

Strategy and Workplan

In March 2007 the IPSASB undertook an extensive strategic planning session to consider the strategic themes and how they would be addressed. It was agreed at that time that the resultant workplan would be revisited annually since any standard setting process is evolutionary and priorities can change over the year.

Making Progress in Implementing the Strategic Themes

The IPSASB's strategic themes are:

- Public sector conceptual framework;
- Public sector specific projects including convergence with statistical bases where appropriate;
- IFRS convergence; and
- Promotion and communication

1. Strategic Theme – Public Sector Conceptual Framework

Status: Group 1 Consultation Paper in development; Group 2 initiated

The IPSASB's project to develop a public sector conceptual framework commitment is one of the most significant of the current workplan. The objective of the project is not to simply interpret the IASB framework for the public sector but rather to develop a stand alone framework using the work of the IASB and other national standard setters as appropriate.

Strong progress has been made on the project and a Consultation Paper for Group 1 (scope, objectives & users, reporting entity and qualitative characteristics) has been developed and will be considered by the IPSASB for approval at this meeting. Group 2 (definition and recognition of elements) is underway with collaborative support being provided by the CICA and Ministries of Finance in China and France. It is anticipated that a Consultation Paper for Group 2 will be developed for approval in 2009.

2. Strategic Theme - Public Sector Specific Projects including convergence with statistical bases where appropriate

Status: 1 IPSAS; 1 ED approved; 2 CPs approved; 2 projects approved

The IPSASB approved revisions to the cash basis IPSAS for external assistance. An ED for Social Benefits was also approved along with a related Consultation Paper. The collaborative project on Service Concession Arrangements also progressed significantly with the development and approval of an extensive CP. Finally the IPSASB approved a project to review the experience with implementing the cash basis IPSAS as well as a project on long-term fiscal sustainability.

3. Strategic Theme - IFRS Convergence

Status: 2 IPSASs; 1 policy paper; 1 ED; 3 EDs under development

The IPSASB reconfirmed its interest in delivering a work program for IFRS convergence and made significant progress during the year. IPSASs on Employee Benefits and Impairment of Cash-Generating Assets were approved as was an ED to update IPSAS 4. Further work on IPSAS 5 to address changes made by the IASB is underway along with work on Financial Instruments (presentation and disclosure).

Key to the IFRS convergence strategy is a project the IPSASB initiated last March to develop guidelines to be applied in modifying IFRSs for the public sector. The guidelines (Rules of the Road) will be used by staff to review IASB documents and set out for the IPSASB an analysis that will assist in determining whether a public sector reason for departing from IFRSs exists. The rules also establish parameters for the extent of changes that will be made and how these changes should be documented. The IPSASB plans to work with these guidelines throughout 2008 as it progresses its IFRS convergence strategy and consider any potential changes from this experience later in the year. Appendix 1 to this agenda item is the December 2007 version of the rules of the road that staff have been working with and reflects decisions made in November 2007 in Beijing.

Agenda item 3.2.1 is a tracking version of the draft that reflects suggested changes to date. This version will be a “rolling” version that will be tracked all year as staff and the IPSASB work with the December 2007 version. Based on the experience over the year the document will be reconsidered for possible amendments in October 2008.

For 2008 significant progress on IFRS convergence is expected and the workplan developed reflects this.

4. Strategic theme – Promotion and Communication

As part of its strategic planning the IPSASB approved a communications plan to set out activities to enhance promotional and communications efforts. The plan was virtually fully implemented (see agenda item 1.4). A new plan has been developed for 2008 which builds on activities to date and focuses efforts regionally. See Appendix 2 to this agenda paper for the proposed new plan.

Conclusion

Overall the IPSASB continues to make progress on addressing the strategic areas identified almost 2 years ago. As noted previously the themes are of equal priority and resources are allocated as needed to address the key issues specific to each theme. The allocation of resources in any given year is not intended as an indicator of the IPSASB's prioritization of that theme to the exclusion of another.

In 2007 significant resources were devoted to Conceptual Framework as it got underway. Additional resources had to be allocated to the project when some NSSs were unable to meet their commitments. For 2008 it is anticipated that staff resources for Conceptual Framework will continue to be high. In addition, the need to make progress on the IFRS convergence workplan will mean that resources allocated to this theme will increase over 2007. The IPSASB's revised workplan to be discussed at this meeting has been developed with this in mind.

IFRS Convergence Workplan

With a commitment to IFRS convergence where possible and new guidelines for modifying IASB documents to assist in achieving this, it is time to set out a detailed plan for reaching convergence with IFRS. In doing so the IPSASB must consider all of the projects it has committed to and which of these and other projects are critical to achieving IFRS convergence. These then need to be balanced with the available resources in order to develop a plan that can be achieved.

In order to enhance adoption and implementation of IPSASs around the world there is a recognition that a full suite of high quality standards is required. While the IPSASB has made significant progress there is still work to be done. The importance of getting this full suite in place cannot be underestimated if progress on adoption is to be made. There is evidence that internationally attitudes towards IPSASB standards are shifting and users are looking to us a strong international public sector standard setter. Progress on IFRS convergence is key to establishing this full suite of high quality standards particularly since it builds on the technical expertise embedded in the IFRSs.

It is important to recognize that IFRS convergence and public sector specific are not mutually exclusive approaches. They are both necessary components of a comprehensive plan that respects the IPSASB's mandate to develop accrual based standards that are converged where possible with the IFRSs but that also reflect public sector specific issues.

