
IFRS Taxonomy Consultative Group (ITCG) meeting

Date	19 October 2026
Project	IFRS Accounting Taxonomy
Topic	IFRS Accounting Taxonomy 2025—General Improvements Update
Contacts	Owen Jones (ojones@ifrs.org) Kenny Ng (kenny.ng@ifrs.org)

This paper has been prepared for discussion at a public meeting of the ITCG. This paper does not represent the views of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), or any individual IASB or ISSB member. Any comments in the paper do not purport to set out what would be an acceptable or unacceptable application of IFRS® Accounting Standards or IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards.

Purpose of this meeting

1. *To provide a project update and recap the proposals*
2. *To discuss feedback from comment letters and fieldwork findings, share our initial staff assessments, and seek ITCG members' views on the proposed way forward*
3. *To discuss the timing and publication of general improvements and next steps*

Questions for ITCG members



Question 1—Do you agree with the staff analysis, which indicates that, except for those truly entity-specific extensions, around half of the table text block extensions created by filers could be replaced by existing IFRS dimensional tags? Does this analysis reflect your experience in practice?

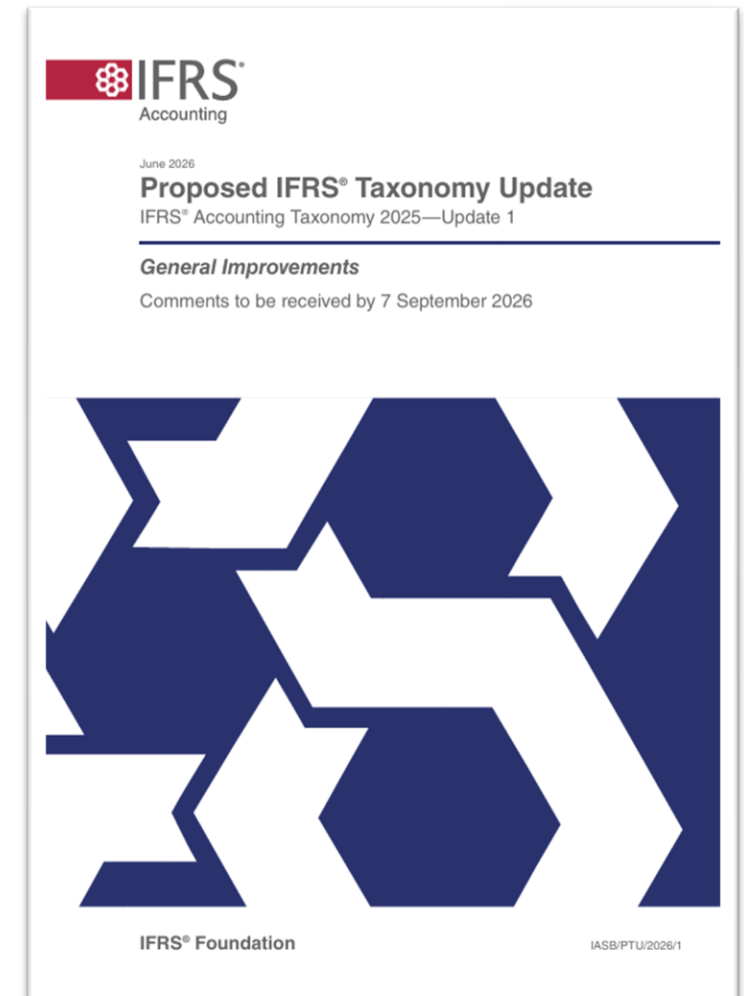
Question 2—Do you agree with the staff recommendation for the approach to retaining the current scope of ‘table’ text block elements now and performing a detailed review in the future? Why or why not?

Question 3—Do you have questions on our fieldwork findings or comment letter feedback (slides 20–23)?

