

### **IFRS Advisory Council**

Agenda Paper 7B

Progressing our digital financial reporting strategy Background information on Digital Financial Reporting

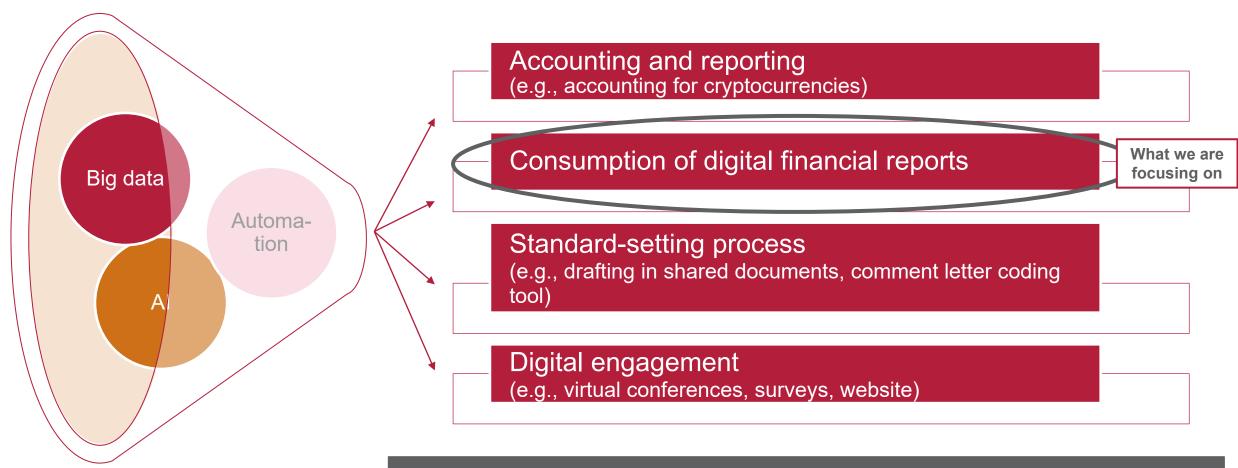
October 2022



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## Focus of our discussions on 'digital'



Internal IT Infrastructure



## Topics

- What is digital financial reporting? (slides 4-7)
- How are financial reports digitalised—the need for a digital taxonomy (slides 8-14)
- Benefits of digital financial reporting (slides 15-17)
- Current challenges (slides 18-22)
- Connectivity between the IASB and ISSB (slides 23-25)





## What is a digital financial report?

A digital financial report is a financial report that is <u>machine-readable</u>

### More than a PDF version of a financial report



I want to understand the details of company A's share-based payment arrangements











Company B

Reporting in a PDF format



Company C

Company D



I want to download 100 companies' EPS into a spreadsheet to calculate & compare their P/E ratio





### Digital financial reporting







Company AA

Company AB

. . .

Company ZZ



# What does a digital financial report look like?

With embedded information (referred to Human-readable electronic document as 'tags') needed to be machine-readable



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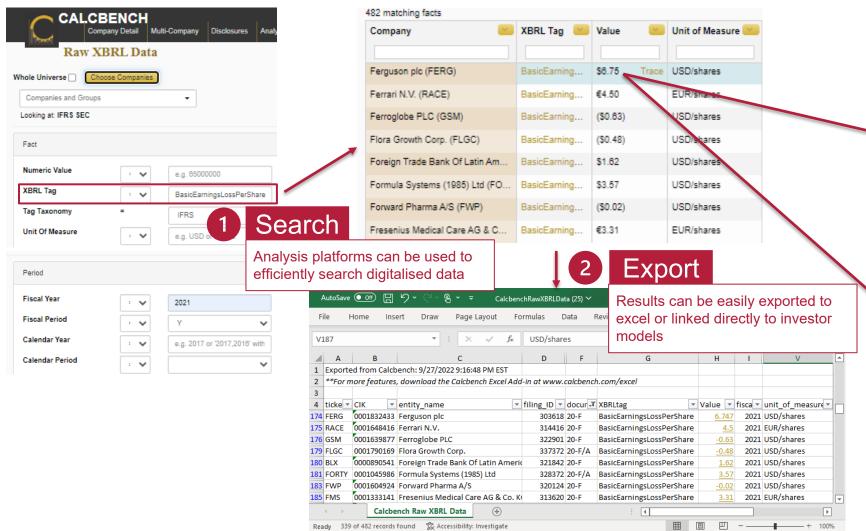
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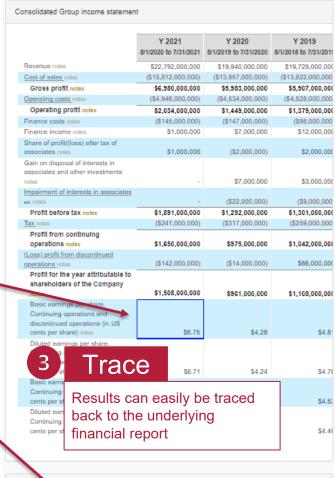
Paragraph