In developing the IFRS workplan there are certain elements that are critical and that will have a direct impact on the decisions to be made. These are as follows:

- 1) **“Review and Adapt”** - It was agreed in March 2007 that a review and adapt approach to IFRS convergence was desired. The IPSASB's obligation to its constituents is best met through an IFRS strategy that identifies projects based on the IASB workplan and standards and which specifically considers whether there are public sector specific reasons for departing from those standards. The standards are then adapted to reflect public sector differences where appropriate.
- 2) **“Rules of the Road”** - Fundamental to this approach is the need to apply rules for modifying IASB documents. These rules will contribute to the analysis of when an IFRS would be adapted for the public sector. This will provide a framework for the staff to undertake analyses of IASB documents at various stages of their

development and will therefore add discipline to the IPSASB's standard setting process.

- 3) **Stable Platform Date** - There is a need to set a stable platform date – a date which the IPSASB is aiming at for substantial convergence. This workplan has been prepared on the assumption that the set of standards promulgated by the IASB as at December 31, 2008 should be the goal for the IPSASB as at December 31, 2009. It is recognized that that standard setting does not stand still and activities will of course continue in perpetuity. However setting a stable platform date assists in prioritizing the projects that need to be initiated and completed in order to have the highest chance of achieving convergence.
- 4) **Relationship with IASB** – Integral to achieving this IFRS convergence program is the continued need to enhance the relationship with the IASB at both a staff level and the Board level. This involves a number of aspects including attending more IASB meetings, responding to EDs and developing a strong relationship between Board members.

Staff has developed a draft plan for the IPSASB's consideration that incorporates these elements. It is important to recognize that the plan sets out a guideline for project completion. The nature of standard-setting is such that any work plan is indicative only and would encompass a degree of flexibility to ensure that the due process is adhered to.

In developing the actual work plan and selecting specific projects, it is important to have a balance of projects at any point in time to be able to allow staff to address divergent needs. Selecting projects is a judgmental process that attempts to balance diverging needs and factors to establish a balanced workplan that is sustainable over the short, medium and longer term.

Project Selection

There are several aspects to an IFRS convergence workplan. Firstly, there are some IAS/IFRS for which there is no equivalent IPSAS. These need to be examined to determine which should be prioritized. In addition, there are certain IPSASs which are out of date with existing IFRSs, particularly those IFRSs which have been amended as of December 31, 2006. The related IPSASs need to be updated to ensure that the link between IPSASs and IFRSs is not eroded. Related to this is the IASB's annual improvements project which updates or improves certain standards and for which equivalent amendments should be considered for the related IPSASs.

In order to develop a workplan for IFRS convergence, staff started by reviewing the IASB's workplan (as at December 31, 2007) to consider which projects would have relevance to the IPSASB. See Appendix 4 for the most recent version of the IASB workplan. In prioritizing projects the IASB's proposed timing is significant because of the desire to make progress by December 31, 2009 on IFRSs completed by December 31, 2008. The table below sets out IASB projects either on the current workplan or which have been updated recently for which the related IPSAS has not been updated. It also includes other IASB projects for which there is currently no equivalent IPSAS.

Staff have provided some commentary on each of the projects and made an initial assessment of priority. This assessment is judgmental but reflects the critical elements listed above and staff's view as to the projects that need to be completed in order for significant progress on IFRS convergence to be achieved. This is intended as a starting point for the IPSASB's discussion and prioritization of projects at this meeting for the next 2 years.

Potential Projects IFRS Convergence

IASB Project	Existing IPSAS	Comments	Priority 2008-2009
IASB Workplan			
Government grants	No	Not applicable	N/A
Joint ventures	IPSAS 8	Updating project;	High
Impairment	IPSASs 21 and 26	recently issued; IASB work in process – no indication to be complete by December 31, 2008	Low
Income tax	No	Low relevance to public sector	N/A
Consolidation	IPSAS 6	DP Q3 2008; incomplete at stable platform date; <i>timing post 2009</i>	Low
Fair value	No	ED 2009; but consider opportunity to participate early in process;	Medium
Financial statement presentation	IPSAS 1	DP Q2 2008; incomplete at stable platform date; <i>timing post 2009</i>	Low
Revenue recognition	IPSAS 9	DP Q2 2008; incomplete at stable platform date; <i>timing post 2009</i>	Low
Post-retirement benefits	IPSAS 25	ED planned 2009; new pension accounting standards 2011; IPSAS 25 recently issued; monitor project for future amendments post implementation date; <i>timing post 2009</i>	Low
Leases	IPSAS 13	DP 2009; incomplete at stable platform date; consider relationship to SCAs project; <i>timing post 2009</i>	Low
SME	No	IFRS planned Q4 2008; public sector issues would need significant consideration; Some pressures to address; an issue with respect to public accountable criterion to distinguish these entities and differentiated reporting requirements. Monitor IASB project at this stage.	Medium
Insurance contracts	No	ED 2009; incomplete at stable platform date; <i>timing post 2009</i>	Low
Liabilities (IAS 37)	IPSAS 19	IFRS 2009; incomplete at stable platform date;	Medium
Emission trading schemes	No	Timing TBD; incomplete at stable platform date; consider tracking/monitoring for early involvement ; <i>timing post 2009</i>	Low
Common control transactions	No	Related to Business Combinations (IFRS 3); no related IPSAS; to be considered in project on Entity Combinations	High (with Entity Combinations)
Management commentary	No	Now on active agenda; IPSASB prioritized for initiation 2008 – <i>to be considered at this meeting;</i>	Medium

