

SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING AND ASSURANCE

JULY - DECEMBER 2025

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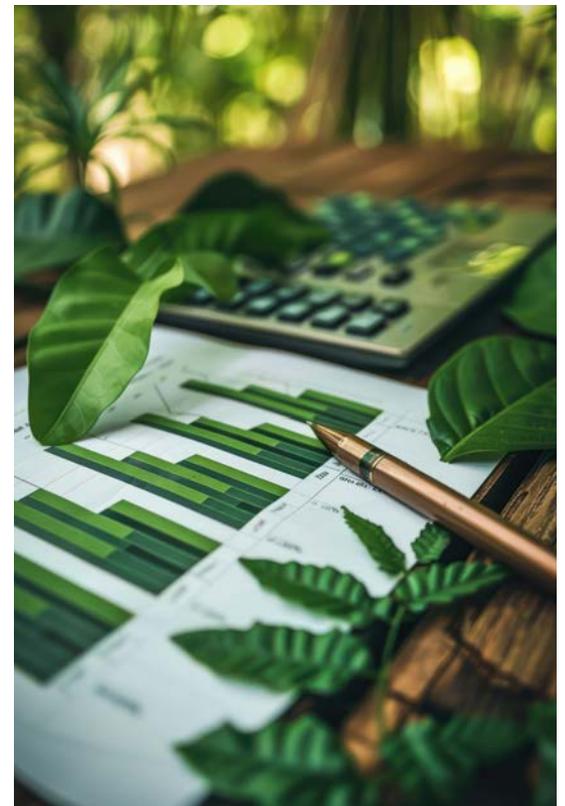
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ABOUT SAICA SUSTAINABILITY



About SAICA Sustainability

SAICA standards sustainability team aims to advocate and foster knowledge sharing and awareness of new ways to do business that support inclusive and sustainable economic growth¹. We want to be a leader in building public trust and support building resilient businesses in realising our purpose in serving the public interest.

As a Professional Accounting Organisation (PAO) with thousands of members and students in our books, we have an opportunity to make an immense impact for the better. We do so by bringing information and global conversations on sustainability and integrated reporting, sustainability assurance, climate change, nature, respecting human rights, and social equity.

- **Environmental, social, and governance-related (ESG):** We contribute to positive change by supporting standards, frameworks, and regulations that seek continuous improvement in ESG practices.
- **Collaboration:** We work with members, PAOs, and other industries and businesses to achieve sustainability objectives, increasing our impact through partnerships and coalition-building.
- **Empowerment:** We empower members to contribute to a sustainable economy by providing training, knowledge, and other relevant resources (funded opportunities).
- **Climate change:** We aim to play our part in the low-carbon transformation that is necessary to achieve

a sustainable future by advising internal steering to net zero emissions and by striving to lead peculiar market conversations leading to each Conference of Parties (COP).

About SAICA Sustainability Technical Committee (STC)

SAICA established the Sustainability Technical Committee (STC)² in 2022 consisting of 15 members who are sustainability experts in their respective areas (i.e. sustainability reporting and assurance, advisory, climate change, and education), the objective of the STC is to support SAICA to respond to various current and emerging sustainability aspects as it relates to its members and other stakeholders as identified by SAICA.



SAICA has recognised Prof Yvette Lange as the 2025 SDG Champion, celebrating her outstanding contribution to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through education, research, and ethical leadership.

The SDG Champion accolade positions Prof Lange as a leading voice in South Africa's sustainability landscape, reaffirming SAICA's dedication to recognising individuals who embody purpose-driven leadership in pursuit of a more equitable and resilient society.

¹ Sustainability | SAICA

² Sustainability Technical Committee | SAICA

SOUTH AFRICA G20 PRESIDENCY

Johannesburg Leaders' Summit Reflection



Under the presidency of South Africa, the Group of Twenty (G20) placed sustainability squarely at the centre of its agenda, under the theme “Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability”. On the sustainability pillar, the outcomes included several concrete commitments: leaders endorsed global targets to triple renewable-energy capacity by 2030 and double energy-efficiency improvements over the same period. A key achievement was the adoption of the G20’s “Critical Minerals Framework”, which recognised that producer countries should benefit from value-adding in their own supply chains, and emphasised responsible mining governance and local beneficiation for sustainable development.

