION AND THE UNDERSIGNED

NATIONAL STANDARD-SETTERS AND REGIONAL BODIES

1. PREAMBLE

The G20 has consistently emphasised the importance of working towards a single set of high quality global accounting standards, and called accounting standards setters to continue their efforts to achieve this goal¹. The IFRS Foundation (the ‘Foundation’) has set as its objectives the aim to develop in the public interest, a single set of high quality, understandable, enforceable and globally accepted financial reporting standards based upon clearly articulated principles; to promote, and facilitate the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards (‘IFRSs’) around the globe and to promote the consistent application of IFRSs around the globe. These standards should serve investors and other market participants in making informed resource allocation and other economic decisions. The International Accounting Standards Board (‘IASB’) is the standard-setting body of the Foundation.

The Accounting Standards Advisory Forum (‘ASAF’) is established to support the Foundation in achieving its objectives.

ASAF is a group of nominated members from both National Standard-Setters (‘NSS’) and regional bodies involved with accounting standard-setting (regional bodies).

The Foundation recognises that NSS and regional bodies have expertise in standard-setting and valuable local jurisdictional experience and knowledge, which should be taken into account by the IASB in setting

¹ **2008 (Washington)**: The key global accounting standards bodies should work intensively toward the objective of creating a single high-quality global standard. Source: <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2008washington.html> / Action Plan:

<http://www.g20ys.org/docs/Washington%202008.pdf>.

2009 (Pittsburgh): We call on our international accounting bodies to redouble their efforts to achieve a single set of high quality, global accounting standards within the context of their independent standard setting process, and complete their convergence project by June 2011. Source:

<http://www.g20.org/images/stories/docs/eng/pittsburgh.pdf>.

2009 (London): Accounting standard setters should take action by the end of 2009 to make significant progress towards a single set of high quality global accounting standards. Source: <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009ifi.pdf>.

2010 (Toronto): We re-emphasized the importance of achieving a single set of high quality improved global accounting standards. Source:

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communicue.html>.

2011 (Cannes): We reaffirm our objective to achieve a single set of high quality global accounting standards. Source:

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2011cannes.html>.

2012 (Los Cabos): We support continuing work to achieve convergence to a single set of high-quality accounting standards. Source:

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>.

global financial and reporting standards. The ASAF will provide the opportunity for greater valuable discourse, complement the existing IASB's outreach activities and enhance the quality of the final standard.

The objective of the ASAF is to provide an advisory forum where members can constructively contribute towards the achievement of the IASB's goal of developing globally accepted high-quality accounting standards. More particularly ASAF is established to:

- support the Foundation in its objectives, and contribute towards the development, in the public interest, of a single set of high quality understandable, enforceable and globally accepted financial reporting standards to serve investors and other market participants in making informed resource allocations and other economic decisions;
- formalise and streamline the IASB's collective engagement with the global community of NSS and regional bodies in its standard setting process to ensure that a broad range of national and regional input on major technical issues related to the IASB's standard setting activities are discussed and considered; and
- facilitate effective technical discussions on standard-setting issues, primarily on the IASB's work plan, but which may include other issues that have major implications for the IASB's work, in sufficient depth, with representatives at a high level of professional capability and with a good knowledge of their jurisdictions/regions.

The parties of this MOU respect each other's role and the establishment of ASAF does not in any way undermine their respective formal mandates: The IFRS Foundation recognises the independent roles that NSS and regional bodies have within their own national and regional context, and the members of ASAF recognise that the IASB operates within the framework of the Foundation's constitution which sets the principle of the IASB's independence in developing IFRSs.

The parties of this MOU may maintain open relationships with other stakeholders, and the establishment of ASAF does not preclude the IASB or the members of ASAF from having individual relationships with stakeholders and there should be no restriction on the ability of the parties to develop and maintain their own relationships.

2. COMMITMENTS OF ASAF MEMBERS

The ASAF members formally commit to:

- 2.1 Supporting and contributing to the IFRS Foundation in its mission to develop, in the public interest, a single set of high quality, understandable, enforceable and globally accepted financial reporting standards;
- 2.2 Encouraging input from constituents within their jurisdiction/regions on the technical standard-setting activities of the IASB;

- 2.3 Providing the technical resources including the appointment of representatives with standard setting experience and expertise, allocating technical resources in preparation for ASAF meetings and participating actively in substantive technical discussions;
- 2.4 Providing the necessary resources to act as an active member of ASAF, including time and travel costs;
- 2.5 Respecting the IASB's independence, by ensuring that ASAF's discourse does not compromise or challenge the independence and integrity of the IASB and its duty to be the final arbiter of IFRSs.

3. COMMITMENTS OF THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation formally commits to:

- 3.1 Actively engaging with the ASAF and ensuring that its views and feedback are faithfully and fully presented to the IASB as a substantive part of stakeholder outreach.
- 3.2 Providing technical resources to contribute to ASAF's effective work and discussions, including the participation of IASB representatives (the Chair and other IASB members), and experienced staff with technical expertise.
- 3.3 Providing the necessary liaison, communication and support between the ASAF and the IASB.
- 3.4 Preparing the agenda and ensuring the timely circulation of the agenda and supporting papers (prepared by IASB staff or ASAF members), in order to ensure that ASAF members have the opportunity to be fully prepared and capable of actively and constructively participating in all ASAF discussions and work.
- 3.5 Providing the necessary resources and secretariat to host the ASAF meetings.
- 3.6 Ensuring full transparency of ASAF discussions, including that all meeting agendas, supporting papers and meeting summaries are placed in the public domain, meetings are webcast, and preparing and publishing appropriate press releases and communication following ASAF meetings for the benefit of stakeholders and observers around the globe.
- 3.7 Respecting the independence of ASAF members and recognising that ASAF's members operate under their own specific national mandates, and undertakes not to undermine or compromise the existing legal rights and obligations of the ASAF members within their respective jurisdictions.