

Role specification

**Chair of the International
Accounting Standards Board**

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Background: the organisation and its mission

The organisation

The IFRS Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation created in 2001 to develop—in the public interest—high-quality, understandable, enforceable and globally accepted standards for general purpose financial reporting, and to promote and facilitate their adoption. The Standards—IFRS Accounting Standards and IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards—are collectively referred to as IFRS Standards. They are set by the IFRS Foundation's two independent standard-setting bodies, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), using a rigorous, inclusive and transparent due process. The IFRS Foundation Trustees oversee the two boards and are accountable to a Monitoring Board of public authorities.

The IASB currently comprises 12 members, all of whom are engaged in the IASB's technical accounting standard-setting work. In line with the Foundation's *Constitution*, members of the IASB are a professionally and geographically diverse group of experts with experience in financial accounting and its reporting, gained from backgrounds including as preparers and users of financial statements, regulators, auditors and academics.

Full details of the IASB—as well as the Foundation's structure, activities and key personnel—can be found [here](#).

The mission

To develop IFRS Standards that bring transparency, accountability and efficiency to financial markets around the world. This serves the public interest by fostering trust, growth and long-term financial stability in the global economy.

- IFRS Standards bring transparency by enhancing the international comparability and quality of financial information, enabling investors and other market participants to make informed economic decisions.
- IFRS Standards strengthen accountability by reducing the information gap between the providers of capital and the people to whom they have entrusted their money. Our Standards provide information needed to hold management to account. As a source of globally comparable information, IFRS Standards are also of vital importance to regulators around the world.
- IFRS Standards contribute to economic efficiency by helping investors to identify opportunities and risks across the world, thus improving capital allocation. Use of a single, trusted accounting language lowers the cost of capital and reduces international reporting costs for businesses.

IFRS Accounting Standards have in effect become the global language of financial statements—required for use by more than 140 jurisdictions.

Looking ahead

In 2025 the IFRS Foundation initiated a strategic and comprehensive review of its operations to ensure the organisation remains fit for the future. As part of its transformation programme, the Foundation undertook a review of operating costs to ensure the efficient and effective use of resources across the Foundation. As part of this work, the Trustees approved plans to reduce the costs of operating the two standard-setting boards. This reduction will be achieved by making greater use of the flexibility afforded by the Foundation's *Constitution* to determine the appropriate size of the boards and gradually transition each board from 14 to 10 members by the end of 2028, as board members' terms come to an end.

The Foundation oversees the funding model for each board independently including accommodating segregated contributions. The Foundation's responsibility is to ensure that each board has a funding model that preserves its capacity to develop and maintain high-quality Standards on an ongoing basis.

The role

Position summary

The Trustees are seeking a Chair of the IASB to succeed the current Chair on completion of his term in June 2026. The role is appointed for an initial five-year term, with potential for renewal for up to a further five years. The role is full time and the IASB is based in London.

This prestigious global public interest role requires exceptional leadership, expertise in financial reporting, commercial acumen, sensitivity to the global policy landscape, and strong stakeholder engagement and influencing skills. With IASB meetings held in public, the Chair serves in a highly visible and influential capacity.

Reports to: Chair of the IFRS Foundation Trustees

Key relationships: All members of the IASB, including particularly the Vice-Chair

IFRS Foundation leadership team and staff

Chair and members of the ISSB

Trustees of the IFRS Foundation

IFRS Foundation Monitoring Board

Chairs (and members) of the IFRS Advisory Council, the IFRS Interpretations Committee and the Accounting Standards Advisory Forum

Chair (and members) of national standard-setting bodies and regional standard-setting groups

Regulators across the globe, particularly the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), the Financial Stability Board (FSB), the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision

Key stakeholder bodies

Scope and main accountabilities of the role

To lead the IASB in setting and delivering its strategy and work plan to the timescales agreed with the IFRS Foundation Trustees, while acting as a visible and authoritative voice for the IASB in global capital markets, including:

Strategic leadership

- Articulate a vision for the IASB and lead the setting of its strategy in line with the Foundation's mandate and evolving stakeholder needs; translate that vision into a deliverable work plan.
- Proactively identify emerging financial reporting issues and assess the implications on current work plans, and how they might impact the longer-term work of the IASB.
- Play a pivotal role in working with the Trustees as they develop Foundation strategy, providing thought leadership on the future of corporate reporting, the Foundation's position in the global reporting system, and the appropriate collaboration between the IASB and the ISSB.