Moreover, the South African presidency pushed for disaster resilience, adaptation finance, and just transitions as core elements of sustainability. For example, the ministerial statement emphasised that financing alone is insufficient: a just transition must generate decent jobs, reduce emissions, restore ecosystems, and strengthen community resilience. By aligning environmental goals with economic and social policy -particularly in Africa -the G20 under South Africa sought to shift the narrative: sustainability is not a constraint on growth, but a path to inclusive growth.

Key outcomes and highlights:

- The Leaders’ Declaration reaffirmed commitments to climate action, adaptation, financing for developing countries, and recognised Africa’s role.

- For the first time in G20 history, issues of air quality and crimes affecting the environment (e.g., illegal wildlife trade, mining, waste trafficking) were formally brought into the G20 agenda under the South African Presidency.
- There is an enhanced emphasis on mobilising climate finance (especially for adaptation and just transition) with a view to support vulnerable nations in the Global South.
- Recognition of the role of local and sub-national governments (cities, municipalities) in implementing climate, biodiversity and circular economy agendas – especially in the Global South context.
- For sustainable finance: The Sustainable Finance Working Group (G20 SFWG) under this Presidency produced a report focusing on policy obstacles and aligning finance with sustainability goals.



A key achievement was the adoption of the G20’s “critical minerals framework”, which recognised that producer countries should benefit from value-adding in their own supply chains, and emphasised...

Please click here to view: <https://www.saica.org.za/initiatives/socio-economic-impact/sustainability-matters>

B20 SOUTH AFRICA SUMMIT



The **B20 in South Africa** refers to the **Business 20 (B20)** initiative, which is the G20's official private-sector engagement group. It serves as a platform for global business leaders to influence G20 discussions and outcomes, focusing on economic growth and collaboration. Launched in February 2025, the B20 South Africa aims to amplify Africa's role in global business affairs and deliver policy recommendations to the G20.

SAICA took part in the official B20 side event co-hosted by BUSA, the IFRS Foundation, CIPC, and Alexforbes, which focused on "From Compliance to Competitiveness: Exploring Regulatory Pathways for Sustainable Growth." Our CEO moderated a panel featuring CEOs and CFOs from South Africa's leading organisations, including the JSE, Valterra Platinum, Eskom, KPMG, among others. The discussion centred on cultivating public trust within the sustainability ecosystem, with reflections on integrity, transparency, sustainability, and competitiveness as key factors in supporting risk reduction and unlocking capital flows to benefit Africa, while upholding public trust.

Insights were linked to recommendations from the finance and infrastructure taskforce, such as reinforcing market integrity, developing strategies to improve the availability of public data, and advancing investor understanding of sustainability-related risks and opportunities. Transparent disclosure was

underscored as fundamental to building public trust, ensuring stable markets, and mobilising investment.

Eskom's Group Chief Financial Officer referenced the organisation's strategic objective of fostering investor confidence. While ensuring that the board, executive team, and Chief Executive Officer are actively engaged in executing the turnaround strategy. Eskom is also taking action to eliminate corruption through comprehensive supplier engagement and robust procedures. Additionally, as highlighted at COP26, the company is committed to transitioning from coal to clean and renewable energy sources, while prioritising affordability, efficiency, competitiveness, and ensuring energy security.

[Click here to view the document.](#)



COP30 OUTCOMES

Context and Analysis



Assessing Achievements, Limitations, and Future Directions

Introduction

The 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) convened global leaders, negotiators, and stakeholders to address the pressing challenge of climate change. As a pivotal annual event under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), COP30 aimed to accelerate action towards limiting global warming to 1.5°C, strengthen climate finance, and foster international cooperation. This summary provides a deeper analysis of the summit's outcomes, highlighting both achievements and limitations across key thematic areas.

