IFRS Interpretations Committee

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Project    Business Combinations under Common Control (BCUCCs)
Topic      Project direction
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The purpose of this meeting is to gather more information to help the IASB make an informed decision on project direction. For more details see Agenda Papers 23–23B of the IASB’s April 2023 meeting.
Background
What is a BCUCC?

**Business combination**

Before the combination

- P1
- A
- B
- C

After the combination

- P1
- A
- C

Company A reports the acquisition of Company C applying the acquisition method (see slide 5).

**Business combination under common control**

Before the combination

- P
- A
- B
- C

After the combination

- P
- A
- B
- C

This is a BCUCC between wholly-owned subsidiaries. Company A uses the acquisition method or a book-value method to report the acquisition of Company C.
How do those methods work today?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets and liabilities received</th>
<th>IFRS 3’s acquisition method</th>
<th>Book-value method is not defined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intangibles and contingent liabilities</td>
<td>Measured at fair value</td>
<td>Measured at book value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodwill</td>
<td>All identifiable assets and liabilities received are recognised</td>
<td>Only previously recognised assets and liabilities are recognised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-combination information</td>
<td>Recognised</td>
<td>Not recognised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disclosure</td>
<td>Excludes the transferred company</td>
<td>Diversity in practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comprehensive disclosure</td>
<td>Little disclosure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Illustrative scenario
Listed company with a majority shareholder

This scenario illustrates a BCUCC that affects non-controlling shareholders (NCS).

- FashionCo wishes to raise capital from its successful eRetailCo, without losing control.
- HoldCo buys eRetailCo from InvestCo.
- HoldCo’s shares are publicly traded. It is controlled by FashionCo but has non-controlling shareholders.

The IASB’s preliminary view was that HoldCo should use the acquisition method.
## Selecting the method—IASB’s preliminary views and feedback

### Neither method should apply in all cases

**Overall:** most respondents agreed but some (from various jurisdictions) said a BVM should apply to all BCUCCs.

**Users:** almost all users (except users from China) agreed; almost all users from China said a book-value method (BVM) should apply to all BCUCCs.

### Apply the acquisition method (AM) to BCUCCs that affect NCS (for example, slide 6) with limited exceptions

**Overall:** many respondents agreed but many others (from various jurisdictions) disagreed, of which:
- some said a BVM should apply to all BCUCCs;
- some said the method to apply should depend on the substance of the BCUCC; and
- some said the receiving entity should have a choice as to which method to apply.

**Users:** all users (except users from China) agreed for the illustrative scenario on slide 6; almost all users from China said a BVM should apply.¹

### Apply a book-value method (BVM) in all other cases (for example, slide 4)

**Overall:** many respondents agreed but many others disagreed, most of which said to apply the AM in specific circumstances (most commonly if the receiving entity has publicly traded debt).

**Users:** almost all users agreed for a pre-IPO scenario (scenario 2¹). For a scenario where the receiving entity has bank debt and publicly traded debt (scenario 3¹) most users agreed but some said the AM should apply.

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¹ Almost all users were asked about specific scenarios rather than the underlying principle (see Agenda Paper 23D of the IASB’s December 2021 meeting for the scenarios and more details).
The IASB discussed feedback on the Discussion Paper.

The IASB tentatively decided to update the project’s objective to reflect the stage of the project and not to expand the project’s scope.

The IASB discussed the staff’s analysis of feedback on selecting the measurement method to apply to a BCUCC.

The IASB discussed the project direction and asked the staff to consult before the IASB decides.


Project direction
Options for project direction

I. Recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements

Detailed requirements, as anticipated in the Discussion Paper. Decisions could, for example, include:

- which method(s) to apply in principle;
- exceptions, including exploring possible new exceptions in more detail; and
- how to apply a book-value method.

Considering jurisdictional diversity in user feedback:

- prescribing one approach would not meet all users’ information needs; and
- allowing entities a choice might meet user information needs in their jurisdiction but wouldn’t reduce diversity or always meet user information needs.

II. Disclosure-only requirements

The IASB could develop disclosure requirements for BCUCs:

- regardless of the measurement method applied—for example, the recognised amounts of each class of assets received and liabilities assumed;
- to which the acquisition method is applied—for example, information about acquired goodwill; and
- to which a book-value method is applied—for example, which entity’s book values have been used.

III. No recognition, measurement or disclosure requirements

The IASB could discontinue the project and not develop any reporting requirements. This option would:

- not improve diversity of reporting for BCUCs;
- not improve transparency of reporting for BCUCs; and
- not require significant additional resources

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1 In addition to selecting the measurement method (slide 8), there was also diversity in feedback on other topics— for example whether to restate pre-combination information (see Agenda Paper 23B of the IASB’s April 2023 meeting).
Due Process Handbook requirements

To decide whether a standard-setting project (options I or II on slide 10) would address users’ needs, the IASB considers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deficiency in reporting</th>
<th>The project aims to reduce diversity (for example, which method to apply and how to apply a book-value method) and improve transparency. The extent to which a project would achieve these aims would depend on what requirements the IASB develops.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Importance to users</td>
<td>Engagement with users has raised questions about the importance of the project to users. There was jurisdictional diversity in user feedback—if the project does not meet user information needs globally, it may reduce its importance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of entities affected</td>
<td>52% of the 267 BCUCC transactions in our 2019 research were by entities listed in China (including Hong Kong). Research limitations make it difficult to draw definitive conclusions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How pervasive or acute</td>
<td>We are not aware of BCUCCs that affect NCS being common across jurisdictions. We understand that a form of book-value method is typically (but not always) applied to BCUCCs that do not affect NCS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The IASB’s resources</td>
<td>The level of resources required would depend on what requirements the IASB develops. We expect option II to require significantly less resources than option I.</td>
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Questions for IFRS IC members
Questions for discussion

1. What problems are caused by the gap in IFRS Accounting Standards for reporting BCUCs?
   a) Since the project was added to the IASB’s agenda in 2007, is practice largely settled or are there significant challenges in accounting for BCUCs?

2. Do you have specific examples where the reporting for a BCUC resulted in financial statements that were misleading or failed to provide useful information about the BCUC? How common are such examples?

3. Considering the criteria on slide 11, which option from slide 10 do you think the IASB should choose?