Annual improvements	No	IPSASB tracked first Annual Improvements project 2006; to be covered as part of IFRS convergence workplan annually; IASB has process in place; necessary to track and complete; goal is to link into process simultaneously effective October 2008 ED;	High
Cost of an investment (IFRS 1 & IAS 27)	IPSASs 6 & 7	Updating project;	High (as part of updating project)
EPS	No	low relevance to public sector	N/A
FI: portions IAS 39	No	FI recognition and measurement to be deferred until 2009 or later; <i>timing post 2009</i>	Low
IASB Project	Existing IPSAS	Comments	Priority 2008-2009
FI puttable instruments IAS 32	No	FI recognition and measurement to be deferred until 2009 or later; <i>timing post 2009</i>	Low
Related party disclosures	IPSAS 20	Updating project;	High
Share based payments	No	low relevance to public sector	N/A
Other IAS/IFRS			
Accounting and reporting by retirement benefit plans	No	Little interest currently demonstrated;	Low
Agriculture	No	Some call for work; less important relative to others;	Low
Entity combinations		large gap in the body of IPSASs;	High
Exploration for and evaluation of mineral resources	No	Some call for work; less important relative to other projects;	Low
Financial instruments – R&M	No	Presentation and disclosure being addressed; recognition and measurement to be considered post 2009;	Low
Intangible assets	No	High applicability to public sector; nature of assets may be unique; IASB has made decision not to revise IAS 38; large gap in body of IPSASs;	High
Interim financial reporting	No	Little demonstrated call for work;	Low
Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations	No	Little call;	Low
IFRICs	No	Assessment needed but evidence of high applicability in some cases	High

The staff assessment reflected above was conducted independently of the results of the IPSASB's planning exercise last March 2007 in Accra. As the next step staff has revisited the projects identified from that exercise. The status of these projects is summarized below.

March 2007 Project Priorities

Year Planned	Project	Status 2008-2009	Priority
2007	Review cash basis IPSAS	Approved November 2007; task force being recruited; underway	high
	Updating IPSASs	Underway; IPSAS 4 to be approved; IPSAS 5 ED to be considered	high
	Rules of the road	Complete	N/A
	Financial Instruments (P&D)	Underway; ED for approval	high
	Heritage assets	No progress; consider deferring	low
	Long term fiscal sustainability	Project approved; task force being recruited; underway	high
2008	Entity combinations	Recommend immediate initiation	high
	Fair value	Recommend initiation medium term (post stable platform date);	medium
	MD&A	Project brief prepared for approval;	medium
	Performance reporting	No progress; consider deferring	low
2009	Intangible assets	Recommend immediate initiation;	high
	Financial instruments (R&M)	No progress;	low

As a result of these 2 exercises, the following projects not yet started have been identified as having high priority for initiation for the 2008-2009 period:

- Entity combinations
- Intangible assets
- Updating IPSASs – joint ventures; related party transactions etc
- Annual improvements
- IFRICs

Medium priority projects are:

- Fair value
- SMEs
- Liabilities (IAS 37-IPSAS 19)

The IPSASB will need to make decisions on which projects to initiate taking into consideration projects already underway and committed. Three of the high priority IFRS projects (intangible assets, entity combinations and updating IPSASs) were on the list to be initiated sometime between 2007 and 2009. Staff are now proposing that they be prioritized in 2008. Staff are also proposing that in light of the urgency to progress the IFRS convergence workplan, certain projects be deferred for now, specifically heritage assets and performance reporting.

Staff would also like the IPSASB to consider some of the medium priority projects to determine whether and when they should be initiated. Of these, fair value will extend beyond the stable platform date but offers a potential opportunity to participate with the

IASB earlier in the process. In addition, the SME's project is generating significant interest in the private sector and this interest is beginning to extend to the public sector. Staff are of the view that it would take significant work to undertake this project but, given the profile of the project, the IPSASB may want to consider it.

Preparing and Achieving the Workplan

Having undertaken this assessment of projects, staff have reviewed the overall IFRS convergence strategy in the context of the full workplan. This workplan reflects projects already committed as well as projects planned for 2008 and 2009. Appendix 4 sets out a draft that reflects staff's initial proposals.

Integral to the work in IFRS convergence are not only traditional standard-setting activities and milestones but also a number of other activities that will complement the strategy. For example, it will be important to raise the profile of the IPSASB at IASB meetings and staff are of the view that a commitment to at least 2/3 attendance by either staff or IPSASB members is required. In addition, dedicating a set number of staff resources specifically to IFRS convergence will be pivotal to the success of the strategy over the next 2 years. Other key elements will be preparing responses to IASB Exposure Drafts as well as developing a specific plan for IFRICs.

To that end, staff have developed a staff plan to specifically address IFRS convergence. Similar to the approach the IPSASB endorsed for Conceptual Framework, the IFRS convergence project will be coordinated by a senior staff member and overseen by the Technical Director. The Senior Technical Manager, John Stanford, will take on this coordinating role. John's proximity to the IASB will allow him to attend a number of meetings and to liaise with European IPSASB members when he is unable to attend. John will continue to have responsibility for the social benefits and long-term fiscal sustainability projects.

Given the priority to IFRS convergence to December 31, 2009, all staff will have significant involvement in the project. In April 2008 a new secondee, Qi Chang, arrives from China. He will be dedicated to the project for updating IPSASs. Another Technical Manager (Bohun-Aponte) will be fully dedicated to IFRS convergence projects while two Technical Managers will each undertake at least 1 IFRS convergence project, depending on the priorities the IPSASB decides on at this meeting.

The draft workplan incorporates this allocation of staff resources with the goal of achieving this very ambitious workplan for convergence. The IPSASB is asked to consider the plan and to provide feedback as to the project priorities in order to allow staff to progress the plan.

**International
Public Sector
Accounting
Standards
Board**

Appendix 1

**IPSASB
Guidelines for Modifying IASB Documents**

December 2007



**International Federation
of Accountants**

GUIDELINES FOR MODIFYING IASB DOCUMENTS

Introduction

The IPSASB's mission is:

“To serve the public interest by developing high-quality accounting standards for use by public sector entities around the world in the preparation of general purpose financial statements.”

This will enhance the quality and transparency of public sector financial reporting by providing better information for public sector financial management and decision making. In pursuit of this objective, the IPSASB supports the convergence of international and national public sector accounting standards and the convergence of accounting and statistical bases of financial reporting where appropriate.

