

This paper provides the technical advice from EFRAG FR TEG to the EFRAG FRB, following EFRAG FR TEG's public discussion. The paper does not represent the official views of EFRAG or any individual member of the EFRAG FRB. This paper is made available to enable the public to follow the EFRAG's due process. Tentative decisions are reported in EFRAG Update. EFRAG positions as approved by the EFRAG FRB are published as comment letters, discussion or position papers or in any other form considered appropriate in the circumstances.

Subsidiaries without Public Accountability

Cover Note

Objective

- 1 The objective of the session is to provide EFRAG FRB members with an update:
 - (a) on the current status of the project (IASB's presentation); and
 - (b) on the EFRAG's discussions on this project (EFRAG's presentation)

Background

Exposure Draft Consultation

- 2 On 26 July 2021 the IASB published [the ED Subsidiaries without Public Accountability](#) with the objective of developing a reduced-disclosure IFRS Accounting Standard that would apply on a voluntary basis to subsidiaries without public accountability. The description of public accountability, contained in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the ED, is from paragraphs 1.3 and 1.4 of the IFRS for SMEs Standard.
- 3 EFRAG published its [Draft Comment Letter \(DCL\)](#) on 30 September 2021 which was open for comments until 26 January 2022. In its DCL, EFRAG welcomed the ED and the IASB's efforts to reduce disclosure requirements for subsidiaries without public accountability. EFRAG also cautiously agreed with the IASB's proposed scope but recognised that there was also support for the alternative view expressed by the IASB board member Françoise Flores in the Basis for Conclusions of the ED.
- 4 EFRAG then embarked on an extensive programme of outreach events and stakeholder meetings, in partnership with various organisations. EFRAG also conducted research activities that led to the publication of two briefings focused on the applicability of the IASB's ED in the European Union.
 - (a) [Subsidiaries without Public Accountability: Disclosures. Who would be able to apply it in the EU?](#) focused on the scope of the IASB's project from an EU perspective; and
 - (b) [EFRAG Secretariat study on compatibility of the EU Accounting Directive with the IASB's Exposure Draft](#) included a two-step comparison of disclosure requirements in the ED and the EU Accounting Directive.
- 5 In general, participants in outreach events and respondents to EFRAG DCL welcomed the IASB's ED and acknowledged that the IASB's efforts would ease financial reporting for eligible subsidiaries while meeting the reasonable needs of the users of financial statements. When referring to the scope, European constituents expressed mixed views, in particular on whether and to what extent the scope should be widened. European

constituents also raised questions and some concerns on the interaction of the IASB’s proposals with EU accounting law.

- 6 After consulting its constituents, EFRAG published its [Final Comment Letter \(FCL\)](#) on 25 February 2022 where it reiterated its initial support for the IASB’s project and highlighted the requests from many constituents to widen its scope. However, as there was no clear consensus whether and to what extent the scope should be extended, EFRAG suggested that the IASB continues with the current scope of the project, but in parallel assesses the possibility of a scope extension. In addition, EFRAG proposed that the IASB considers clarifying the concept of holding assets in a fiduciary capacity before issuing a final standard.
- 7 Alongside the concerns expressed about the term ‘fiduciary capacity’, EFRAG expressed concerns that the IASB uses the concept ‘public accountability’ when defining the scope of this project. This is because its meaning is not often entirely clear for stakeholders (these concepts are not currently being used in IFRS Accounting Standards available for use in the EU) and it could be in conflict with existing legal terms used in different EU Member States. For example, National Standard Setters have expressed concerns that the notion of public accountability is different from the notion of Public Interest Entities, a similar term used in the European Union accounting law. Therefore, the IASB’s proposals in this project are likely to also put pressure on the definition of ‘public accountability’. Considering this, EFRAG would welcome further application guidance in this area.
- 8 On 14 April 2022, EFRAG issued a [Feedback Statement](#), which summarised the main comments received by EFRAG on its DCL to the IASB ED and explained how those comments were considered in EFRAG’s FCL.
- 9 Also in April 2022, the IASB started to discuss the feedback received from comment letters and outreach events. In general, most respondents agreed with the objective of the draft Standard. However, respondents had mixed views on the proposed scope of the draft Standard. Although some respondents agreed with the proposed scope of the draft Standard, many respondents suggested a wider scope. Nonetheless, respondents had different views on what that wider scope should be. Some respondents also suggested that the IASB considers widening the scope at a later stage, for example, after the draft Standard has been effective for a period of time.

Redeliberation Phase

- 10 The EFRAG FRB last discussed the project on 30 March 2023, where it received an update on the IASB’s tentative decisions and provided its views on the expected costs and benefits of the proposals for stakeholders to help develop the IASB’s Effects Analysis. The EFRAG FRB generally agreed with the IASB’s proposals. For more details for the FRB and FR TEG meetings discussions, please see below in Appendix 1.
- 11 The key topics discussed by the IASB until now are summarised in the table below.