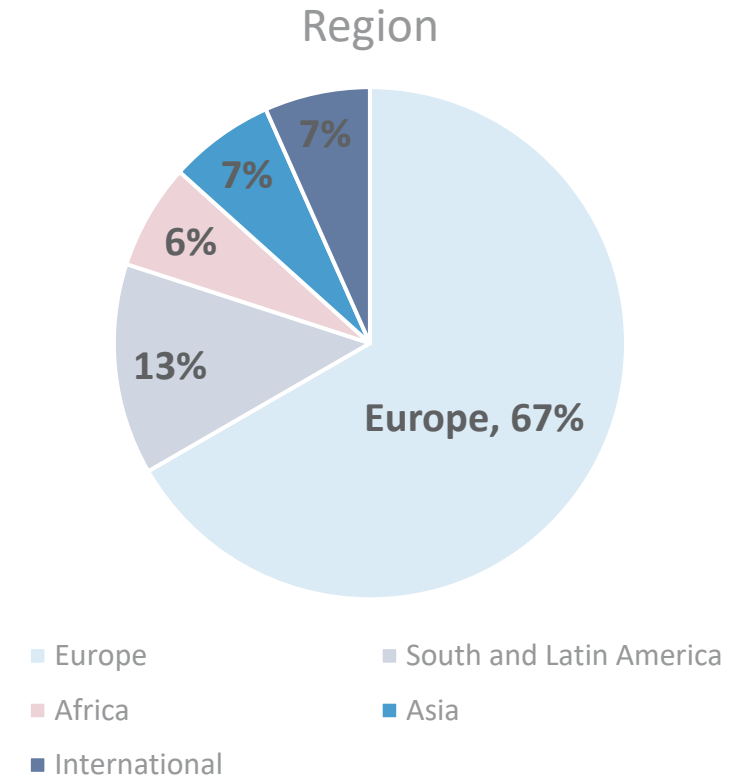
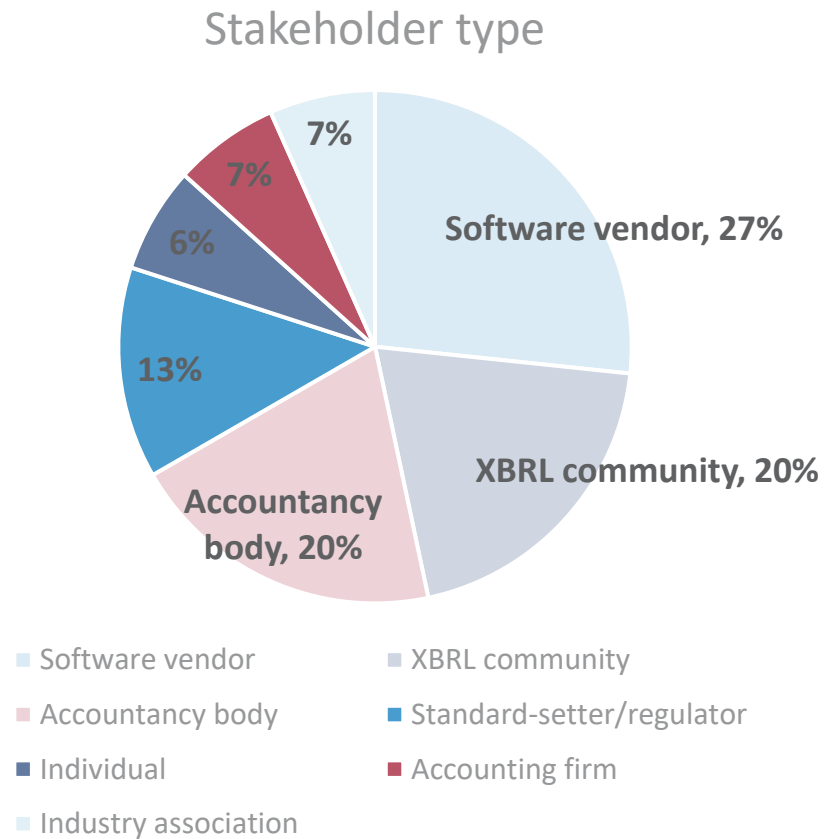
Project update and proposals