In pursuing its mission the IPSASB develops accrual IPSASs that:

- are converged with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) by adapting them to a public sector context when appropriate. In undertaking that process, the IPSASB attempts, wherever possible, to maintain the accounting treatment and original text of the IFRSs unless there is a significant public sector issue which warrants a departure; and
- deal with public sector financial reporting issues that are either not comprehensively dealt with in existing IFRSs or for which IFRSs have not been developed by the IASB. (IPSAS Handbook, Preface, paragraph 18)

These Guidelines have been developed to assist the IPSASB in identifying public sector issues when considering IASB documents for convergence and assessing whether such issues warrant differences in accounting treatment. To that end the following pages set out the process which will be followed by staff and the rules that they will apply within the process.

It is important to note that in applying these Guidelines, professional judgment will be required by the IPSASB in each case. It will be necessary at times to interpret the Guidelines in order to make a decision. In all cases, the reasons for IPSASB decisions will be documented in the related Basis for Conclusions. In addition, an ongoing assessment of the relationship with other IPSASB standards, particularly internal consistency between standards, will be part of the process. Finally, as the IPSASB's conceptual framework develops, all proposed amendments will be considered in the context of the conceptual framework.

The process of assessing IASB documents is continuous and evolutionary. In applying these Guidelines, new information may become available or ongoing analysis may demonstrate that the initial assessment that a project would be addressed as an IFRS convergence project is no longer valid and that a separate public sector project should be initiated.

Step 1: Are there public sector issues that warrant departure?

Step #1 Rules

The goal of applying these rules is to assess public sector issues to determine if they warrant a departure in recognition or measurement or in presentation or disclosure.

In determining whether there is a public sector issue that warrants a departure from an IASB document, the following rules would be observed:

1. Where applying the international accounting standards/interpretations would mean the objectives of public sector financial reporting would not be met.
2. Where applying the international accounting standards/interpretations would result in a loss of accountability to stakeholders.
3. Where applying the international accounting standards/interpretations would mean the qualitative characteristics of public sector financial reporting would not be met.
4. Where the cost of applying the international accounting standards/interpretations exceeds the benefit.

Items that might be considered include:

- the existence of contributed/donated assets or non-exchange activities;
- the existence of non cash generating activities or assets;
- the existence of social benefits;
- accountability/stewardship differences;
- governance or management structural differences;
- sustainability issues;
- differences related to the structure or control of assets; and
- consolidation of GBEs in whole of government financial statements.

All decisions should be made in the context of considering:

- Consistency with the IPSASB conceptual framework as it develops;
- Internal consistency with existing IPSASs; and
- Inconsistency with the statistical basis.

If the answer in step 1 as a result of applying the rules is that the public sector issues warrant a departure, then proceed to step 2.

If the answer is that the public sector issues do not warrant departure then proceed directly to an IPSASB equivalent document where changes are made only to “public sectorize” the language and terminology (see step 4 guidelines).

Step 2: Are the departures so significant that a public sector specific project should be initiated?

Step #2 Rules

The goal of applying these rules is to determine if the public sector issues that warrant a departure from the related IASB document are so significant that a public sector specific project should be initiated.

In assessing whether a public sector specific project should be initiated, the nature of the public sector issue identified and its significance in the public sector would be considered. If the transaction is of greater materiality or significance than in the private sector, this might lead to the conclusion that a separate public sector project should be undertaken. This would normally be the case if, for example, when assessing the standard as a whole such a determination is made rather than on a requirement by requirement basis within the standard.

These considerations will arise, for example, when a public sector issue is not dealt with at all in an IASB document. In this case it is likely that a separate public sector project will be initiated. As an example, the IPSASB initiated its project on service concession arrangements because the IASB IFRIC dealt only with the operator side of these transactions. The public sector is often involved in such transactions as the grantor. The lack of guidance on such a fundamental issue drove the IPSASB to approve a new project on service concessions arrangements for the public sector.

In other situations the IASB document may deal with an issue but it may not respond to public sector circumstances. Or, how the issue is dealt with may not be adequate for the public sector. In such situations an assessment of the significance of the issue and the cost/benefit will be important in deciding whether to amend an IASB document or initiate a public sector project.

For example, the IPSASB initiated the conceptual framework project because the fact that the objectives and users of government financial reports are fundamentally different was assessed as significant due to its pervasive effect on the framework as a whole.

If the answer in step 2 as a result of applying the rules is that the public sector differences are so significant that a public sector specific project should be initiated, a project brief would be prepared for the IPSASB's approval and the project would proceed along the standard setting due process.

If the differences are such that they are not so fundamental as to require a separate project but can be addressed within a document converged with IASB, then proceed to step 3.

Step 3: Modify IASB documents

Step #3 Rules

The goal of applying these rules is to set parameters on the modifications that would be made to an IASB document to address public sector differences.

When a decision has been made that public sector issues that warrant departure can be addressed within a converged IASB document with some modification, it is important to establish parameters for the extent of modification allowed. Modifications should be made only as they relate to the specific public sector issue that provoked the amendment. The following rules apply in determining the modifications that would be made:

- i) Recognition and measurement requirements may be modified only if doing so will result in the objectives of public sector financial reporting being better met.
- ii) Where appropriate, deletions from, or other amendments to, an IASB standard will be replaced by an alternative that achieves the objective of the deleted requirement.
- iii) Amendments would occur to eliminate options in accounting treatments if one option is clearly inappropriate for the public sector. Likewise, options in accounting treatments may be added but only if doing so will result in the objectives of public sector financial reporting being better met.
- iv) Guidance may be added that provides public sector context.
- v) It is expected that IFRS disclosures would be minimum disclosures unless they relate to recognition and measurement requirements that have been deleted in accordance with i) above or a cost/benefit analysis indicates that deleting some disclosures would be appropriate for the public sector. Disclosure requirements may be added in order to better meet the objectives of public sector reporting.
- vi) Public sector examples may be added. Examples would be deleted if they are clearly inappropriate or inapplicable for the public sector. If examples are deleted it is expected that comparable public sector examples would be added.