Fossil Fuels: Outcome and Broader Implications

COP30 failed to reach a collective agreement on the phasing out of fossil fuels. Despite early momentum and support from over eighty nations, major oil producers and emerging economies opposed any reference to a fossil fuel roadmap in the final text. As a result, the decision document omitted mention of fossil fuels entirely, underscoring a persistent gap between climate science, which calls for rapid decarbonisation and political consensus.

This outcome has significant implications for global emissions trajectories. Without a unified commitment to reduce or eliminate fossil fuel use, countries may continue or even expand fossil fuel production, making it much harder to achieve the emissions reductions

necessary to keep global warming within safe limits. The lack of agreement also signals challenges for future international cooperation, as divisions between high-emitting nations and those pushing for stronger action could undermine the effectiveness of global climate efforts.

Climate Finance: Achievements, Limitations, and Future Impact

Progress was made in the area of climate finance, with countries reaffirming their commitment to mobilise at least \$300 billion annually for developing nations by 2035, alongside a broader target of \$1.3 trillion per year. These pledges represent an important step toward supporting climate action in regions most affected by climate change.

However, doubts remain about the ability to deliver these funds, particularly given the absence of the United States, which is a key contributor and the ongoing uncertainty about the mechanisms for raising and distributing finance. If funding shortfalls persist, developing nations may struggle to implement mitigation and adaptation measures, exacerbating vulnerabilities and slowing global progress on climate goals.

Adaptation: Finance Increase, Timing Shortfall, and Practical Effects for Vulnerable Nations

The summit agreed to triple adaptation finance by 2035, which is a notable achievement. Adaptation finance supports countries in managing the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather, sea level rise, and shifts in agricultural productivity. However, this commitment falls short of demands from vulnerable nations, who called for tripling finance by 2030 to address immediate risks.

The practical implications of this timing shortfall are profound.

Vulnerable nations, especially those already experiencing severe climate impacts, face ongoing risks such as displacement, food insecurity, and infrastructure damage. Delayed funding can hinder the implementation of adaptation projects, leaving communities exposed and less able to recover from climate-related disasters.

The Global Goal on Adaptation, an international objective to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change, advanced during the summit. However, the final indicators used to measure progress were diluted, raising concerns about whether the goal will effectively guide and incentivise meaningful adaptation efforts.

Just Transition: Mechanism Introduction and Significance

A significant achievement of COP30 was the creation of a just transition mechanism. This is a framework designed to ensure that workers and communities are supported as economies move away from fossil fuels. This mechanism aims to promote equitable economic change, providing retraining, social protection, and investment in new industries for people affected by the energy transition.

The adoption of this framework is widely welcomed, as it addresses the social and economic challenges of decarbonisation and can help build broader support for climate policies among affected communities.

Trade and Geopolitics: Shifts in Influence and Implications for Climate Action

Trade emerged as a central theme, with new dialogues on climate and trade cooperation agreed. The absence of the US, coupled with assertive roles by China, India, Russia, and Saudi Arabia, contributed to a shift in global influence and highlighted increasing geopolitical fragmentation. These dynamics may complicate future climate negotiations and make consensus harder to achieve, as competing interests and alliances shape the direction of international climate policy.

Forests and Nature: Funding, Lack of Formal Roadmap, and Consequences

Brazil secured increased funding for forest protection, recognising the critical role that forests play in carbon sequestration and biodiversity. However, the summit did not deliver a formal roadmap to halt deforestation. Instead, voluntary processes were proposed, which lack the enforceability and authority of formal COP

decisions. Without binding commitments, progress on forest conservation may be uneven, and global efforts to address nature loss and emissions from land-use change could fall short.

COP Process and Reform: Limitations and Calls for Change

COP30 exposed limitations in the COP process itself, which relies on consensus and incremental progress. The inability to secure agreement on pivotal issues, such as fossil fuel phase-out, prompted calls for reform to make the process more effective and responsive to scientific urgency. However, no major changes were agreed, leaving the structure and decision-making dynamics of future COPs unchanged for now.