Project update

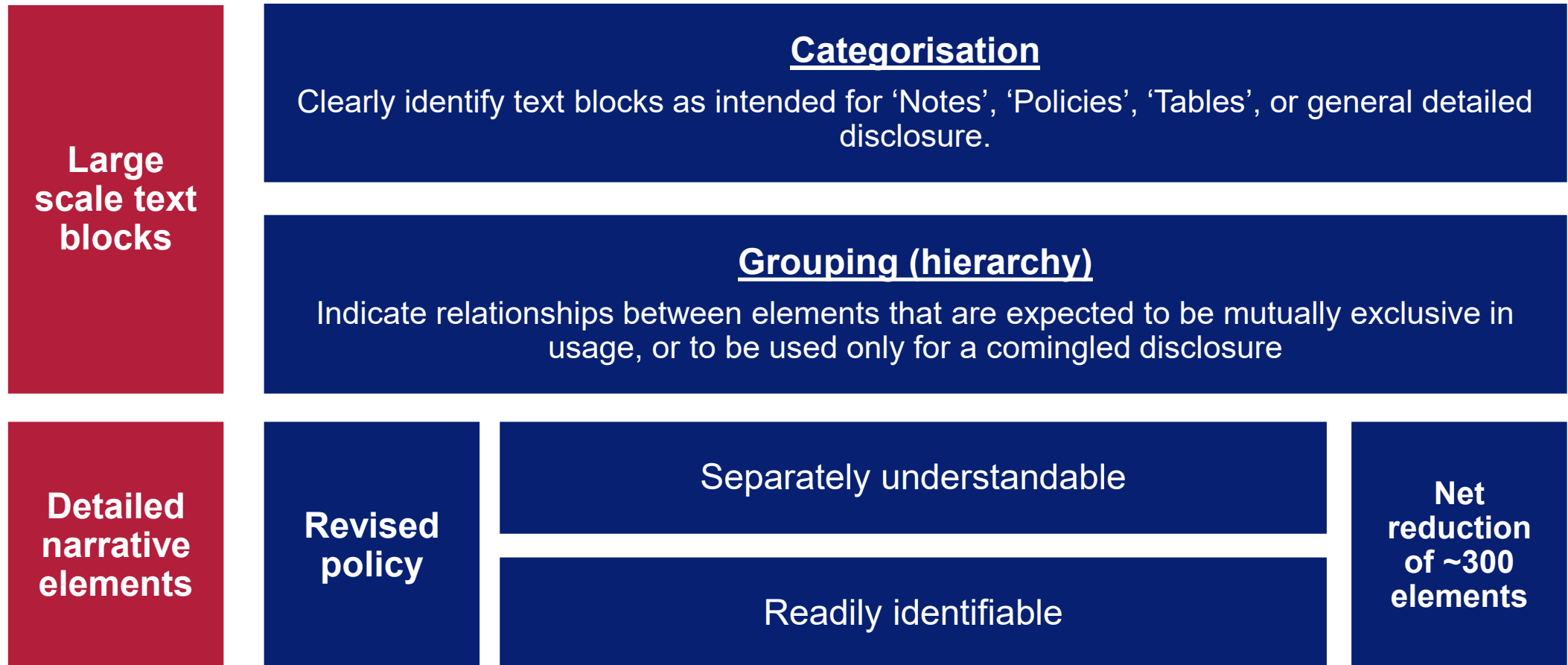
- **June** – [Proposed Taxonomy Update document](#) (GI PTU) was published
- **July to early September** – Fieldwork exercise
 - Tested proposals with fieldwork participants
 - Participants tagged financial statements using the proposed Taxonomy
 - Participants were also asked to provide feedback and comments
- **Early September** – Comment letter period ends
 - Received a total of **15 comment letters**



Summary of comment letter respondents



Overview of proposals*



* Please see detailed recap of proposals in Appendix

High-level summary of feedback



Summary of high-level feedback

All proposals were **generally supported**, with clarification questions and suggestions

Specific topics	Feedback
Categorisation of text block elements	Most supported the proposals; some raised concerns about category boundaries, particularly the ‘table’ category, and suggested structured metadata and additional relationships between note and policy elements.
Applying the revised narrative element policy to existing narrative elements	Most supported the proposals; concerns focused on loss of granularity, transition, traceability and comparability. Some recommended retaining or otherwise preserving detailed subparagraph reference information.
Rejected approach—Retaining deprecated elements as abstract context markers	Most supported rejecting the approach; a few suggested alternative approaches to preserve searchability and structural context.
Other general improvements	Generally supported ; some suggested broader or more consistent technical approaches, including modelling relationships in taxonomy linkbases.

* See recap of proposals for each topic in Appendix

Specific feedback to discuss

Meaning and scope of the ‘table’ category

Comment letter feedback and fieldwork findings

Term ‘table’ could imply presentation format

- Some comment letter respondents and fieldwork participants questioned whether the term adequately conveys that the category relates to dimensionally modelled disclosures.
- A few respondents noted that the ‘table’ category is based on Taxonomy modelling and asked us to clarify the meaning and scope of ‘table’ category.

Alternative terminology or clearer guidance suggested

- One respondent suggested ‘structured disclosure text block’ or ‘dimensional text block’; respondents and fieldwork participants also suggested clearer guidance if the category is based on Taxonomy modelling rather than an entity’s presentation format.
- One fieldwork participant also suggested adding guidance labels to ‘table’ text block elements.

Request for table text block elements for common tabular disclosures

- One fieldwork participant had to create many table text block extensions to tag **common table disclosures**, and suggested adding table-level elements for them.

Meaning and scope of the ‘table’ category

Existing approach and staff assessments

Existing approach

- IFRS Foundation **modelling policy** – ‘Table’ text block element is created as a wrapper for any disclosure that requires a disaggregation by some concept other than time period or line item (i.e. a dimensional ‘table’ structure).
- This modelling policy applies regardless of whether an entity presents the information as a table or narratively.
- The ‘table’ text block elements therefore captures disclosure that is conceptually structured and **dimensional** in nature, together with any **narrative information** that forms part of the dimensional disclosure and is useful for understanding such disclosure.
- In the PTU, the Foundation considered, but rejected, extending the category to all information commonly presented as tables because this would require judgement about formatting of financial statements that might be difficult to apply consistently and could imply a prescribed format where the Standards do not require one.

