IFRS Sustainability

Staff paper

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Sustainability Standards Advisory Forum meeting

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Project	**Sustainability Standards Advisory Forum (SSAF)**
Topic	**Agenda planning and meeting summaries**
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Introduction

1. This paper summarises the input provided by Sustainability Standards Advisory Forum (SSAF) members from the May 2026 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 1st and 2nd February 2027.

Agenda planning

2. The staff expects 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) supporting implementation of IFRS S1 *General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information* and IFRS S2 *Climate-related Disclosures*.

3. The Q1 2027 SSAF meeting will be held in virtually.

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

Meeting summary

19 May 2026

5. The SSAF held its meeting in Frankfurt on 19 May 2026. SSAF members discussed the following items:

   (a) supporting implementation of IFRS S1 and IFRS S2, including:

      (i) update on educational material and capacity building activities; and

      (ii) the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB)'s approach to education and capacity building for AASB S2 *Climate-related Disclosures*;

   (b) Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol) update;

   (c) enhancing the SASB Standards (Phase 1—continued)—update on Exposure Draft and latest outreach activities;

   (d) nature-related disclosures—essential terms and concepts for standard-setting on nature.

Update on educational material and capacity building activities

6. SSAF members received an update on the ISSB's work to support the implementation of IFRS S1 and IFRS S2.[1] The update included an overview of:

   (a) the educational material developed as well as educational materials under development. The staff noted that with the materials published to date representing a foundational suite of educational materials, the staff is now focusing on improving the accessibility and visibility of these educational materials. The foundational suite of educational materials covers key aspects of the ISSB Standards such as materiality,

[1] Materials to support the application of IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards can be found on the IFRS Foundation resources page of the IFRS Sustainability knowledge hub: [IFRS - IFRS Foundation resources](#) .

proportionality and anticipated financial effects as well as climate specific topics such as an entity's climate-related transition and its GHG emissions disclosures.

(b) capacity building activities, including an update on the training content developed by the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges (UN SSE) initiative and the International Financial Corporation (IFC)—with input from the IFRS Foundation as part of the UN SSE training initiative—and an update on the Training Partner Programme.

7. SSAF members were asked to share any questions or comments on the educational material and capacity building activities update. SSAF members were also asked to share any questions or comments about how the ISSB works with SSAF members to support implementation activities.

8. SSAF members welcomed the educational material and training initiatives. As it relates to the Training Partner Programme, some SSAF members emphasised the importance of establishing collaboration between approved local training partners and national standard setters, noting that national standard setters can help provide relevant jurisdictional context or content, if necessary, in specific circumstances. ISSB staff welcomed the collaboration and also noted that national standard setters can become approved training partners. The ISSB Vice Chair added that the ISSB can inform licensed training partners of national standard setters' interest to help coordinate local training and outreach.

9. One SSAF member commented on the work the staff highlighted related to accessibility and visibility. The SSAF member agreed that work would be welcome, including identifying opportunities to streamline and clearly communicate how these documents interact and their authority, as well as enhancing the accessibility and searchability of resources on the IFRS Foundation website. The ISSB Vice Chair noted that the ISSB's training materials focus on explaining the different categories of materials, how to use them and how not use them. The Vice Chair also acknowledged that more work could be done in this area and welcomed the collaboration of SSAF members in communicating how to use these materials to local stakeholders.

10. One SSAF member highlighted the need to focus on a 'train-the-trainer' approach by engaging the academic community and universities to help prepare future professionals to work in sustainability reporting. ISSB staff explained that the Training Partner Program acts as a 'train-the-trainer' model. Staff confirmed that a range of organisations are eligible to become training partners, including academic institutions.

11. Some SSAF members reiterated a continued focus on providing practical examples to make the materials accessible those earlier on their reporting journey and for different sized entities. They noted that some preparers continue to face challenges with some topics, including climate-related scenario analysis and disclosing information about anticipated financial effects. The ISSB Vice Chair noted that stakeholders are looking for helpful real-world examples and as more reports become available the staff are looking for ways to highlight examples of good disclosure practices as they emerge.

12. SSAF members welcomed the ongoing translation work and noted the importance of translating educational resources to local languages—such as Simplified Chinese and French—in broadening access to these resources and facilitating implementation readiness in non-English speaking regions. The ISSB Vice Chair welcomed collaboration with jurisdictions and partners to support translation efforts.

13. Following the discussion with the SSAF, staff have updated the IFRS Foundation resources page of the IFRS Sustainability Knowledge hub to bring together the suite of educational materials published to date into a more structured and navigable interface. The updated page includes short descriptions, links to translations, and related resources to enhance the visibility and accessibility of these materials.

