

PRESS RELEASE

Leading global investors commend direction of IFRS Sustainability Exposure Drafts

London and San Francisco, May 23, 2022—Investors representing over US\$53 trillion in assets, hailing from Asia, the European Union, North America and the UK, have commended the direction of the IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards Exposure Drafts. In [a letter](#), signed 19 May and sent to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the IFRS Foundation’s International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), the investors commended the ISSB’s responsiveness to meeting investor needs for improved sustainability-related disclosures.

The ISSB’s proposals – [IFRS S1 General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Disclosure](#) and [IFRS S2 Climate-related Disclosures](#) – are intended to create a comprehensive global baseline of investor-focused sustainability disclosure, in a drive to put much-needed rigour and standardization into sustainability-disclosure across markets. The proposals are open for [consultation](#) until 29 July.

The investors, who form the [SASB Standards Investor Advisory Group \(IAG\)](#), emphasized the importance of ‘comparable, consistent, and reliable sustainability-related data to inform investment and stewardship decisions’, reiterating the importance of an industry-based approach – focused on the drivers of risk and return most relevant to business models in a given industry. Industry-based SASB Standards – which have been adopted voluntarily by businesses and investors around the world – play a key role in providing content for both Exposure Drafts.

Commenting, Richard Manley, Managing Director, Head of Sustainable Investing, CPP Investments – and Chair of the SASB Standards Investor Advisory Group, said:

“Task Force for Climate-Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) and the SASB Standards-based sustainability disclosures have, over time, become preferred by many investors because they enable investors to better assess how companies are managing 21st century risks and opportunities. We are very encouraged to see the ISSB responding to investor needs by building their proposals so firmly on the TCFD Recommendations and SASB Standards, and commend them for the speed with which they delivered these initial proposals for consultation.”

“Investor Advisory Group members are pleased to see IOSCO, the G7, G20 and the Financial Stability Board recently welcomed the global baseline approach and encourage regulators and policy makers globally to coalesce around these proposals, enabling their use across jurisdictions.”

Carine Smith Ihenacho, Chief Governance and Compliance Officer, Norges Bank Investment Management, and Vice Chair of the SASB Standards Investor Advisory Group added:

“Sustainability-related risks and opportunities vary by industry. A global baseline of standards through which companies can communicate their management of the sustainability-related risks and opportunities most relevant to their operating environment, and most likely to impact financial performance, is essential for investors with global portfolios. We applaud ISSB for embedding an industry-based approach in its proposals.”

Miyuki Zeniya, Head of Sustainable Finance for The Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, Limited, and Co-Chair of the SASB IAG’s APAC Working Group remarked:

“Prominent investors globally have backed SASB Standards and TCFD Recommendations because they help improve our understanding of business performance on sustainability-related issues. We support



the IFRS Foundation Sustainability Disclosure Standards, given their grounding on TCFD Recommendations and the SASB Standards.”

To read the full letter, please click [here](#).

About the Value Reporting Foundation

The Value Reporting Foundation is a global non-profit organization that offers a comprehensive suite of resources designed to help businesses and investors develop a shared understanding of enterprise value – how it is created, preserved, or eroded over time. The resources – including Integrated Thinking Principles, the Integrated Reporting Framework, and SASB Standards – are already adopted in over 70 countries. They comprise the 21st century market infrastructure needed to develop, manage, and communicate strategy that creates long-term value and drives improved performance. To learn more, visit www.valuereportingfoundation.org.

About the SASB Standards Investor Advisory Group

The SASB Standards Investor Advisory Group comprises more than 60 leading global asset owners, asset managers, and investment intermediaries from Asia, Europe and North America, representing >US\$53 trillion in assets. Members each recognize the need for consistent, comparable, and reliable disclosure of financially-material, decision-useful environmental, social, and governance information to investors. The SASB Investor Advisory Group will transition into the ISSB Investor Advisory Group in July, 2022, following the VRF’s consolidation with IFRS.

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