Staff assessments

- The existing approach of creating table text block elements only for disclosures with related dimensional structures remains useful for Taxonomy modelling.
- However, feedback highlights that the term ‘table’ might not be clear whether the term ‘table’ is referring to dimensional structure or presentation format. It is also unclear what element to apply when a disclosure might be presented narratively, in a table, or as a combination of narrative and tabular formats.

Meaning and scope of the ‘table’ category

Differences between physical and logical/dimensional tables

Physical table

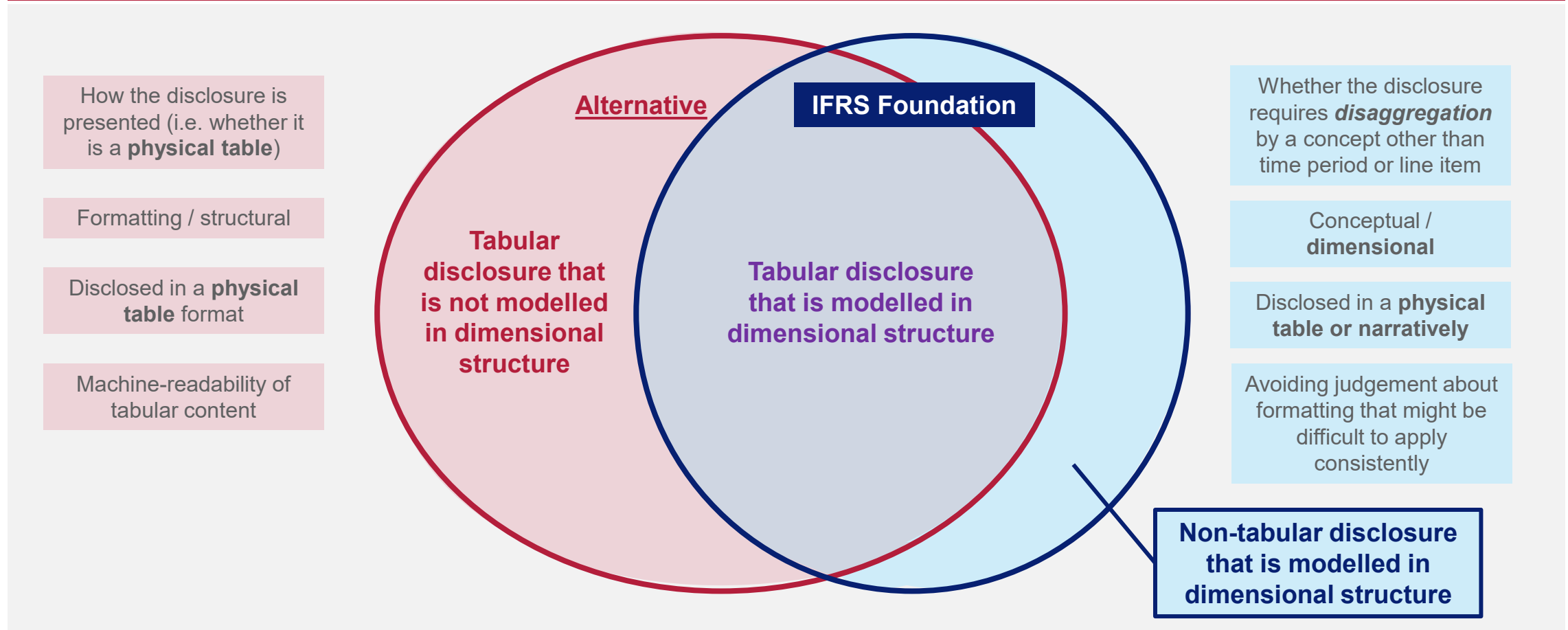
- A presentation format — information laid out visually in rows and columns in the primary financial statements or in the notes
- Formatting choices made by the preparers

Logical/dimensional table

- A Taxonomy modelling structure — a disclosure that requires disaggregation by a concept other than by time period (i.e. current and prior period) or by line item
- Based on the disclosure requirement in the Accounting Standard, which would need to require a disaggregation by some concept
- Dimensional structures could be reported in tabular format or narratively (*‘Entity X recognised revenue of A for Segment Y and revenue of B for Segment Z’* is an example of a dimensional disclosure disclosed narratively)