The AASB's approach to education and capacity building for AASB S2

14. The ISSB staff noted that they are considering ways to support working effectively with regional and national standard setters on implementation activities to ensure support is provided in a consistent and co-ordinated way. As part of those efforts SSAF members received a presentation from the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) staff on its approach to education and capacity building for AASB S2 (Climate-related Disclosures based

on IFRS S2). The presentation provided an example about how national standard setters can work most effectively with the ISSB in supporting implementation.

15. The presentation highlighted how the AASB's strategy is built on international alignment as a foundation to avoid fragmentation of guidance while supplementing the material with tailored domestic content. Key elements of this approach include:

    (a) *Published IFRS Foundation materials*: leveraging and locally adapting IFRS Foundation materials—such as by changing the references to ISSB Standards to equivalent AASB Standards and signposting to relevant legislative requirements;

    (b) *tailored domestic guidance*: partnering with relevant third party organisations for jurisdictional specific guidance—such as partnering with Australia’s national science agency (CSIRO) to help stakeholders navigate the jurisdictional relief provided by the Australian equivalent to AASB S2;

    (c) *in-person training*: delivering workshops to support preparers, using IFRS Foundation developed training program supplemented by local case studies, panels, and on-the-ground trainers; and

    (d) *other capacity building*: collaborating with relevant government agencies, such as the domestic regulator—the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC)—to develop foundational education modules covering core climate concepts.

16. A SSAF member asked whether the ISSB has a set of principles or protocols to guide other jurisdictions to achieve a collaborative model such as that demonstrated by the AASB. The ISSB staff noted that they are currently exploring ways to support effective coordination with national and regional standard setters related to implementation. The ISSB Vice Chair noted the importance of national and regional standard setters communicating what educational resources they are considering developing with the ISSB to reduce the risk of inconsistency in guidance to avoid confusion for stakeholders and inconsistent application. The ISSB staff also noted the important role SSAF members play in identifying stakeholder needs for implementation support because of their reach to local stakeholders.

17. SSAF members discussed how to capture and share emerging reporting practices as mandatory implementation begins globally. One SSAF member suggested establishing a

database of best practices to assist preparers. The ISSB staff noted that sustainability reporting applying the ISSB Standards is in its early stages and it was important that practice be given time to evolve whilst also monitoring practice to identify areas where support might be needed. To support preparers, the ISSB is considering working with partners to point to practical examples rather than publishing examples directly. This approach was considered necessary to prevent examples from becoming default templates but instead be used to support evolution of reporting over time.

18. SSAF members also shared updates on capacity building and implementation efforts within their respective jurisdictions. Building on this discussion, the ISSB is considering ways that it can support more consistent implementation of IFRS S1 and IFRS S2, and is considering developing a concise, practical guide for jurisdictional bodies that have a role in supporting implementation. This will be discussed further with SSAF members at the October 2026 SSAF meeting.

GHG Protocol update

19. SSAF members received an update from the Chair of the GHG Protocol's Independent Standards Board (ISB) on the progress of the updates to the GHG Protocol corporate suite of standards and guidance. The presentation outlined the GHG Protocol's multi-stakeholder governance structure, its close cooperation with standard setters (including the ISSB as an observer to the ISB), and the ongoing standards revision project which is organised across four workstreams: Corporate, Scope 2, Scope 3, and Actions and Market Instruments (AMI).

20. One SSAF member encouraged the ISSB and GHG Protocol to consider joint messaging to support public consultations. The member noted that this would support stakeholders understanding of how the proposed changes could in the future—subject to the IFRS Foundation due process—affect the application of IFRS S2. This would help national standard setters guide their local stakeholders in focusing their responses to the consultations. Another SSAF member expressed concerns regarding the AMI workstream, recommending that efforts focus on greenhouse gas accounting rather than expanding reporting rules that could conflict with jurisdictional reporting standards.

21. Some SSAF members raised concerns about consultation timelines, noting that a 60-day period (as used for the AMI request for information (RFI) launched on 31 March 2026) is too short for jurisdictions to conduct stakeholder outreach, research and translations. They recommended a standardised consultation period of 90 to 120 days. One SSAF member also called for greater transparency and visibility regarding the GHG Protocol's governance, including timely access to ISB meeting agendas and discussion papers. The GHG Protocol ISB Chair acknowledged these points, noting that while the AMI RFI serves as a preliminary pulse check, future consultations would have longer comment periods, and efforts are underway to publish ISB discussion materials.

22. Some SSAF members cautioned against excessive complexity and wholesale changes to the GHG Protocol Standards, suggesting the GHG Protocol focus on key areas to avoid overwhelming preparers. Another SSAF member asked how the ISSB plans to balance alignment with carbon accounting developments while preserving continuity, comparability, and a stable platform for preparers. ISSB staff emphasised that, because IFRS S2 references specific dated versions of GHG Protocol standards, any revisions to these GHG Protocol standards would not affect the application of IFRS S2. If the GHG Protocol Standard were to be updated, the ISSB will assess the likely effects of those changes before proposing any changes to IFRS S2 to reflect those updates. The ISSB will update IFRS S2 to include a reference to a modified version of the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard only after it has made this assessment and sought feedback via public consultation on any proposed change in accordance with the IFRS Foundation's due process.