<u>|</u>| = | Q Consolidated income statement Concept . (ifrs-full) Basic earnings (loss) per share Year ended 31 December 2021 31 December 2020 The amount of profit (loss) attributable to ordinary equity holders of the parent entity (the numerator) divided by the weighted average Note € million € million number of ordinary shares outstanding during the period (the 13,763 10,606 Revenue 5 denominator). Cost of sales 18 (8.677)(6.871)Dimensions Gross profit 5.086 3,735 Selling and distribution expenses 18 (1,939)(2.496)1 Jan 2021 to 31 Dec 2021 18 Administrative expenses (1,074)(983)Fact Value € 2.15 Operating profit 1,516 813 Accuracy Finance income 19 43 33 19 (172)(144)Change 97.2% increase on 1 Jan 2020 to 31 Dec 2020 Finance costs Total finance costs, net (129)(111)[LEI] 549300LTH67W4GWMRF57 (5) (7) Non-operating items ifrs-full:BasicEarningsLossPerShare Concept 695 Profit before taxes 1,382 Taxonomy IFRS 2020 (394)21 498 988 Profit after taxes < 1 of 1 > > Anchoring Profit attributable to shareholders 982 498 Profit attributable to non-controlling interests 6 References 988 498 Profit after taxes IAS 2.15 1.09 Basic earnings per share (€) 6 Name 6 2.15 Diluted earnings per share (€) **IFRS** Accounting Number Disclosure IssueDate

# Digital financial reporting in action

By digitalising financial reports, information in those reports becomes machinereadable, allowing investors to extract, compare and analyse information efficiently





		2021			2020	
	Earnings	Basic earnings per share	Diluted earnings per share	Earnings	Basic earnings per share	
	Sm	cents	cents	\$m	cents	cents
Profit from continuing and discontinued operations attributable to shareholders of the						
Company	1,508	674.7	<u>670.5</u>	961	427.5	<u>423.5</u>
Loss from discontinued operations	142	63.6	63.2	14	6.2	6.2
Profit from continuing operations	1,650	738.3	733.7	<u>975</u>	433.7	429.7
					2019	
			E	arnings	Basic earnings per share	Diluted earnings per share
			_	Sm	cents	cents

Full Disclosure Open In Disclosure Viewer





## How are financial statements digitalised?



Who	Standa	ard-setter	Companies		Investors
What	Standards	Digital taxonomy#	Financial reports	Use tagging software to tag disclosures in financial reports	Digital consumption
Why	Provides requirements for company disclosures in financial reports	Provides tags derived from the Standards to make disclosures machine-readable	Makes paper reports machine-readable		Digital comparison and analysis of financial reports for more efficient investment decision-making

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>#</sup> A classification system used to make financial reports machine-readable. Different from, for example, a green taxonomy used to classify environmentally sustainable economic activities



# The need for a digital taxonomy

A digital taxonomy is a system for <u>classifying and structuring</u> data points in a manner which:

- makes the data <u>machine-readable</u>, and
- aids users in <u>finding, understanding and comparing</u> large amounts of information to facilitate efficient financial analysis



By using a common taxonomy to tag quantitative and qualitative disclosures, computers have the context needed to determine whether disclosures with different descriptions are comparable disclosures



## The IFRS Accounting Taxonomy

#### • Identification

The IFRS Accounting Taxonomy lists the globally agreed **computer codes (elements)** that preparers can use **to identify (tag)** disclosures in IFRS financial statements

Consolidated statement of comprehensive income (extract)				
Revenue	30,650			
Cost of sales	(26,000)			
Gross profit	4,650			



#### 2 References

The IFRS Accounting Taxonomy describes the accounting meaning of each element and provides references to the IFRS Accounting Standards

Label	Gross Profit
References	IAS 1.103 Example
Documentation	The amount of revenues less cost of sales. [Refer: Cost of sales; Revenue]

#### Classification

The IFRS Accounting Taxonomy organises elements into **groups** and defines **relationships** between them to help preparers and users of tagged financial statements find elements more easily