Meaning and scope of the ‘table’ category

Differences between interpretations on ‘table’ text block elements



Meaning and scope of the ‘table’ category

Staff analysis

SEC 20-F filings analysis

- SEC requirements include tagging each footnote table as a separate text block. We reviewed a few Form 20-F filings to assess the tags and extensions used and whether existing IFRS Accounting Taxonomy elements could replace those extensions.
- Overall, around 20% of table extensions elements are truly entity-specific elements for which no related element in the IFRS Accounting Taxonomy would be created (such as analysis of net sales of top brands).
- Of the remaining table extension elements (80%):
 - **Around half** could be replaced by an equivalent IFRS dimensional element (i.e. existing ‘table text block’, together with member and line-item members); and
 - **The other half** of these extensions relate specifically to tabular disclosures, where there is no specific IFRS Taxonomy element at an equivalent level of granularity. Many of these tables are flat breakdowns of balance sheet items disclosed in tabular format for current and prior reporting periods — these tables would not currently be modelled in the IFRS Accounting Taxonomy as table text block.
- Proceeding with the categorisation of ‘table’ text block elements would therefore have **a material effect on improving the extension rate** — roughly 40% of table text block extensions could be eliminated by using the equivalent IFRS Taxonomy element — while remaining 40% is dependent on whether the Taxonomy adds elements for commonly reported tables.

Staff's recommended approach

Recommended approach—Retain scope of 'table' TB and perform future review on tabular disclosures

Retain the scope of 'table' text block elements

- The scope of the 'table' text block element would be retained, i.e. to capture disclosure that is conceptually structured and **dimensional** in nature (whether in a physical table or logical/dimensional table).
- 'Table' text block elements would continue to be created under the current modelling policy, without a distinct category label, until the staff performs a more detailed review of disclosures that are presented in tables
- To potentially include detailed explanation on the use of 'table' text block elements and illustrative examples in the final Taxonomy Update as a guide to preparers

Potential future review on tabular disclosure

- We acknowledge that the current Taxonomy does not necessarily contain 'table' text block elements for disclosures commonly presented in tabular form. However, we suggest :
 - ❖ **Not expanding the scope** of table text block elements as part of this Update; and
 - ❖ Consider separately, as part of a **future review**, whether additional table text block elements, for common tabular disclosures not currently represented by dimensional structures, would be helpful. This review would seek to address the 40% of extension elements that are not currently addressed by existing IFRS Taxonomy elements and would be subject to a separate consultation process.

Meaning and scope of the ‘table’ category

Recommended approach—Retain scope of ‘table’ TB and perform future review on tabular disclosures

Advantages

- Keeps the category anchored to Taxonomy modelling, which remains useful and internally consistent
- Analysis shows ‘table’ text block could reduce a reasonable amount of the table extension elements to be created
- Complete categorisation framework, which could improve labelling and classification
- Delivers the categorisation benefits on the current timetable and defers expansion to a future review rather than foreclosing it, keeping the door open on tabular disclosures

Disadvantages

- The term ‘table’ may still be read as referring to presentation format rather than dimensional modelling
- Relies heavily on explanation in the final Taxonomy Update or other guidance materials
- There are still table extension elements having no IFRS tag at an equivalent level of granularity, preparers will still need to create some table text block extensions
- The commonly presented tabular disclosures remain unaddressed until future review

Meaning and scope of the ‘table’ category

Alternative approach considered (not recommended)—Not introduce the ‘table’ category in this Update

What it would involve

- Not introduce the ‘table’ category in this Update; the note, policy and detailed categories would proceed as proposed, with dimensionally modelled text blocks continuing under the current modelling policy without a category label.
- Undertake a detailed review of how tabular disclosures are presented and tagged in practice in the future.

Why the staff do not recommend it

- Creates an incomplete categorisation framework until a future review is completed.
- Dimensionally modelled disclosures remain without a dedicated category, so the current ambiguity in element selection persists.
- Defers benefits that the recommended approach delivers on the current timetable.
- It does, however, remove the risk of confusion over the term ‘table’ before tabular disclosures have been reviewed in detail. This could be mitigated by providing detailed explanation on the use of ‘table’ text block and illustrative examples to guide preparers

Questions for ITCG members

?

Question 1—Do you agree with the staff analysis, which indicates that, except for those truly entity-specific extensions, around half of the table text block extensions created by filers could be replaced by existing IFRS dimensional tags? Does this analysis reflect your experience in practice?

?

Question 2—Do you agree with the staff recommendation for the approach to retaining the scope of ‘table’ text block elements now and performing a detailed review in the future? Why or why not?