Enhancing the SASB Standards (Phase 1—continued)—update on Exposure Draft and latest outreach activities

23. SSAF members received an update on the ISSB's work to enhance the SASB Standards, including a summary of the proposals in the Exposure Draft *Proposed Amendments to the SASB Standards and IFRS S2 Industry-based Guidance* (March 2026 SASB Exposure Draft), published in March 2026.

24. SSAF members were asked to:

    (a) share information about their outreach activities related to the Exposure Draft;

(b) relay any initial feedback they heard from their stakeholders on the proposals; and

(c) provide suggestions for how to best collaborate with the ISSB to ensure a successful consultation.

25. SSAF members provided an overview of their outreach activities in response to the consultation. Outreach activities include bilateral engagements, industry-specific roundtables, and seeking input on drafts of their comment letters to be sent to the ISSB. A few SSAF members noted that, consistent with their experience in responding to a July 2025 consultation on proposed amendments to the SASB Standards, they noted challenges to identify and engage with stakeholders possessing the requisite industry-specific subject matter expertise.

26. Some SSAF members provided the ISSB with preliminary feedback from their stakeholders regarding the proposed amendments. Common themes included the importance of proportionality mechanisms, ensuring compatibility with existing jurisdictional regulations, and concerns regarding data availability.

27. Consistent with previous sessions regarding the SASB Standards, a few SSAF members stated that the ISSB should prioritise strategic discussions regarding the future role and status of the SASB Standards relative to the ISSB Standards.

28. Several SSAF members provided comment letter feedback on the March 2026 SASB Exposure Draft. Staff is currently reviewing this feedback from these comment letters, including feedback about the relationship between the SASB Standards and IFRS Sustainability Disclosures.

Nature-related disclosures—essential terms and concepts for standard-setting on nature

29. The purpose of the session was to ask the SSAF members for their observations on whether and how to define specific terms and concepts in the IFRS Practice Statement *on nature-related disclosure* (IFRS Practice Statement).

Defining nature-related physical risks and nature-related transition risks

30. The SSAF members who commented on nature-related physical risks all supported defining the term. They noted that physical risks are conceptually distinct—resulting from different drivers that are clearly distinct from non-physical risks—and a definition of this term would both support providing clarity about the scope of nature-related disclosures and support comparability of disclosures.

31. SSAF members had mixed views on the necessity of defining nature-related transition risks, with most members suggesting that a description would be sufficient. Those members observed that unlike in the context of climate, the concept of transition is not as clear or well-suited to nature due to there being no singular 'end state' of transition. They suggested that a description that makes use of examples might be more helpful and practical than a definition.

32. Other SSAF members supported defining nature-related transition risks. They noted that a definition could support completeness of nature-related risk identification, support risk assessment by having an organised structure of risks that have distinct drivers (physical and non-physical). Some SSAF members also provided drafting suggestions, including that it would be helpful for the IFRS Practice Statement to reflect the breadth and diversity of transition in the context of nature and avoid strict alignment with the structure and language of the IFRS S2 definition of climate-related transition risk where it is not as well-suited to the nature-related context.

Defining the concept of ‘environmental assets’

33. SSAF members expressed mixed views on whether the concept of environmental assets should be defined or described, and how. Many SSAF members were comfortable with a description. They noted that there is a precedent in IFRS Foundation’s literature for describing essential terms and argued that this approach would:

    (a) reduce the risk of inadvertently narrowing the intended scope of the concept; and

    (b) avoid creating a terminology difference with TNFD, which would be confusing for entities already using the TNFD recommendations.

34. SSAF members who supported defining the concept of environmental assets stated that it is important to define this concept because:

    (a) it is key to understanding dependencies and impacts on nature that give rise to nature-related risks and opportunities; and

    (b) there is a conceptual link between environmental assets as the stocks of resources and the flows of ecosystem services and therefore both concepts need to be considered in identifying an entity's nature-related risks and opportunities.

35. SSAF members suggested various alternative terms that could be used as a replacement term for 'environmental assets', including 'environmental resources' and 'natural resources and ecosystems' as options.

Next steps

36. The ISSB staff incorporated the feedback from SSAF members in the paper AP3A *Updates on terms and concepts essential for standard-setting on nature* of the June 2026 ISSB meeting (follow up of the February meeting) in the Exposure Draft of the IFRS Practice Statement on nature-related disclosures.

37. Feedback from the SSAF has been incorporated into other aspects of the ISSB's work on nature. Paper AP3A *Due process steps and permission to ballot* of the July 2026 ISSB meeting provides details about the ISSB's engagement and research on nature, including its use of ISSB consultative groups such as the SSAF (see Appendix A of the Agenda Paper 3A of the July 2026 meeting for more details).