Overall Assessment: Deeper Analysis of Successes and Failures, Urgency for Future Action

In summary, COP30 made tangible progress in areas such as climate finance, adaptation, just transition, and forest protection. However, the summit fell short of what scientific evidence demands, especially regarding fossil fuels and the speed of adaptation support for vulnerable nations. The outcomes highlight both the achievements and persistent gaps in global climate policy, reinforcing the urgent need for decisive action and strengthened international cooperation as the window to limit warming to 1.5°C narrows.

Future Focus:

COP31 will be hosted by Türkiye, with Australia co-leading. Over the coming year, countries are expected to submit more ambitious national climate plans to reduce emissions, aligning with the latest scientific recommendations. Voluntary roadmaps for the transition away from fossil fuels and for halting deforestation will guide efforts, while negotiations continue on climate finance, trade cooperation, and adaptation support. These initiatives are designed to accelerate global progress toward net-zero emissions and safeguard vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change, signalling the significance of COP31 in shaping the future direction of international climate action.

South Africa: Few takeaways for the accountancy profession - SAICA

While the outcomes of COP 30 are global in scope, they underscore developments that are already emerging at the local level:

- **Regulatory pathway is tightening:** the financial regulators' work to tailor ISSB aligned rules (and the JSE's guidance) will heighten demand for ISSB style disclosures, internal controls, and assurance across JSE issuers and public interest entities.
- **Market readiness is uneven:** with many organisations still building capability, there is a capacity gap in preparers and assurance providers that the profession

can fill through training, templates, sector playbooks, and shared services.

Implication on sustainability reporting & assurance

Expanded transition plan disclosures:

Regardless of a COP mandate on fossil fuels, increased pressure from investors to provide credible, financed transition plans is highly anticipated, including scope 1-3 emissions, capital expenditure alignment, and clear milestones. Also anticipated will be the growing demand for limited or reasonable assurance over transition-related metrics and targets to tighten controls, and audit trails that integrate with financial systems.

Additionally, financing flows scrutiny will be on a trajectory as climate and adaptation capital scale up. Accountants in corporates and financial institutions must evidence eligibility, allocation, and impact (transition finance), aligning internal taxonomies and preventing double counting.



A significant achievement of COP30 was the creation of a just transition mechanism. This is a framework designed to ensure that workers and communities are supported...



SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING



National Sustainability Reporting Sentiment Survey for South Africa 2025

The National Sustainability survey report conducted by Alexforbes in collaboration with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC), an agency of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the DTIC).

Purpose and Context

This national survey aimed to capture the perspectives of South African market participants on the current and future state of sustainability reporting. It provides a timely overview of market sentiment, readiness, challenges, and preferences regarding sustainability disclosures, and informs the regulatory impact assessment for potential adoption of international standards in South Africa.

Framework Alignment and Materiality

- 78% favour aligning with global frameworks, but 59.5% want these tailored for South Africa.
- Preferred frameworks: ISSB Standards, Framework, and JSE guidance.

- Materiality: 42.2% support double materiality (financial and impact), especially among listed and state-owned entities.

Summary of Results

The [survey](#) reveals a strong appetite for enhanced sustainability reporting in South Africa, with broad support for mandatory disclosure—especially for large, publicly accountable organisations. However, significant gaps in readiness and capacity remain, particularly among smaller and public sector entities. Stakeholders favour a globally aligned, locally tailored approach, with double materiality as a preferred basis for disclosure. The main challenges are practical and technical, not strategic intent. Government and regulators are expected to provide practical support, guidance, and capacity building to enable a successful transition.

[national-sustainability-reporting-sentiment-survey-south-africa-headline-results-report-final-20250722-opt.pdf](#)

While SAICA believes that addressing readiness gaps requires a coordinated, multi-stakeholder and phased approach that combines capacity building, system upgrades, regulatory clarity, resource support.