Chairing meetings

- Facilitate thorough and rounded debate, ensuring all contributions are heard, with no single voice dominating, synthesising and summarising discussions.
- Act as an integral member of the IASB, contributing to the debate on new Standards.
- Ensure due process is followed according to the IFRS Foundation *Due Process Handbook*.
- Ensure any sensitivities arising from the commercial and operational implications of a Standard are considered.

Managing the IASB

- Drive continuous improvement in the effective and efficient functioning of the IASB, analysing organisational needs, and optimising resource allocation and processes to enable the IASB to deliver its objectives to the highest standard.
- Review the performance of the IASB as a whole, and work with the Vice-Chair to develop the effectiveness of the IASB and of individual IASB members.
- Brief the Chair of Trustees and the Trustees on matters relating to the IASB and its work.
- Brief the IFRS Foundation Monitoring Board as appropriate about the work of the IASB.

External advocacy

- Act as a compelling public voice for the IASB's strategy, purpose and work, proactively shaping the global financial reporting agenda and promoting IFRS Accounting Standards as the single set of global accounting standards.
- Maintain the profile of the IASB, acting as its key global ambassador with external stakeholders, the media, politicians and other interested groups across the world, and ensure the key high-level relationships are in good order.
- Represent the views of the IASB as a member of the Financial Stability Board.
- Ensure wide consultation with advisory bodies and other relevant groups including investors and organisations.
- Engage effectively in a wide range of oral and written communications including public speeches and media presentations.

Internal relationships

- Provide advice and guidance to staff on projects, acting as a sounding board on potential issues.
- Cooperate closely with the ISSB to facilitate the development of compatible and complementary Standards by the boards as appropriate, while fully respecting each board's separate mandate.
- Support, as appropriate, the IFRS Foundation Managing Director and leadership team in their implementation of change and efficiency within the Foundation.
- Provide leadership working in multi-cultural teams, ensuring positive relationships with the Technical and Operational teams, and fostering an environment in which all feel able to contribute irrespective of cultural background.

Role location

The role is based with the IASB in London. It requires significant international travel.

Candidate profile

Ideal experience

- Strong leadership and management skills, demonstrated by previous experience. Experience of leading and driving change within complex organisations and in a complex international environment highly desired.
- A recognised track record of success at the top of their profession.
- Experience of managing stakeholder engagement at the highest level within an international context.
- Experience with financial reporting and appreciation of the importance of high-quality accounting standards to the efficient functioning of global capital markets, with the ability to engage confidently on technical matters.
- Political skill and cultural sensitivity—demonstrable experience of working constructively with a wide range of international and national bodies.
- Experience of working in a collegial environment with a globally diverse team where the Chair has to provide leadership and build consensus but cannot direct IASB colleagues on technical matters.

Critical competencies for success

- **Strategic and analytical thinking**—intellectually rigorous and able to shape far reaching policies. A broad thinker who is capable of contributing to the development of accounting standards globally, able to see the bigger picture and anticipate future trends in financial reporting. An able debater, willing to listen, summarise and synthesise others' arguments to agree on the best course of action.
- **Resilience and adaptability**—show resilience in facing challenges or criticism and remain adaptable when responding to evolving business environments and stakeholder expectations. Willingness to innovate and embrace change has enabled the IASB to address emerging global accounting issues.
- **Personal impact**—strong leadership skills, ability to operate as a focal point—with appropriate diplomatic, ambassadorial and public speaking skills—for a high-profile international body, demonstrating natural authority.
- **Leadership vision and management ability**—the capability to ensure the IASB remains at the forefront of developments; to advocate for and drive changes in financial reporting within a complex international environment; to build consensus across diverse jurisdictions and stakeholders groups, navigating stakeholder sensitivities; and to lead the IASB and staff through change including shifts in the financial reporting landscape, resource constraints and technological advancements.
- **Political sensitivity**—understanding political implications of financial reporting, including sensitivity to the impact of adoption of IFRS Standards globally and nationally.
- **Communication and representational skills**—able to interact effectively with a senior level team and a range of interested third parties, such as groups representing investors and other users, preparers and auditors of financial reports, national accounting standard-setters, other regulators, other international bodies, including the EU Institutions, in particular, the European Commission and the European Parliament.
- **Influencing and negotiating skills**—proactively lead colleagues, influencing and shaping the agendas to achieve successful outcomes. Resilient with high energy levels and strong relationship building skills. Ability to act with diplomacy, whilst driving the IASB's work plan forward.

