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## Sustainability Standards Advisory Forum meeting

Date	<b>March 2026</b>
Project	<b>Sustainability Standards Advisory Forum (SSAF)</b>
Topic	<b>Agenda planning and meeting summaries</b>
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This paper has been prepared for discussion at a public meeting of the Sustainability Standards Advisory Forum (SSAF). This paper does not represent the views of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) or any individual ISSB member. Any comments in the paper do not purport to set out what would be an acceptable or unacceptable application of IFRS<sup>®</sup> Sustainability Disclosure Standards. The ISSB's technical decisions are made in public and are reported in the *ISSB Update*.

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## Introduction

1. This paper summarises the input provided by Sustainability Standards Advisory Forum (SSAF) members from the September 2025 SSAF meeting, including how that has informed the work of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB). This paper also considers the potential agenda topics for the next SSAF meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for May 2026.

## Agenda planning

2. The staff anticipates that the following topics would be most relevant at the next SSAF meeting:
  - (a) enhancing the SASB Standards;
  - (b) the ISSB project on Nature-related Disclosures;
  - (c) the ISSB research project on Human Capital; and
  - (d) the development of educational material to support the implementation of ISSB Standards.
3. The May 2026 SSAF meeting will be held in Frankfurt.

4. The staff welcomes SSAF members' views on any specific topics that members would like to discuss.

## Meeting summary

### **22–23 September 2025**

5. The SSAF held its third meeting of the year on 22–23 September 2025 in Frankfurt. SSAF members discussed the following items:
  - (a) supporting implementation of IFRS S1 and IFRS S2, including:
    - (i) an update on educational material;
    - (ii) the guidance on disclosures about climate-related transition plans; and
    - (iii) working with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol);
  - (b) enhancing the SASB Standards.

### *Update on educational material*

6. At the September 2025 SSAF meeting SSAF members received an update on the development of educational material to support the implementation of IFRS S1 *General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information* and IFRS S2 *Climate-related Disclosures*.<sup>1</sup> The update included an overview of the educational material published since the previous SSAF meeting in May 2025 as well as educational material that are under development. SSAF members were asked to share any questions or comments on the published educational material or educational material under development.
7. On the topic of educational materials that have been published, SSAF members discussed the need for the ISSB to be clear in its communications that educational materials do not form part of the requirements of IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 to ensure that the ISSB's stakeholders understand the purpose of the educational material. In response to this, the ISSB Vice-Chair

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<sup>1</sup> Supporting materials for IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards can be accessed at: <https://www.ifrs.org/supporting-implementation/supporting-materials-for-ifrs-sustainability-disclosure-standards/>.

noted that in accordance with the [IFRS Due Process Handbook](#) all educational material is subject to board member review to ensure that the educational material does not add to or change the requirements in IFRS S1 and IFRS S2. The SSAF members noted the ongoing collaboration and needs related to the translation of educational materials into more languages.

8. SSAF members discussed the educational material [Using ISSB Industry-based Guidance when applying ISSB Standards](#), which explains the requirements in IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 to ‘refer to and consider the applicability of’ the SASB Standards and the *Industry-based Guidance on Implementing IFRS S2*. SSAF members noted that, while the educational material is helpful in understanding these requirements, there may still be confusion and differences in the application of this requirement amongst stakeholders. SSAF members recommended the ISSB continue to assess whether additional material to add further clarification is needed.
9. SSAF member feedback was considered in developing the [Q1 2026 ISSB Implementation Insights Podcast](#), in which the ISSB Vice-Chair and staff discussed several of the educational resources available to support companies applying ISSB Standards and emphasised that these materials do not form part of the requirements of the ISSB Standards and do not add to or modify those requirements.

#### *Guidance on disclosures about climate-related transition plans*

10. SSAF members received an overview of the IFRS guidance document [Disclosing information about an entity’s climate-related transition, including information about transition plans, in accordance with IFRS S2](#). The IFRS Foundation published this guidance document in June 2025 as part of its commitment to supporting the implementation of ISSB Standards. This guidance document addresses the fragmentation of disclosures about transition plans and helps entities applying IFRS S2 determine what information is relevant to disclose regarding their strategy and goals related to their climate-related transition.
11. SSAF members discussed:

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- (a) how their jurisdictions can build on the IFRS guidance document, rather than develop their own guidance, to avoid fragmentation in disclosures about transition plans; and
  - (b) the activities that the ISSB could do to encourage the use of the guidance document in jurisdictions adopting or otherwise using ISSB Standards.
12. SSAF members welcomed the guidance document as a practical tool for entities about aspects related to their climate-related transition. Comments from SSAF members included:
- (a) suggesting to reinforce the message that the document sets out guidance on information about an entity's climate-related transition that the entity might determine is relevant to disclose when applying IFRS S2, if an entity has set a strategy for its transition to a lower-carbon and/or climate-resilient economy, linking the entity's strategy to any formal transition plan the entity might have in place; and
  - (b) acknowledging that such disclosures will help show progress in an entity's transition planning over time.