Summary Table: Key Actions to Address Readiness Gaps

Area	Action Steps
Capacity Building	Training, board education, sector workshops, regulator toolkits
Data Systems	Invest in integrated systems, XBRL tagging, pre-assurance
Framework Alignment	Standardise on ISSB S1/S2, Framework, phased implementation
Resource Support	Grants, incentives, shared services, sector partnerships
Assurance	Develop assurance provider pipeline, certification programs
Stakeholder Engagement	Transparent reporting, address greenwashing, regular updates

SAICA KEY SUSTAINABILITY

Milestones and Events



SAICA Responses to exposure drafts

SAICA submitted the following sustainability-related comment letters in quarter four (Q4) to the respective

standard setters, to assist in advancing sustainability reporting:

No	Planned Submission	Link to a comment letter
1	Comment letter to the ISSB - Amendments to the Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Amendments to IFRS S2)	Download file
2	SAICA Comment letter: Proposed Amendments to the SASB Standards AND Proposed Amendments to the Industry-based Guidance on Implementing IFRS S2.	Download file

Events:

The Future of Accountability and Value Creation

SAICA hosted a Connectivity event on the 27 August 2025, the webinar focused on unlocking the integrated reporting landscape and sharing insights from banking, mining, and telecommunications on organisational strategies and challenges in connectivity of the information.

[Course: Connectivity: The Future of Accountability and Value Creation | 2025](#)

SAICA Climate Change Conference 2025 Overview

As organisations adapt to an evolving energy landscape, they are increasingly prioritising not only technological innovation but also responsible stewardship and transparency in their climate action

journeys. Collaboration across industries, investment in education, and open sharing of best practices are emerging as vital pillars for accelerating the adoption of renewable solutions. Meanwhile, consumer demand for cleaner options continues to intensify, together with investor interest, influencing market dynamics and prompting companies to rethink their long-term strategies and reporting disclosures.

This half-day conference took stock of the collective momentum driven by policy, innovation, and the powerful signals sent by investors and businesses alike, to unlock transformative potential across sectors, including sustainable finance pathways.

The 2025 SAICA Climate Change Conference formed part of the SAICA summit and was hosted at the Gallagher Convention Centre on the 14 -16 October 2025.

[iN-FOR Sight Summit – Navigate To What’s Next](#)



SAICA Assurance Day 2025

SAICA reimaged the audit practices and explore the future of sustainability assurance with industry leaders on the 25 November 2025, the topic discussed was Sustainability Assurance – Embedding Sustainability Assurance for the Sustainability transition. The speakers contributed to the conversation was Dr Ndidi Nnoli-Edozien (Member of the IFRS International Sustainability Standards Board), Prof. Yvette Lange (Chairperson : SAICA Sustainability Technical Committee), and Mr. Neil Morris CA (SA) (IAASB Board Member and Head of Sustainability: KPMG).

As organisations adapt to an evolving energy landscape, they are increasingly prioritising not only technological innovation but also...



SAICA Sustainability Snapshot



The Sustainability Snapshot was introduced by SAICA in partnership with Krutham in August 2025, these snapshots are monthly digest distilling global sustainability developments into actionable insights. Each edition highlights regulatory shifts, market trends and strategic risks to help professionals stay ahead of change and unlock long-term value.

No	Planned Submission	Link to a comment letter
1	The state of play -Global trends and local developments in sustainability.	SAICA-Sustainability-Snap-shot-Aug-2025-Issue-1.pdf
2	The state of play – South Africa’s just energy transition: South Africa faces increasing climate risk – more so than most countries because it is among the top 15 biggest carbon emitters in the world.	SAICA-Sustainability-Snap-shot-Volume-2_Just-Transition.pdf
3	SAICA’s latest Sustainability Snapshot Series explores Governance for the Just Transition, with evolving regulations and political dynamics, strong governance is key to navigating this complex landscape	SAICAs-latest-Sustainability-Snapshot-Series-Volume-3.pdf
4	The November edition focuses on elevating social priorities within ESG frameworks and offers practical steps for integrating these considerations into strategy.	SAICA-Sustainability-Snap-shot-November.pdf

SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING AND ASSURANCE

Key Standards Developments



International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB)



IFRS Foundation publishes guidance on disclosures about transition plans.

This is designed to address fragmentation of disclosures about transition plans, building on the disclosure-specific materials developed by the Transition Plan Taskforce, and to support the ISSB global baseline and its implementation.