Step 4: Issue IPSAS converged (to varying degrees) with IASB documents

Step #4 Rules

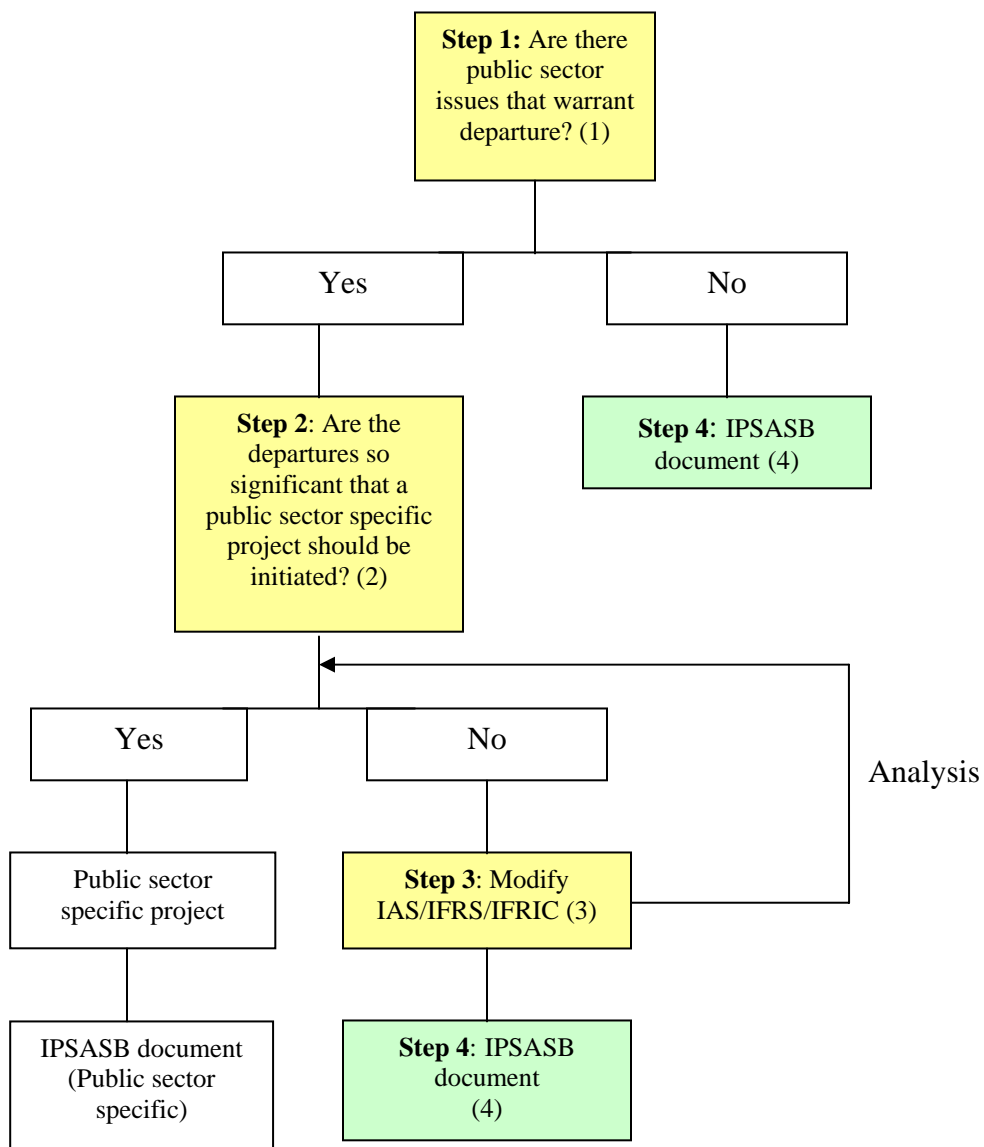
The goal of applying these rules is to identify changes in style and terminology that are to be applied to all IPSASs.

In all cases, when an IPSASB document is converged with a related IASB document, changes will be made to the style and structure for preparing or modifying the related IPSASB document. In that context, amendments will be limited and would result after applying the following rules:

- i) The text and style of the IFRSs will be maintained as much as possible. Where changes in style are made it is expected that these would simplify or clarify the document and that these would be consistent with the prescribed style for IPSASs.
- ii) The word “shall” rather than “should” is used.
- iii) A boxed rubric is included at the front of each IPSAS. The rubric identifies the material that constitutes the IPSAS, and the documents that provide the context in which the IPSAS should be read.
- iv) Unnecessary definitions in certain IFRSs will be deleted.
- v) References to IAS/IFRS for which an equivalent IPSAS has not been issued will be replaced with “the relevant international or national accounting standard dealing with [specific topic]”.
- vi) Certain terminology changes will be made to better reflect the public sector scope of the documents. For example, “business” will be replaced with “entity”.
- vii) Appendices form part of an IPSAS to which they belong.
- viii) Amendments to Other Pronouncements will be included as an appendix to the IPSAS. The appendix identifies amendments to other IPSASs that arise as a consequence of updating the IPSAS. Certain non-authoritative Appendices (such as Illustrative Examples) will be relabeled as Implementation Guidance, which accompanies but does not form part of an IPSAS.
- ix) Each IPSAS will include a Basis for Conclusions. The Basis for Conclusions accompanies but does not form part of an IPSAS. The Basis for Conclusion will focus on the modifications to the IASB document. Specifically, the Basis for Conclusions will include a detailed description of the public sector issue, the rationale for allowing a departure from the related IASB document and the implications of the changes being made.