### *Working with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol)*

13. SSAF members received an overview of how the ISSB is engaging with the GHG Protocol in connection with the GHG Protocol revisions. The staff also highlighted the GHG Protocol's forthcoming public consultation—the first of multiple planned public consultations on the GHG Protocol revisions—which was scheduled to be released in the fourth quarter of 2025 and which would have a 60-day comment period. SSAF members were asked to share any comments or questions related to the GHG Protocol revisions workstream.
14. One SSAF member expressed concerns about the length of the GHG Protocol's public consultation period (60 days), as it would be challenging for stakeholders to respond and provide quality input in such a short period of time, especially if there is need for translation of consultation documents. The staff noted that they could provide feedback about these concerns to the GHG Protocol.
15. SSAF members discussed the 9 September 2025 announcement of a strategic partnership between the GHG Protocol and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and

asked how the partnership would impact the GHG Protocol revisions.<sup>2</sup> The ISSB Vice-Chair noted that the partnership is intended to harmonise the respective standards and guidance of the GHG Protocol and ISO, but that it was not yet clear how the partnership would impact the GHG Protocol revisions.

16. The ISSB and staff will continue to update the SSAF as the GHG Protocol advances its GHG Protocol revisions.

### *Enhancing the SASB Standards*

17. SSAF members received an update regarding the ISSB's work on enhancing the SASB Standards. In this session, the staff outlined two specific aspects of the ISSB's consultation on proposed amendments to the SASB Standards and IFRS S2 industry-based guidance published in July 2025:
  - (a) the relevance and usefulness of the disclosure topics in the SASB Standards; and
  - (b) specific metrics related to water management and workforce health and safety.
18. SSAF members indicated their intent to respond to the ISSB's consultation. Some SSAF members stated that they had encountered some difficulties in effectively engaging with stakeholders in their jurisdictions. Potential reasons for these difficulties included the volume and specificity of the content and other concurrent jurisdictional consultations during the consultation period. One SSAF member noted that one of the challenges of the consultation is those with relevant subject matter expertise are not the stakeholders they typically engage with, making it more challenging to receive input.
19. Some SSAF members sought a better understanding of how the proposed amendments to nature-related and human capital-related metrics in the SASB Standards interact with the ISSB's ongoing research projects in those areas. For example, one SSAF member asked whether the ISSB would again amend the SASB Standards in connection with any standard-setting that arises from its research projects. The staff responded that they anticipate that the

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<sup>2</sup> See the relevant GHG Protocol press release at: <https://ghgprotocol.org/blog/release-iso-and-ghg-protocol-announce-strategic-partnership-deliver-unified-global-standards>.

ongoing consultation will help the ISSB determine whether the SASB Standards meet investor informational needs regarding nature and human capital, and what types of additional materials the ISSB should produce.

20. SSAF members also discussed other ways in which industry-specific guidance intersects with potential thematic disclosure requirements or guidance. For example, one SSAF member queried whether a topic that appears in 40 of the 77 SASB Standards would be better suited to a thematic disclosure requirement. ISSB members explained that the intent behind the SASB Standards is to provide guidance in identifying disclosures regarding specific risks and opportunities that resonates with a typical entity in an industry. Another SSAF member noted that the amount of overlapping content in the SASB Standards poses a challenge to translation.
21. One SSAF member noted the importance of maintaining a proportionate focus for the SASB Standards and not including too many disclosure topics given the number of small and medium-sized entities in their jurisdiction.
22. SSAF members provided staff with some specific feedback areas on the applicability of disclosure topics, including suggestions to add some topics to additional SASB Standards, such as air quality in the *Coal Operations* SASB Standard and supply chain management in the Oil & Gas SASB Standards beyond Exploration & Production.
23. The comment period for the Exposure Draft *Proposed Amendments to the SASB Standards* closed on 30 November 2025. Many SSAF members provided the ISSB with comment letters consistent with the feedback summarised above. The staff presented the ISSB with a summary of strategic feedback received related to the Exposure Draft at the February 2026 ISSB meeting to inform the ISSB's next steps on the SASB enhancements project.<sup>3</sup> The staff will provide additional analysis of the feedback in the coming months.

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<sup>3</sup> Agenda Paper 6A *Stakeholder feedback and project next steps* from the February 2026 ISSB meeting provides a summary of aspects of stakeholder feedback on the July 2025 Exposure Draft regarding the ISSB's execution of its 2024-2026 work plan and strategy related to the project on Enhancing the SASB Standards. This paper can be found at: <https://www.ifrs.org/content/dam/ifrs/meetings/2026/february/issb/ap6a-stakeholder-feedback-project-next-steps.pdf>.