[Disclosing information about an entity's climate-related transition, including information about transition plans, in accordance with IFRS S2.](#)

IFRS Foundation publishes near-final examples on reporting uncertainties in the financial statements using climate-related examples.

The IFRS Foundation has published near-final examples demonstrating how companies can improve the reporting of uncertainties in their financial statements using climate-related examples as practical illustrations.

[IFRS - IFRS Foundation publishes near-final examples on reporting uncertainties in the financial statements using climate-related examples.](#)

Disclosing information about anticipated financial

effects of sustainability-related risks and opportunities.

Jenny Bofinger-Schuster, member of the ISSB, discusses the disclosures of anticipated financial effects of sustainability-related risks and opportunities required by ISSB Standards and the interoperability with the corresponding disclosure requirements in the ESRS.

[IFRS - Disclosing information about anticipated financial effects of sustainability-related risks and opportunities.](#)

Jurisdictional Rationale Guide for the adoption or other use of ISSB Standards.

This publication of the ISSB marked a significant milestone in the global effort to enhance sustainability related financial disclosures for use in capital markets.

[Jurisdictional Rationale Guide](#)

Jurisdictional Rationale Tool for the adoption or other use of ISSB Standards.

The Regulatory Implementation Programme Outline from the IFRS Foundation sets out four steps a jurisdiction might follow in considering whether to adopt or otherwise use ISSB Standards.

[jurisdictional-rationale-tool.pdf](#)

ISSB Moves Nature into Reporting Mainstream as TNFD Steps Back from Technical Work

ISSB is launching a standard-setting process to introduce nature-related disclosure requirements, building on the Taskforce on Nature related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) framework.

[ISSB Moves Nature into Reporting Mainstream as TNFD Steps Back from Technical Work - ESG News](#)

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)



Building climate and nature reporting expertise to drive corporate transparency

To support sustainability practitioners in addressing these challenges, the GRI Academy, the world's leading training platform for sustainability reporting, has launched new courses to boost climate and nature reporting skills.

[GRI - Building climate and nature reporting expertise to drive corporate transparency](#)



The result of this simplification removes a significant proportion of companies from the scope of the csrd. The original scope of the directive covered...

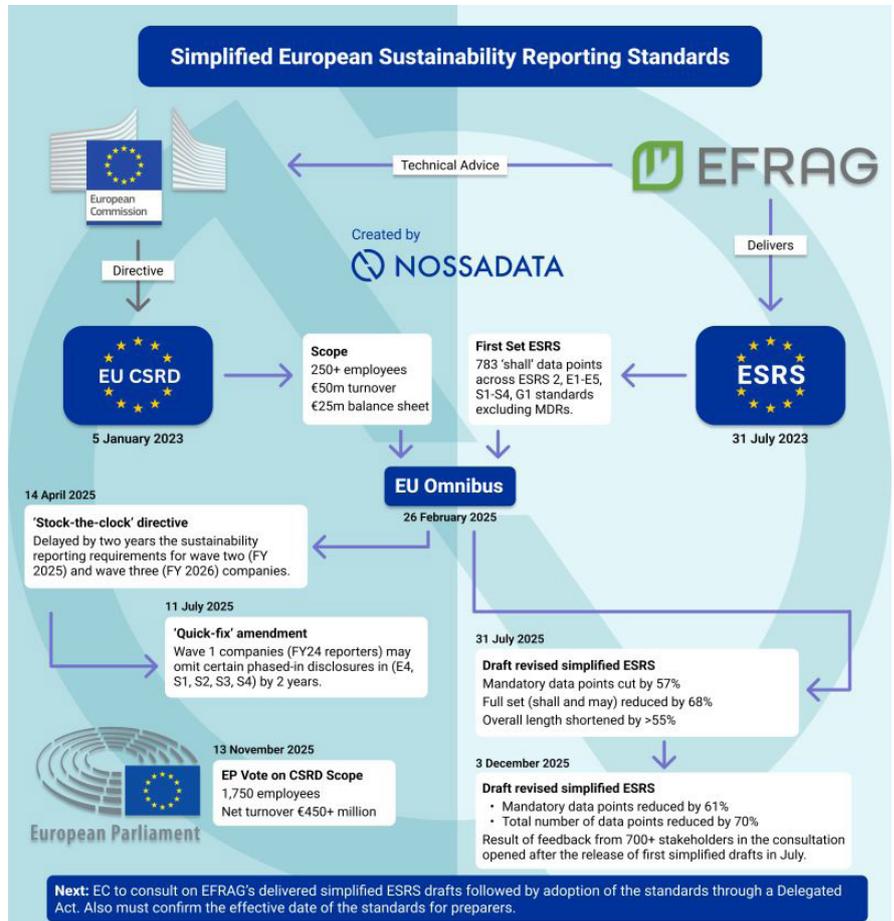
European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS)