Guidelines for Modifying IASB Documents

IASB PROJECT



Appendix 2: 2008 IPSASB Promotion and Communications Strategy

Strategy #1: Address promotion and communications activities proactively			
Planned outputs/activities	Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
1. Regional communications leaders to assist in developing strategy to enhance IPSASB's presence in the region	i) Regional communications leaders to work with TD in developing strategy that identifies specific targets for promotion of IPSASB ii) For opportunities identified, IPSASB members to assist in regional promotion	All	Q1 Q1-4
2. Continue enhanced collaborative efforts with the IASB	i) Institute formal liaison between IASB and IPSASB through 6 member leadership group ii) Attend at least 2/3 of IASB meetings during 2008 iii) Continue to liaise regularly with the IASB staff, particularly on IFRS convergence projects iv) Work collaboratively on the public sector conceptual framework project to ensure divergence between the IASB framework and the IPSASB framework only occurs where it is necessary to reflect the differences between the private and public sector	MH JS/others SF/JS MH/SF/JS PS/SF/MH	Q1 Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing
3. Enhance collaborative efforts/liaison with others e.g. NSS, IFAC Boards & Committees (e.g. DNC, CAP)	i) Attend semi-annual meetings of NSS ii) Liaise with NSS on an ongoing basis especially those where collaborative projects are being undertaken. iii) Enhance attendance at IFAC meetings – provide annual presentation on IPSASB iv) Meet regularly with IFAC liaison Board member (Dancey) to increase profile of IPSASB	MH/SF/others All MH/SF MH/SF	Q1, Q3 Ongoing Q1, Q2 Ongoing

Strategy #1: Address promotion and communications activities proactively			
Planned outputs/activities	Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
	v) Provide IPSASB presentation at DNC meeting; consider involvement with SMC	MH/SF	Q3
	vi) Participate with DNC and World Bank in Latin American Regional Conference	MH/SF	Q2
4. Develop enhanced relationships with observer group (IMF, World Bank, UN, UNDB, ADB, INTOSAI, OECD, EC/Eurostat)	i) undertake annual observer review	All	Q4
	ii) meet with observers to brainstorm on ideas for maximizing relationships	MH/SF	Q1
	iii) Attend World Bank Fiduciary Forum	MH/SF	Q1
	iv) meet with World Bank regional managers to determine strategy for assistance	MH/SF	Q1
	v) Participate in World Bank triennial review of IPSASB's performance	MH/SF	Q1-Q2
	vi) Continue to participate in UN IPSAS Implementation Committee	MH	Ongoing
5. Use consultative group effectively	i) Consider interaction with consultative group and develop a plan to enhance their participation in promoting IPSASB	SF	Q3
	ii) Investigate developing an electronic forum/round table for the consultative group to encourage input	SF	Q3
	iii) develop a network of consultative group members who could be called upon to do presentations on behalf of IPSASB	SF	Ongoing

Strategy #2: <i>Effectively leverage existing communications vehicles to determine additional communications needs</i>			
Planned outputs/activities	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1. Approve a communication plan for 2008	Review draft plan at March meeting and approve	SF	Q1
2. Develop collateral materials that effectively explain IPSASB	With the communications department, develop collateral materials that take a public interest perspective in making the case for public sector standards	BN/SF	Q3
3. Revised IPSASB Fact Sheet	Update IPSASB Fact Sheet with a view to using it as a “take away” at conferences/presentations.	BN/Comms	Q2
4. Work with Compliance Advisory Panel and Member Body Relations to highlight importance of public sector accounting standards	i) liaise with staff of member relations to increase public sector component of the toolkit for establishing a professional accountancy body	SF	Q2
	ii) provide input to CAP on public sector issues for member bodies	SF	Ongoing
	iii) consider feasibility of program for governments adopting IPSASs partnering with governments who have adopted in a mentoring relationship	SF	Q3

Strategy #3: Tell the IPSASB story – identify key forums, conferences, events, speaking engagements, opportunities to tell the story

Planned outputs/activities	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1. Enhance regional relationships through presentations at IPSASB meetings/consultative group	i) With regional communications leaders identify presentations that will give IPSASB profile – minimum 1-2 per region ii) at each IPSASB meeting (other than home meeting) identify key groups to meet and to provide seminars and presentations re IPSASB	MH/SF/Others	Ongoing Q2, Q3
2. Target presentations and opportunities that increase awareness of IPSASB	i) attend FEE ii) International Colloquium (Canada/U.S. Colloquium for Financial Management) iii) OECD iv) CIGAR v) Regional Conference Latin America vi) New Zealand/Australia joint Boards vii) Canadian Conference of Legislative Auditors (COLA) viii) World Bank Fiduciary Forum ix) UNCTAD training day (Geneva) x) Others as required	MH/JS MH/SF MH/JS MH/JS MH/SF MH/SF MH/SF MH/SF MH/SF All	Q4 Q4 Q1 Q2 Q2 Q3 Q3 Q1 Q4 Ongoing

Strategy #4: *Maximize the use of the internet, website, other communication vehicles*

Planned outputs/activities	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1. Assess website content and enhance to meet users' needs	i) Update country report templates based on feedback ii) enhance consistency of website content with other IFAC committees and Boards considering users' needs iii) Update project pages in a timely manner after each IPSASB meeting	BN BN All	Ongoing Q2 Q1, Q2, Q4
2. Improve effectiveness of meeting highlights, e-news and other documents as communications tools	i) Increase frequency of e-news – 1 per each IPSASB meeting plus minimum 2 additional on public sector news ii) Continue to prepare highlights and post promptly after each IPSASB meeting iii) work with communications department to provide input on the content and structure of new IFAC communications tools	BN BN All	Ongoing Q1, Q2, Q4 Q1
3. Enhance electronic features and interactivity of materials to improve ability to navigate electronically	For Board materials encourage addition of electronic links and other interactive facilities	DG/Others	Ongoing
4. Use Leadership Intranet more effectively for resources	i) Streamline folders in intranet to add resources for members ii) Solicit feedback from members as to nature of materials they are interested in having available	All All	Ongoing Q2

Appendix 3: IASB Work Plan – Projected timetable as at 31 December 2007

The timetable shows the current best estimate of document publication dates. The effective date of amendments and new standards is usually 6-18 months after publication date. However, except for the items listed in the section 'Amendments to standards', the effective date of IFRSs resulting from the current work plan will be no earlier than financial periods beginning 1 January 2009. In appropriate circumstances, early adoption of new standards will be allowed.