[310000] Statement of comprehensive income, profit or loss, by function of expense	
Profit or loss [abstract]	
Profit (loss) [abstract]	
Revenue	Monetary Duration, Credit
Interest revenue calculated using effective interest method	Monetary Duration, Credit
Insurance revenue	Monetary Duration, Credit
Cost of sales	(Monetary) Duration, Debit
Gross profit	Monetary Duration, Credit



# The IFRS Accounting Taxonomy

### Sources of the IFRS Accounting Taxonomy content

IFRS Accounting Standards

Presentation and disclosure requirements in IFRS Accounting Standards

Illustrative examples and implementation guidance

Common reporting practice

Commonly disclosed information not specifically mentioned in IFRS Accounting Standards

### The Taxonomy reflects disclosure requirements in IFRS Accounting Standards

It does not introduce new requirements

It is not a disclosure checklist

It does not dictate how preparers should present their reports



# How you can navigate the IFRS Accounting Taxonomy

Standards Navigator: Taxonomy elements shown within bound volume text

Show:		Annotation Taxonomy		Expand All +			
53	A les	see shall disclose the following amounts for the reporting	ng period:				
	(a)	depreciation charge for <u>right-of-use assets</u> by class of <u>underlying asset;</u>					
		Depreciation, right-of-use assets Disclosure	Monetary <sub>Duration</sub>	832610			
	(b)	interest expense on lease liabilities;					
		Interest expense on lease liabilities Disclosure	Monetary <sub>Duration</sub> , Debit	832610			
	(c)	the expense relating to <u>short-term leases</u> accounted for applying <u>paragraph 6</u> . This expense need not include the expense relating to <u>leases</u> with a <u>lease term</u> of one month or less;					
		Expense relating to short-term leases for which recognition exemption has been used <sub>Disclosure</sub>	Monetary <sub>Duration</sub> ,	832610			



# How you can navigate the IFRS Accounting Taxonomy

IFRS Accounting Taxonomy Illustrated: List of Taxonomy elements in PDF or Excel

[210000] Statement of financial position, current/non-current		
Statement of financial position [abstract]		
Assets [abstract]		
Non-current assets [abstract]		
Property, plant and equipment	X <sub>instant, debit</sub>	IAS 1.54 a <sub>Disclosure</sub> , IAS 16.73 e <sub>Disclosure</sub>
Investment property	Xinstant, debit	IAS 1.54 b <sub>Disclosure</sub> , IAS 40.76 <sub>Disclosure</sub> , IAS 40.79 d <sub>Disclosure</sub>
Goodwill	X <sub>instant, debit</sub>	IAS 1.54 c <sub>Disclosure</sub> , IAS 36.134 a <sub>Disclosure</sub> , IAS 36.135 a <sub>Disclosure</sub> , IFRS 3.B67 d <sub>Disclosure</sub>
Intangible assets other than goodwill	X <sub>instant, debit</sub>	IAS 1.54 c <sub>Disclosure</sub> , IAS 38.118 e <sub>Disclosure</sub>
Investments accounted for using equity method	X <sub>instant, debit</sub>	IAS 1.54 e <sub>Disclosure</sub> , IFRS 12.B16 <sub>Disclosure</sub> , IFRS 8.24 a <sub>Disclosure</sub>
Investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates	X <sub>instant, debit</sub>	IAS 27.10 Disclosure
Non-current biological assets	X <sub>instant, debit</sub>	IAS 1.54 f Disclosure
Trade and other non-current receivables	X <sub>instant, debit</sub>	IAS 1.54 h Disclosure, IAS 1.78 b Disclosure
Man averant inventories	v	100 1 54 -





# Benefits of digital financial reporting

transparency

Provides opportunities to improve capital market efficiency and reduce firms' cost of capital



processing efficiency

language barrier

Over 90% of global market capitalisation now require some form of digital financial reporting (e.g. US, EU, UK, China, India, Japan)

 However, the current global approach to digital financial reporting is fragmented and, in our view, does not realise the full benefits



# Opportunities to enhance financial reporting

• Digitalisation offers new opportunities to enhance financial reporting. Possible opportunities include:

The ability for investors to tailor the presentation of financial reports to meet their decision-making needs

Interactive financial reports that allow investors to toggle between different measurement bases

Enhanced ability to reflect relationships between items/disclosures

- Leveraging digital opportunities may require a 'pro-digital' standardsetting approach
- There is a wide spectrum of what a 'pro-digital' approach might entail. Some examples are:
  - Re-thinking the cost/benefit analysis of disclosure requirements
    - Reporting more granular information may no longer be as costly
    - Consuming larger quantities of data may be easier
  - Re-thinking the balance between comparability and entity-specific information
  - Thinking beyond the constraints of a static paper-based format
    - Location of where information is presented/disclosed may be less of an issue