EFRAG published the revised draft simplified ESRS on the 3 December 2025. The standards revision project was triggered by the EC's adoption of a simplification package in February 2025 as part of the EU Omnibus. The initiative came as part of the EC's commitment to reduce the administrative burden on businesses and SMEs in reporting.

The result of this simplification removes a significant proportion of companies from the scope of the CSRD. The original scope of the directive covered companies with 250+ employees and €50m in turnover. The November vote in the European Parliament was in favour of reducing the CSRD scope to companies with 1,750 employees and an annual net turnover exceeding €450 million.

EFRAG provides technical guidance to the EC and is responsible for the development of the European Reporting Sustainability Standards (ESRS). A formal workplan set out EFRAG's fast-tracked timeline to simplify the standards and deliver them to the EC by the end of November. During this process, EFRAG completed a draft simplification at the end of July for stakeholder feedback and has now submitted its technical advice to the EC.



Source: Nossa Data

International Public Sector Accounting Board (IPSASB)

IPSASB Decides Key Next Steps in Landmark Climate-related Disclosures Project

Responding to stakeholder input on its landmark IPSASB SRS Exposure Draft 1, Climate-related Disclosures, the IPSASB will split the project into two phases. [Climate-related Disclosures: IPSASB SRS™ ED 1 Webcast](#)



During its June 2025 quarterly meeting in Toronto, Canada, the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) took pivotal decisions on the next steps in its project to develop urgently needed guidance for governments and public sector entities on climate-related disclosures. Responding to a record number of comments on its Exposure Draft (ED) IPSASB SRS ED 1, Climate-related Disclosures, the IPSASB recognised that the complexity of having different reporting perspectives in a single standard would not meet the needs of the public sector. Instead, the project will be split into two phases:



The IAASB developed this new set of examples through a joint initiative with a group of jurisdictional auditing and assurance standard setters...

- Phase 1, Own Operations, will finalise the first-ever public sector sustainability reporting standard tailored for the public sector that's already in development, focusing on how public sector entities disclose climate-related risks and opportunities to their own operations.
- Phase 2, Public Policy Programs, will develop a separate standard for those specific public sector entities responsible for delivering climate-related public policy programs and their outcomes.

This phased approach will meet the urgent need for public sector guidance while allowing additional time to address the more complex reporting needs identified by stakeholders.

[How to access comment letters: IPSASB SRS Exposure Draft 1, Climate-related Disclosures | IPSASB](#)

International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board



(IAASB)IAASB Publishes New Illustrative Reports to Support ISSA 5000 Implementation

The International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) has published [a new set of illustrative practitioner's assurance reports](#) to further support the implementation of International Standard on Sustainability Assurance (ISSA) 5000, General Requirements for Sustainability Assurance Engagements. The IAASB developed this new set of examples through a joint initiative with a group of jurisdictional auditing and assurance standard setters, whose collaboration and support have been crucial in shaping this guidance.

While ISSA 5000 includes four illustrative reports that reflect the baseline requirements of the standard, this new publication provides more specific examples to help practitioners apply the standard in real-world scenarios.

To view the illustrative reports and learn more about ISSA 5000, visit www.iaasb.org/ISSA5000.

UN Sustainability Stock Exchange (UN-SSE)



UN SSE Published a Guidance on the Nature Related Financial Disclosure

The Model Guidance on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, developed by the UN SSE in partnership with the TNFD, provides exchanges and listed companies with practical guidance to identify, assess, and disclose nature-related risks and opportunities.