Other personal characteristics

- Practical and pragmatic, balanced and open-minded and willing to consider the art of the possible. The global environment is continuously changing and evolving, so a flexible and creative approach is needed.
- Demonstrably independent of commercial interests in financial reporting once appointed.
- Courage and conviction, ability to debate and explain views clearly, to apply sound judgement and to uphold decisions in the face of conflict and challenge.
- Ability and willingness to learn, adapt and take and act on constructive feedback.
- A deep commitment to performance improvement and team development, delivering direct and timely feedback to team members to enhance personal and organisational performance.
- An interest in taking on a public service commitment.
- A high energy level, and a willingness to take on considerable travel and stakeholder engagement both inside and outside of normal business hours.

Criteria for IASB members

The criteria for the Chair identified above should also be read in conjunction with the criteria for IASB membership taken from the Foundation's *Constitution*. They are:

Demonstrated technical competency and knowledge of financial accounting and reporting—all members of the IASB, regardless of whether they are from the accounting profession, preparers, users or academics, should have demonstrated a high level of knowledge and technical competency in financial accounting and reporting. The credibility of the IASB and its individual members and the effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation will be enhanced with members who have such knowledge and skills.

Ability to analyse—members of the IASB should have demonstrated the ability to analyse issues and consider the implications of that analysis for the decision-making process.

Communication skills—effective oral and written communication skills are necessary. These skills include the ability to communicate effectively in private meetings with IASB members, in public meetings, and in written materials such as IFRS Accounting Standards, speeches, articles, memos and external correspondence. Communication skills also include the ability to listen to and consider the views of others. While a working knowledge of English is necessary, there should be no discrimination in selection against those for whom English is not their first language.

Judicious decision-making—members of the IASB should be capable of considering varied viewpoints, weighing the evidence presented in an impartial fashion, and reaching well-reasoned and supportable decisions in a timely fashion.

Awareness of the financial reporting environment—high quality financial reporting will be affected by the financial, business and economic environment. Members of the IASB should have an understanding of the global economic environment in which the IASB operates. This global awareness should include awareness of business and broad corporate reporting issues that are relevant to, and affect the relevance of, transparent financial reporting and disclosure in the various capital markets worldwide including those using IFRS Accounting Standards.

Ability to work in a collegial atmosphere—members should be able to show respect, tact and consideration for one another's and those of third parties. Members must be able to work with one another in reaching consensus views based on the IASB's objectives of developing high-quality and transparent accounting standards. Members must be able to put the objectives of the IASB above individual philosophies and interests.

Integrity, objectivity and discipline—the credibility of members should be demonstrated through their integrity and objectivity. This includes intellectual integrity as well as integrity in dealing with fellow members of the IASB and others. Members should demonstrate an ability to be objective in reaching decisions. Members should also demonstrate an ability to show rigorous discipline and carry a demanding workload.

Commitment to the IFRS Foundation's mission and public interest—members should be committed to achieving the objective of the IFRS Foundation of establishing IFRS Standards that are of high quality, comparable and transparent. A candidate for the IASB also should be committed to serving the public interest through a private standard-setting process.

Further information and how to apply

For further information on the IFRS Foundation and the International Accounting Standards Board, please go to www.ifrs.org.

The IFRS Foundation Trustees have appointed Egon Zehnder to assist with this appointment process.

To apply please send a CV and supporting letter addressed to Ken Robinson, Chair of the IFRS Foundation Nominating Committee, via email to IASBChair@egonzehnder.com by 30 November 2025. The Foundation retains the discretion to consider applications received after this date.

For a confidential discussion on the role, please contact:

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