Other specific feedback

Categorisation of text block elements

Other specific feedback for future review

Description of comments	Staff assessments
Suggestions to use structured metadata to identify text block categories	Structured metadata could make the categories more readily identifiable by software. The staff plan to discuss the use of metadata with ITCG members in the breakout sessions on future developments to IFRS digital taxonomies (please see AP4).
Suggested alternative approach using one narrative element per normative concept with separate Note, Policy and Table indicator tags	The alternative would introduce significant changes to taxonomy architecture and tagging approach beyond the objective of this project. Staff will consider this as part of future general improvement work.
Suggestions to review overlapping common practice text block elements	Staff will consider this as part of future general improvement work.
Suggestions to introduce cross-category relationships between ‘note’ and ‘policy’ elements, in addition to the existing relationships within ‘note’ elements and within policy elements	Two suggested mechanisms: parent-child relationships and lightweight links such as fact-explanatoryFact relationship. We will seek ITCG input in the breakout session on whether a taxonomy-level metadata or other association mechanism should be explored as part of a future general improvements project (please see AP4).
Request for implementation guidance, including on the expected level of tagging granularity, on when accounting policies are disclosed within notes alongside other information and on applying the categorisation to extension text block elements	The staff is now considering additional explanation and examples in the final Taxonomy Update to clarify the intended use of the categories , including the interaction between note, policy and detailed text block elements and the application of the categories to extension elements. However, jurisdictions would continue to determine their tagging requirements.

Applying the revised narrative element policy to existing elements

Provide a mapping of changed elements and review specific elements

Description of comments	Staff assessments
Concerns about the loss of detailed subparagraph references	The staff acknowledges the loss of some detailed search and mapping information, but expect this to be limited given the low usage of most removed elements. However, staff will consider providing a mapping between deprecated and retained or newly created elements, incorporating the associated detailed references, to support searchability, traceability and transition.
Concerns about transition, traceability and historical comparability, including cases in which the replacement uses a different concept identity rather than only an amended label	The staff acknowledges the transition and traceability concerns and will consider how mappings between deprecated and retained or newly created elements can be communicated when finalising the Taxonomy Update.
Concern that deprecating detailed narrative elements could reduce granularity and lead to more extension elements	Staff will review the specific elements identified through fieldwork and determine on a case-by-case basis whether any targeted changes are needed.
Questions about whether the revised policy has been appropriately applied to certain existing narrative elements	Staff will review the specific elements identified through fieldwork and determine on a case-by-case basis whether any targeted changes are needed.
Broad support for retaining non-narrative elements as children of the broader narrative elements	No change proposed. Respondents supported retaining these elements to preserve structured information associated with the broader disclosures.

Rejected approach—Retaining deprecated elements as abstract

One task: provide a mapping of changed elements

Description of comments	Staff assessments
Broad support for rejecting the abstract context-marker approach	No change proposed. Feedback generally supported the conclusion that the potential navigation benefits would not justify the additional Taxonomy complexity and possible confusion for preparers.
Suggested alternative: Implementation of abstract context markers using distinct labels, retained attributes and relationships in the definition linkbase	The alternative could address some concerns about distinguishing context markers and avoiding changes to the presentation linkbase. However, broader architectural and implementation issues may arise.
Concerns about removing deprecated elements before completing a broader review of taxonomy architecture and the role of structural context for AI	No change proposed. Retaining the elements temporarily as context markers would introduce the alternative approach before its broader role in the Taxonomy architecture has been considered.
Alternative ways of preserving searchability and transition information outside Taxonomy architecture	Staff acknowledge that searchability and transition information need not necessarily be addressed through abstract elements. Staff will consider providing a mapping between deprecated and retained elements to support these needs.
Need for topic-level navigation within long and complex disclosures despite support for rejecting abstract context markers	Staff acknowledges this user need. Staff will consider whether existing Taxonomy features, such as presentation groups, can support topic-level navigation without retaining deprecated elements as abstract context markers.

Other general improvements

Connections to discussion in breakout session

Description of comments	Staff assessments
Suggestions to model relationship information in taxonomy linkbases rather than documentation labels	The suggestion raises a broader question about how relationships between elements should be represented in the Taxonomy. The staff plan to discuss the use of metadata with ITCG members in the breakout sessions on <i>future developments to IFRS digital taxonomies</i> (please see AP4).
Suggestion to use text block elements more broadly across narrative disclosures	This raises a broader question about the modelling policy for text and text block elements beyond the targeted changes in this Update. We will seek ITCG input on our modelling policy in the breakout session .
Suggestion to use dedicated guidance elements rather than relying solely on documentation labels	Introducing a separate class of non-tagable guidance elements would require broader consideration of the Taxonomy architecture and how such elements would be displayed and used in software. Staff will consider as part of future general improvement work .
Specific fieldwork concerns about the categorisation, retention or placement of individual elements	Staff will review the specific suggestions from fieldwork and determine on a case-by-case basis whether targeted corrections or clarifications are needed.

