

Public Interest Committee
Meeting of 23 October 2020

The Public Interest Committee (PIC) is the oversight body for the International Public Sector Standards Board (IPSASB) and held its [10th] meeting on 23 October 2020 via Zoom.

1. The PIC meeting was attended by Jon Blondal, Manal Fouad, Dominique Pannier and Rajat Narula. Rajat Narula attended in place of Robert Saum. In addition, the following organisations and bodies participated in the meeting (see Appendix 1 for a list of participants):
 - IPSASB
 - Consultative Advisory Group (CAG)
 - International Federation of Accountants (IFAC)
 - IFAC Nominating Committee
 - PIC Secretariat
2. This summary record of the meeting is organised around the meeting agenda. The meeting commenced and ended with committee-only time for PIC to discuss the agenda. No decisions were taken during the committee-only time. Representatives from IPSASB, IFAC, and CAG joined the meeting to work through the agenda.

Findings on the Governance Review and survey

3. On behalf of PIC, Jon Blondal presented the findings of the governance review and survey. The presentation included PIC's proposed responses to the findings. Following the presentation, a copy of the presentation slides were distributed to the participants in the meeting.
4. Following the presentation, the participants of the meeting observed that PIC had taken a constructive approach to the review and that the material presented was measured and helpful. The participants noted that the positive outcome from the survey should be depicted in the final report. They also noted that although funding arrangements were outside the scope of PIC's mandate, they considered it helpful to discuss matters relating to perception, oversight and the sources of funding, based on the findings from the review.
5. Jon Blondal advised that he would finalise the report on the findings of the governance review and survey for distribution to IPSASB and stakeholders via the PIC website.

Report by the IPSASB Chair

6. On behalf of PIC, Manal Fouad thanked Ian Carruthers for his report and presentation.
7. In advance of the PIC meeting, Ian Carruthers also distributed reports on the IPSASB Priority Projects and Work Programme (October 2020) and the Q3 2020 activity report. The activity reports from Q1 and Q2 2020 had been distributed to PIC following the end of each quarter.

8. In 2020, IPSASB approved and published the following materials for comment: Exposure Draft (ED) 70, Revenue with Performance Obligations, ED 71, Revenue without Performance Obligations and ED 72, Transfer Expenses. In addition, the priority projects have been:
- Measurement
 - Conceptual Framework–Limited Scope Update
 - ED 78, IPSAS 17, Property, Plant and Equipment Update (Comprehensive ED bringing together changes to IPSAS 17 from the Measurement, Infrastructure Assets and Heritage Assets projects)
 - Leases
 - Natural Resources.
9. Appendix A of the IPSASB Chair’s report presented the forward work programme for projects up until the end of 2023. The IPSASB is to review the work programme at its December 2020 meeting.
10. PIC members sought clarifications on the material within the reports. The discussions included an update on how measures resulting from COVID-19 were impacting on the operations of IPSASB. Of note, the mid-programme review had been deferred and its placed and focused meetings on priority projects were held in its place. The Standard-Setting Forum, scheduled for September 2020 in Portugal had been rescheduled for September 2021.
11. Ross Smith noted that virtual meetings provide less time for the Board to have informal exchanges, which may be more evident as a limiting feature of virtual meetings when new members join the Board in March 2021.
12. The PIC congratulated the IPSASB representatives on its achievements in 2020 and its ability to adapt in light of the challenging circumstances brought about by COVID-19.

IPSASB Due Process Update

13. IPSASB prepared an overview of current standard-setting projects on the IPSASB work programme and the progress through key due process steps since the last update to the PIC. For each approval the PIC was provided with a summary memo that outlined the key elements of due process followed by the IPSASB in developing the final pronouncement and the related due process checklist.
14. The PIC considered the overview and provided IPSASB the opportunity to make any additional comments. Ian Carruthers undertook to keep PIC informed of progress on leases. PIC will provide a written confirmation of the recommendation in the report following the PIC meeting.

Update from the Consultative Advisory Group Chair

15. On behalf of PIC, Dominique Pannier thanked Thomas Muller-Marques Berger for his report and presentation.
16. PIC received an overview of the IPSASB CAG membership profile and activities during 2020. Since the last CAG update to the PIC in March 2019, the CAG membership profile has evolved and the

Membership Panel is developing a target profile for its 2021 call for nominations. Further, four members have been re-appointed by the Membership Panel and Thomas Müller-Marqués Berger was re-elected as CAG Chair in June 2020. PIC commended CAG for the improvement of gender diversity of its membership.

17. Communication with the CAG has increased through quarterly newsletters and IPSASB update calls planned in September/October and March/April each year.

IFAC Nominating Committee Update

18. The Chair of the Committee, Inki Joo, attended the PIC meeting and was joined by his colleagues Alan Johnson, Kevin Dancy and Elena Churikova.
19. In relation to the Governance Review and Survey, Inki Joo and Alan Johnson noted that it was important to understand stakeholder perceptions of the Board. Kevin Dancy also noted that a diverse funding model would be helpful for managing in the current economic climate and for staying informed about the perceptions of the Board.
20. The PIC acknowledged the Nominating Committee's focus on the equality of representation in all of its dimensions for the nomination of board members, and thanked the Nominating Committee for its ongoing work.

Any Other Business

21. No other business was raised at the meeting.

Annex: List of participants

Committee members

Jon Blondál, Head of Public Management and Division, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Manal Fouad, Assistant Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Rajat Narula, Lead Financial Management Specialist, Governance, World Bank. (in place of Robert Saum)

Dominique Pannier, INTOSAI's representative, and Principal Auditor of the Government Financial Statements, Court of Accounts (France)¹

IPSASB

Ian Carruthers, IPSASB Chair

James Gunn, Managing Director, Professional Standards

Ross Smith, Program and Technical Director

International Federation of Accountants

In-Ki Joo, IFAC President and Chair Nominating Committee

Alan Johnson, IFAC Deputy President

Kevin Dancey, IFAC Chief Executive Officer

Elena Churikova, Senior Manager

Consultative Advisory Group

Thomas Muller-Marques Berger, CAG Chair

Committee's Secretariat

Guohua Huang, Senior Economist, Public Financial Management Division II, Fiscal Affairs Department, International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Andrew Blazey, Deputy Head of Public Management and Budgeting Division, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

¹ Rapporteur général de la certification des comptes de l'État, Cour des comptes (France).