- A pro-digital approach may involve challenges
  - Implications for materiality
  - Ensuring contextual information remains visible
  - Costs for preparers
  - Challenges for less sophisticated investors
  - May require changes to existing regulatory/legislative filing requirements





### Fragmented global adoption of the IFRS Accounting Taxonomy

- Variations in whether use of the IFRS Accounting Taxonomy is required For example, some jurisdictions:
  - require use of the IFRS Accounting Taxonomy
  - require use of the IFRS Accounting Taxonomy, with modifications for carve outs
  - require use of their proprietary taxonomy for IFRS reporters
  - permit, but do not require, use of the IFRS Accounting Taxonomy
  - have no digital financial reporting requirements

#### Implication

Investors cannot digitally compare IFRS reports from around the world



Consistent, global use of the IFRS Accounting Taxonomy is fundamental to consumption of digital financial reports



### Poor quality digital data

- Variations in whether assurance is required over digital financial reports
- Variations in whether enforcers review digital financial reports

### Implication

- Poor data quality (incorrect tags, scaling (thousands vs. millions), negative vs. positive signs, use of unnecessary extensions)
- Risk of investor harm and loss of trust in digital data



### Challenges accessing digital data

Variations in what is required to be tagged

For example, some jurisdictions:

- only require tagging of primary financial statements
- require tagging of primary financial statements and block tagging of notes
- require tagging of primary financial statements, block tagging of notes and detailed tagging of specified notes
- Variations in how accessible digital financial reports are, with no single global access point
  - Some digital reports are freely accessible when issued
  - Some digital reports are partially accessible (e.g., fee or permission may be required)
  - Some digital reports are not publicly accessible

#### Implication

 Even if financial reports were tagged using the IFRS Accounting Taxonomy, neither investors nor data aggregators can access some of this data to analyse digitally



### Myths about digital reporting persist

Myth #1: Artificial intelligence eliminates the need for the structure that taxonomies give to data

#### **Counter-arguments**

Our work indicates that **artificial intelligence benefits from the structure** provided by taxonomies

- Data providers that use artificial intelligence need to create their own taxonomy
- These data providers prefer a globally applied taxonomy, updated at the same time Standards change

Artificial intelligence provides only **limited comparability** across companies. A taxonomy facilitates the identification, by a company, of exactly which information it has provided to satisfy a particular requirement in the Standards. In contrast, artificial intelligence, in effect, makes educated guesses about this

However, once tagged data is available and extracted, artificial intelligence can aid analysis

# Myth #2: Data aggregators already satisfy market needs for digital reports

### **Counter-arguments**

- Data aggregators play an important role in providing information to capital markets
- However, data from data aggregators can be costly for investors
- The data may also be reformatted in a standardised way, but this presentation may differ from the underlying paper / PDF financial reports applying IFRS Accounting Standards
- Additionally, data aggregators often do not provide detailed information disclosed in the notes to the financial statements
- Implication Misinformation creates challenges in progressing towards global digital financial reporting





## Connectivity between the IASB and ISSB



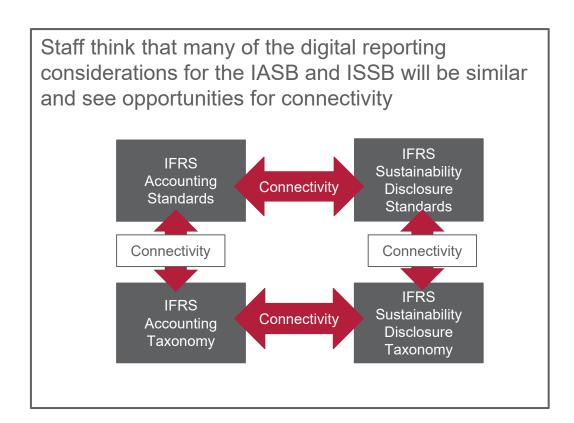
As part of its Agenda Consultation the IASB agreed to slightly increase its level of focus on digital financial reporting



The ISSB expects to consult on its priorities in early 2023

It is anticipated that the ISSB will:

- take a digital from day one approach
- publish a proposed IFRS Sustainability
   Disclosure Taxonomy shortly after it
   issues the IFRS Sustainability
   Disclosure Standards





## Additional digital considerations specific to the ISSB

- Need for technology to assist in gathering data (eg, scope 3 emissions) more pronounced for sustainability reporting
- Interoperability with digital taxonomies from other parties (eg, EFRAG / Europe, GRI) needed to:
  - enable common tagging of the same disclosures
  - avoid common tagging of different disclosures



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