Access the guide here: [UN SSE-TNFD Model Guidance Nature Disclosure](#)

INTERNATIONAL BODIES

work in advancing Sustainability



Chartered Accountants Worldwide (CAW)



Chartered Accountant Worldwide (CAW) put together a Sustainability Hub that contains a wealth of content to help you – and the businesses you support – in becoming more sustainable and resilient now and for the future.

Global Chartered Accountancy institutes lead the way towards net-zero

As the world places greater emphasis on sustainability, Chartered Accountants and their professional organisations are stepping up to guide progress toward economies and societies that are climate-resilient and nature-positive. Across the globe, Chartered Accountancy Institutes are collaborating with governments, regulators, and standard-setters to help roll out various frameworks and create resources to assist their members. By promoting education, encouraging innovative approaches, and demonstrating strong leadership in sustainability, the worldwide Chartered Accountancy profession is influencing responsible business practices and pushing forward environmental stewardship.

Key Highlights:

- **Leadership in Sustainability:** Institutes work with governments, regulators, and standard setters to advance climate-resilient economies.

- **Net-Zero Targets:** Bodies and organisations globally set ambitious carbon reduction goals.
- **Digitalisation:** Adoption of e-learning, online platforms, and paperless processes to reduce environmental impact.
- **Education & Engagement:**
 - o Courses on ESG, sustainability reporting, and climate risk.
 - o Certifications and diplomas offered globally.
- **Global Collaboration:** Institutes partner with regulators and IFAC on policy recommendations.
- **Future Focus:** Embedding sustainability in curricula to prepare accountants for environmental challenges.

The Head of Sustainability and Integrated Reporting at SAICA emphasised that it is crucial to **integrate climate disclosures into financial reporting**. This should be done by aligning the reporting schedules for sustainability and financial statements according to IFRS S1 and S2, and by making sure climate-related risks and opportunities are included in mainstream filings to support progress towards net zero.

Find out more: [Global Chartered Accountancy Institutes Lead the Way Towards Net-Zero - Chartered Accountants Worldwide](#)

Global Accounting Alliance (GAA)



As professional accountancy bodies, we believe that we and our members have key roles to play in driving the transition to a sustainable economy. Professional accountants have the skillsets and knowledge in organizational governance, strategy, risk management and performance, to support

sustainable decision-making through our business analysis, disclosure and assurance of financial and non-financial data. Our goal as professional bodies is to ensure our members are equipped to play this role.

The GAA's Sustainability Working Group facilitates information sharing and collaboration among our member bodies on topics related to sustainability and accountancy and meet with key national and international stakeholders. Its goal is to lead the advancement of the accounting profession by undertaking special projects from time-to-time as directed by the Board and CEO.

[Sustainability Working Group | Global Accounting Alliance](#)

Accounting for Sustainability (A4S)



Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) - A4S Initiatives

Context:

Climate change poses major social and economic risks. Companies and investors are increasingly impacted by the transition to a net-zero economy and physical climate effects.

As these challenges intensify, organisations are recognising the importance of transparent climate-related financial disclosures to better understand and manage the risks and opportunities they face. By embracing frameworks such as the TCFD, companies can enhance their resilience and position themselves strategically in a rapidly changing global landscape, while investors and other stakeholders gain greater confidence in the quality and reliability of the information provided. Through collaborative efforts and leadership from financial professionals, the adoption of robust climate reporting practices is accelerating, driving more informed decision-making and fostering long-term sustainability across industries, including improved risk evaluation for lenders, insurers, and underwriters.

Implementation Drivers:

- CFOs should lead adoption.
- Accounting bodies guide members.
- Investors act on disclosed information.

A4S Role:

- Collaborates with CFOs, accounting organizations, and pension fund chairs.
- Offers guidance, resources, and practical examples to facilitate the implementation of TCFD recommendations.
- Has released three Statements of Support endorsed by prominent financial leaders.

Guidance and Resources:

[Climate-related financial disclosures \(including TCFD\)](#)



Climate change poses major social and economic risks.





MEET THE TEAM

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