MoU milestone by 2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	Timing yet to be determined
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		

ACTIVE AGENDA

Projects in Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the FASB [Note 1]

Short-term convergence projects

Government grants [Note 2]	(IASB)	Determine whether major differences should be eliminated and substantially complete work						Pending work on Liabilities
Joint ventures	(IASB)					IFRS		
Impairment	(Joint)							Staff work in progress
Income tax	(Joint)			ED			IFRS	
Investment properties	(FASB)							
Research and development	(FASB)							
Subsequent events	(FASB)							

Other convergence projects

Consolidation	Work towards converged standards			DP				ED, IFRS
Fair value measurement guidance	Converged guidance		RT				ED	IFRS
Financial statement presentation	One or more due process documents		DP					ED, IFRS
Revenue recognition	One or more due process documents		DP					ED, IFRS
Post-employment benefits (including pensions)		DP					ED	IFRS
Leases	Agenda decision						DP	ED, IFRS

	MoU milestone by 2008	2008 Q1	2008 Q2	2008 Q3	2008 Q4	2009	Timing yet to be determined
Conceptual Framework							
Phase A: Objectives and qualitative characteristics		ED					
Phase B: Elements and recognition						DP	
Phase C: Measurement					DP		
Phase D: Reporting entity		DP					
Phase E: Presentation and disclosure							DP
Phase F: Purpose and status							DP
Phase G: Application to not-for-profit entities							DP
Phase H: Remaining Issues [Note 3]							TBD
Other projects							
Small and medium-sized entities					IFRS		
Insurance contracts						ED	IFRS
Liabilities [Note 4]						IFRS	
Emission trading schemes							TBD
Common control transactions							TBD
Management Commentary							TBD
Amendments to standards							
Annual improvements			IFRS		ED	IFRS	
Cost of an investment (Amendments to IFRS 1 and IAS 27)			IFRS				
Earnings per share: treasury stock method (IAS 33)		ED					IFRS
Financial instruments: portions (IAS 39)					IFRS		
Financial instruments: puttable instruments (IAS 32)		IFRS					
Related party disclosures (IAS 24)		IFRS					
Share-based payment: group cash-settled share-based payment transactions (IFRS 2 and IFRIC 11)							IFRS
Share-based payment: vesting conditions and cancellations (IFRS 2)			IFRS				

RESEARCH AGENDA

Projects yet to be added to the ACTIVE AGENDA but included in the MoU with the FASB (except as shown)

	MoU milestone by 2008					
Derecognition	Consider staff research	RR				
Financial instruments (replacement of existing standards)	One or more due process documents	DP				
Intangible assets	Consider research and make agenda decision					
Liabilities and equity [Note 6]	One or more due process documents	DP				
Extractive activities	Not in MoU				DP	

Abbreviations used in the IASB Work Plan:

DP Discussion Paper

ED Exposure Draft

RT Round-table discussion

IFRS International Financial Reporting Standard

TBD The type of initial document (DP or ED) is yet to be determined

RR Research report

AD Agenda decision

Notes:

1. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sets out the milestones that the FASB and the IASB have agreed to achieve in order to demonstrate standard-setting convergence, which is one part of the process towards removal of the requirement imposed on foreign registrants with the SEC to reconcile their financial statements to US GAAP.
2. Work on government grants has been deferred pending the conclusion of work on other relevant projects.
3. The IASB and the FASB will publish individual chapters as they complete each phase. Each board will evaluate the practical implications of doing so in the context of its own GAAP hierarchy.
4. The Liabilities project is the amendments to IAS 37.
5. In December 2007 the IASB decided not to add this project to its active agenda.
6. Project is being conducted as a 'modified joint' project. The FASB has published a Preliminary Views paper which will form the basis of a Discussion Paper to be issued by the IASB.

Appendix 4

IFAC-INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD (IPSASB) WORK PLAN 2008 (by Strategic Themes)							
	Q1 2008		Q2 2008		Q4 2008		2009-2010
	Interim Feedback January '08	Meeting Toronto March 10-13	Interim Feedback April	Meeting Moscow June 16-19	Interim Feedback July/Aug	Meeting Zurich October 28-31	
Public Sector Conceptual Framework							
Group 1		Discuss CP	X	Approve CP			
Group 2		Discuss issues				Discuss issues	CP 2009
Group 3							CP 2010
Group 4							
Public sector specific							
Social benefits	X					Review responses & discuss issues	IPSAS February 2009
Service concessions - PPPs	X					Review responses & discuss issues	ED 2009; IPSAS 2010
Heritage assets							
Cash basis IPSAS review				Update		Review issues;	ED 2009; IPSAS 2010
Long-term fiscal sustainability				Update		Review issues	CP 2009; ED 2010
Performance reporting							
MD&A		Project brief		Discuss issues		Approve CP	ED 2009; final 2010
IFRS convergence							
Financial instruments-presentation & disclosure		Approve ED	X			Review responses & discuss issues	IPSASs 2009
Rules of the Road						Issue publicly	
Annual Improvements				ED (2007)		ED (2008)	
Updating existing IPSASs – IPSAS 4		Approve IPSAS					
Updating existing IPSASs- IPSAS 5		Approve ED				Review responses & discuss issues	IPSAS 2009
Updating existing IPSASs - other				Discuss issues	X	Approve ED(s)	IPSAS 2009
Entity combinations				Discuss issues	X	Approve CP/ED	ED/IPSAS 2009
Intangible assets				Discuss issues		Approve CP/ED	ED/IPSAS 2009
Fair value							CP 2010
FI- recog & meas							CP 2010
IFRICs				Discuss issues			ED 2009; Final 2010
Other project 1							CP 2010
Other, promotion & communication							
IPSASB Strategy	X	FINAL					
IPSASB communications plan		ongoing		ongoing		ongoing	
Liaison – IASB, IFAC, NSS		ongoing		ongoing		ongoing	
Seminars/presentations		ongoing		ongoing		ongoing	