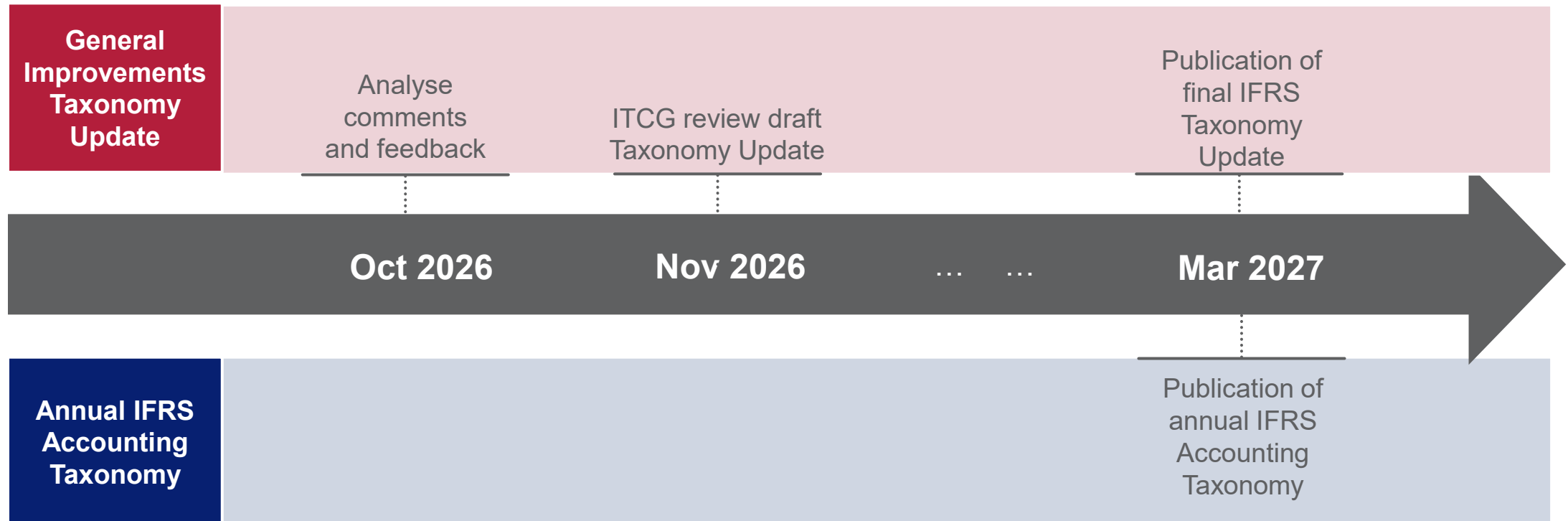
Questions for ITCG members



Question 3—Do you have questions on our fieldwork findings or comment letter feedback (slides 20–23)?

Next steps

Next steps



Appendix—Recap of our proposals

Categorisation of text block elements

- Text block elements currently serve different tagging purposes, but those purposes are not always clear from the Taxonomy. This can make element selection ambiguous and result in disclosures being tagged inconsistently.

Proposed approach

- Categorise text block elements into:

Note
text block

Policy
text block

Table
text block

Detailed
text block

- Amend standard and documentation labels to make the intended use clearer

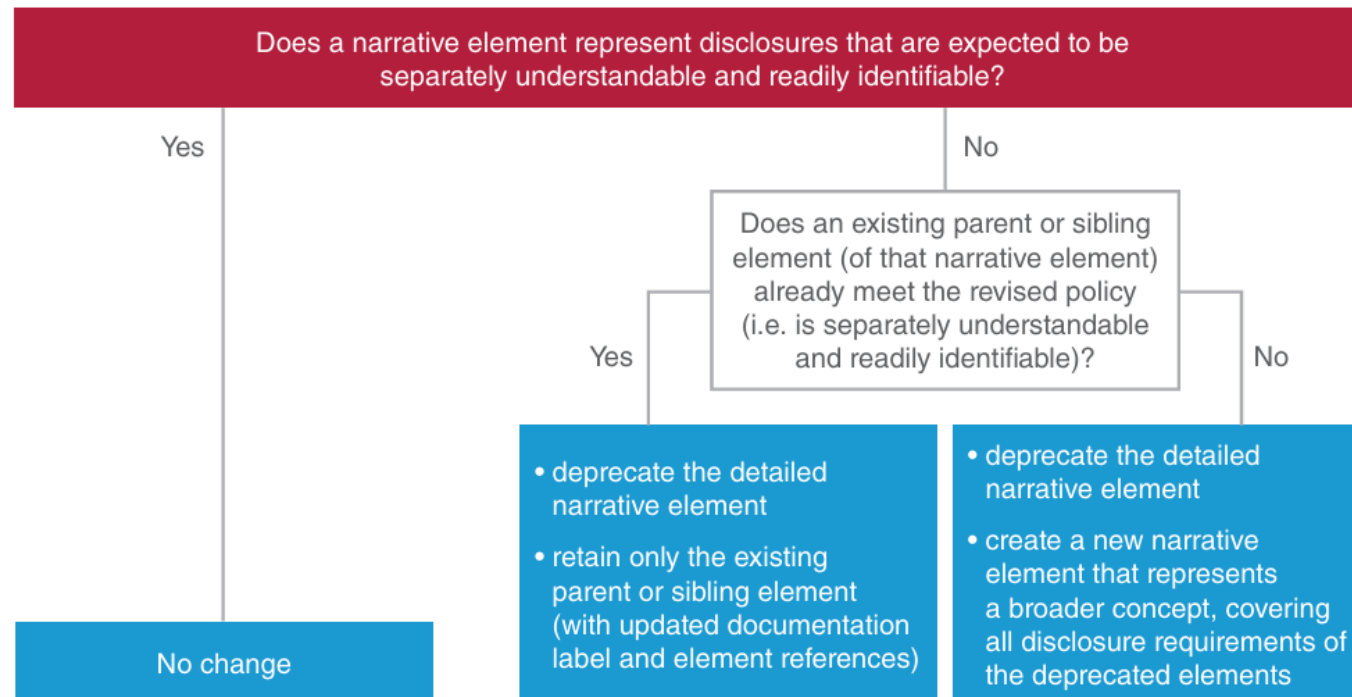
Standard label	Documentation label
Disclosure of borrowings [<u>note</u> text block]	<u>Note</u> . The disclosure of borrowings. [Refer: Borrowings]