IFAC – INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD (IPSASB) DRAFT WORK PLAN 2008-2010 (by Strategic Themes)				
	2008	2009	2010	2011+
STRATEGIC THEMES				
<i>Public Sector Conceptual Framework</i>				
Group 1	Approve CP	Develop ED material		ED 2011; IPSAS 2012
Group 2		Approve CP	develop ED material	ED 2011; IPSAS 2012
Group 3			Approve CP	ED 2011; IPSAS 2012
Group 4				Cash basis ED 2011
<i>Public sector specific</i>				
Social benefits	ED March	IPSAS February		
Service concessions - PPPs	CP March	ED February	IPSAS February	
Heritage assets				
Cash basis IPSAS review		ED February	IPSAS February	
Long-term fiscal sustainability		CP March	ED June	IPSAS 2011
Performance reporting				
MD&A	Project brief March; CP October	ED October	Final October	
<i>IFRS convergence</i>				
Financial instruments-presentation & disclosure	ED March	IPSAS May		
Rules of the Road	Issue publicly November			
Annual Improvements	ED1 June; ED2 October	IPSAS May; ED October	IPSAS May; ED October	IPSAS May; ED October
Updating existing IPSASs – IPSAS 4	IPSAS March			
Updating existing IPSASs- IPSAS 5	ED March	IPSAS February		
Updating existing IPSASs - other	ED October	IPSAS May		
Entity combinations	CP/ED October	ED/IPSAS October		
Intangible assets	CP/ED October	ED/IPSAS October		
Fair value			CP	ED 2011; IPSAS 2012
FI- recog & meas			CP	ED 2011; IPSAS 2012
IFRICs	Discuss issues	ED February	Final May	
Other project 1			CP	ED 2011; IPSAS 2012
<i>Other, promotion & communication</i>				
IPSASB Strategy	Approve plan	Approve plan	Approve plan	
IPSASB communications plan	Approve plan	Approve plan	Approve plan	
Liaison – IASB, IFAC, NSS	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	
Seminars/presentations	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	

IPSASB Agenda Schedule 2008-2011

	Staff	Mar 08	June 08	Oct 08	Feb 09	May 09	Oct 09	Feb 10	May 10	Oct 10
Conceptual Framework Group 1	PS/SF	CP	CP		RR					
Conceptual Framework Group 2	SF	DI		DI		CP				
Conceptual Framework Group 3	PS/SF						DI		CP	
Conceptual Framework Group 4	PS/SF							DI	CP	
Social Benefits	JS			RR	IPSAS					
Service Concessions/PPPs	GD/BN			RR	ED			RR	IPSAS	
Heritage Assets										
Review Cash Basis IPSAS	DG		DI		ED		IPSAS			
Long-term Fiscal Sustainability	JS			DI	CP				ED	
Performance Reporting										
MD&A	DG	PB		CP			ED			IPSAS
Financial Instruments – pres & disc	MB	ED		RR	RR	IPSASs				
Rules of the Road	SF			DI						
Annual Improvements	MB		ED1	ED2	IPSAS	IPSAS	ED		IPSAS	ED
Updating IPSASs- Foreign Exchange	MB	IPSAS								
Updating IPSASs-Borrowing Costs	QC	ED		RR	IPSAS					
Updating IPSASs - Other	QC		DI	ED						
Entity Combinations	BN		DI	CP/ED		RR	ED/ IPSAS			
Intangible Assets			DI	CP/ED		RR	ED/ IPSAS			
Fair Value						DI		CP		RR
Financial Instruments–rec & meas						PB		CP		RR
IFRICs	JS		DI		ED		RR		Final	
Other project 1										CP
Communications	All	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Annual project plan	SF	X			X			X		
Strategic plan	SF	X				X	X			

Key: IPSAS Final Standard, ED Exposure Draft, PB Project Brief, DI Discussion of Issues. RR Review of Responses, CP Consultation Paper

IPSASB REPRESENTATION AT REMAINING 2008 IASB MEETINGS

Date of IASB Meeting (All London location unless otherwise stated)	Staff	IPSASB member available
March 10-14	N/A coincides with March IPSASB Meeting	N/A coincides with March IPSASB Meeting
April 14-18		Hathorn
April 21-22 (joint FASB)		Carruthers/Bergmann
May 19-23	<i>Stanford</i> (ASB CAPE Meeting on May 20)	
June 16-20	N/A coincides with June IPSASB Meeting	N/A coincides with June IPSASB Meeting
July 21-25		Fausch/Bergmann
September 15-19	<i>Stanford</i>	
October 13-17	<i>Stanford</i>	
October 20-22 (joint FASB: Norwalk)	<i>Fox</i>	Neville
November 17-21	<i>Stanford</i>	
December 16-19	<i>Stanford</i> (possible NYC trip)	Carruthers