- Add guidance labels for note and policy elements
- Introduce parent–child relationships between closely related elements separately within ‘note’ text block elements and separately within ‘policy’ text block elements, supported by amended documentation labels identifying related elements

Applying the revised narrative element policy to existing elements

- Under the revised narrative element policy, separate narrative elements are created only for disclosures expected to be **separately understandable** to users; and **readily identifiable** for tagging by preparers.

Proposed approach



Applying the revised narrative element policy to existing elements

Proposed consequential approach for paragraph references

- When detailed narrative elements are deprecated and replaced by a broader element:
 - **retain main paragraph only** as reference if the broader element reflects the overall disclosure requirement in that paragraph
 - **retain subparagraph references** if the broader element covers only some subparagraphs and the main paragraph alone would not adequately describe its scope

Proposed consequential approach for non-narrative elements

- When a narrative parent is deprecated:
 - retain existing non-narrative child elements, such as categorical, monetary, numeric or date elements; and
 - move them beneath the retained or newly created broader narrative element.

Rejected approach: retaining deprecated elements as abstract

Alternative approach considered

- Instead of removing detailed narrative elements entirely, the Foundation considered replacing them in the presentation linkbase with non-taggable abstract 'context marker' elements.
- These abstract elements would preserve information about the specific disclosures that might be included within a broader text block, without themselves being available for tagging.

Element label	ET	ER	Reference
Disclosure of additional information about leasing activities for lessor [text block]	TB	D	IFRS 16.92
~~Information about nature of lessor's leasing activities~~	~~T~~	~~D~~	~~IFRS 16.92(a)~~
Information about nature of lessor's leasing activities [abstract]			IFRS 16.92(a)
~~Information about how lessor manages risk associated with rights it retains in underlying assets~~	~~T~~	~~D~~	~~IFRS 16.92(b)~~
Information about how lessor manages risk associated with rights it retains in underlying assets [abstract]			IFRS 16.92(b)
~~Information about risk management strategy for rights that lessor retains in underlying assets~~	~~T~~	~~D~~	~~IFRS 16.92(b)~~
Information about risk management strategy for rights that lessor retains in underlying assets [abstract]			IFRS 16.92(b)

Rejected approach: retaining deprecated elements as abstract

Potential benefits

- preserve reference points for searching and locating elements and links to specific disclosure requirements;
- provide structural context, including for machine-readable analysis.

Why the approach was rejected

The Foundation concluded that the disadvantages outweighed those benefits because context markers could:

- not be visible in some tagging tools, limiting their usefulness to preparers;
- require changes to the existing Taxonomy architecture, potentially affecting existing processes and increasing maintenance;
- create architectural differences between the IFRS Accounting Taxonomy and IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Taxonomy; and
- create inconsistency with the existing modelling of IFRS 18 narrative elements, for which equivalent abstract elements were not created.

Other general improvements

As part of the review of narrative elements in the IFRS Accounting Taxonomy, the Foundation identified several additional general improvements, including:

- creating categorical elements under some narrative elements;
- amending the documentation labels of some narrative elements;
- creating one text element; and
- changing the element type of some elements.

Follow us online

 ifrs.org

 [@IFRSFoundation](https://twitter.com/IFRSFoundation)

 [IFRS Foundation](https://www.youtube.com/IFRSFoundation)

 [International Accounting
Standards Board](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ifrs-foundation)