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| <p>Objective IASB October 2022</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IASB discussed the proposed objective of the draft Standard. |
| <p>Scope of the project IASB September 2022 and</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IASB discussed the feedback received on the proposed scope of the draft Standard and discussed whether it should confirm the |

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| IASB November 2022 | proposed scope, including the proposal that the parent's consolidated financial statements are 'available for public use. |
| <p>Structure of the draft standard</p> <p>IASB October 2022</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IASB discussed the structure of the draft Standard and whether it should modify, retain or omit Appendix A and footnotes related to disclosure requirements that remain applicable proposed in the draft Standard. |
| <p>Approach to developing the proposed disclosure requirements</p> <p>IASB October 2022</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IASB discussed the feedback on the approach to developing the proposed disclosure requirements of the draft Standard and discussed whether it should modify it to ensure that the language used in the disclosure requirements are the same as IFRS Accounting Standards. |
| <p>Addressing comments on proposed disclosure requirements</p> <p>IASB October 2022</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IASB discussed the process and how the IASB staff should analyse the comments received on the proposed disclosure requirements in the draft Standard. |
| <p>Others</p> <p>IASB December 2022</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IASB discussed other topics such as IFRS Accounting Standards without reduced disclosure requirements, proposed reduced disclosure requirements in IAS 34 and a proposed statement of compliance. |
| <p>Maintenance of the Standard:</p> <p>IASB January 2023</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IASB discussed when to update the Standard for new disclosure requirements or amendments to disclosure requirements arising from new IFRS Accounting Standards or amendments to IFRS Accounting Standards. |
| <p>Transition matters— interactions with IFRS 1 and changes in accounting policies</p> <p>IASB January 2023</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IASB discussed the interaction between IFRS 1 <i>First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards</i> and the Standard and whether electing or revoking an election to apply the draft Standard requires an eligible subsidiary to apply the requirements on changes in accounting policies in IAS 8 <i>Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors</i>. |
| <p>Relationship of the new IFRS Accounting Standard with the IFRS for SMEs Accounting Standard</p> <p>IASB March 2023</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IASB considered the feedback received on the interaction between the reduced disclosure Standard (based on IFRS for SMEs and IFRS Accounting Standards) and the IFRS for SMEs. In addition, the IASB discussed the way forward on the relationship of the new reduced disclosure IFRS Accounting Standard with the IFRS for SMEs. The discussion focused also on whether there should be a separate assessment of the costs and benefits for subsidiaries (applying the reduced disclosure Standard) and for SMEs (applying the IFRS for SMEs). |
| <p>Updating the language of the disclosure requirements</p> <p>IASB April 2023</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IASB discussed the language and structure of the disclosure requirements and whether they should be the same as in IFRS Accounting Standards. IFRS Accounting Standard. |
| <p>Proposed disclosure requirements</p> <p>IASB April 2023, IASB May 2023 and IASB June 2023</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IASB considered the feedback received on the proposed disclosure requirements and discussed whether it was necessary to revise any of the proposed disclosure requirements in the ED. |

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| <p>Disclosure requirements about transition in other IFRS Accounting Standards IASB May 2023</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IASB discussed whether the disclosure requirements in a new or amended IFRS Accounting Standard, about the entity’s transition to that Standard, would remain applicable to an eligible subsidiary that applies the draft Standard. |
| <p>Paragraph 16 of the draft Standard (materiality) IASB May 2023</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IASB discussed whether to provide guidance on or update paragraph 16 of the draft Standard (stating that an entity need not disclose immaterial information and need to consider whether to disclose additional information) and whether to include an overall disclosure objective. |
| <p>New disclosure requirements in IFRS Accounting Standards IASB May 2023</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IASB discussed whether disclosure requirements in IFRS Accounting Standards that have been issued since development of the draft Standard apply to eligible subsidiaries applying the new Standard. |
| <p>Effective date and transition IASB July 2023</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IASB discussed the effective date and transition provisions for the new Standard. The IASB also discussed the interaction between the new Standard and the Standard being developed based on the ED <i>General Presentation and Disclosures (Primary Financial Statements)</i>. |
| <p>Due process IASB July 2023</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IASB discussed due process steps for developing the new Standard and whether to start the balloting process. |
| <p>Approach to maintenance IASB September 2023</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IASB discussed its approach to maintenance of the new Standard. |
| <p>Sweep issues—updating the language of disclosure requirements IASB October 2023</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IASB discussed the language and structure of the disclosure requirements concentrating on when it is appropriate to amend or not the disclosure requirements in order to match them with the full IFRS Accounting Standards and on deleting the disclosure requirements without an equivalent on IFRS full Accounting Standard. |

Next steps

- 12 The IASB is planning to issue a new reduced disclosures IFRS Accounting Standard in the first half of 2024 with an effective date of 1 January 2027.
- 13 EFRAG will work on an Endorsement Advice in case it receives such request from the EC.

Agenda Papers

- 14 In addition to this cover note, the following agenda papers have been uploaded:
 - (a) *06-02 IASB Presentation – status of the project* which presents the work carried out by the IASB so far; and
 - (b) *06-03 EFRAG Presentation – Overview on EFRAG Discussions* which summarises the comments raised by EFRAG FR TEG members, have been provided for this session.

Appendix 1 – Redeliberation Phase – EFRAG FR meetings

- 1 In July 2022, the IASB discussed the interaction between local regulations and the proposed IFRS Accounting Standard at the Accounting Standards Advisory Forum (ASAF) meeting. In preparation for that meeting, the EFRAG FR TEG-CFSS members discussed this project on 28 June 2022 (summary of feedback received can be found [here](#)).
- 2 On [14 September 2022](#), the EFRAG FR TEG-CFSS members received an update, discussed the use of the concept 'available for public use', the proposed disclosure requirements and the structure of the draft IFRS Accounting Standard.
- 3 On [18 October 2022](#), EFRAG FRB considered whether EFRAG should comment on the proposed clarifications to the definition of 'public accountability' included in Question 1 of the IASB Exposure Draft Third edition of the IFRS for SMEs Accounting Standard. After discussing this issue, EFRAG FRB members decided not to comment on the Question 1 of the IASB ED as there was no consensus.
- 4 On [15 March 2023](#), the EFRAG FR TEG and EFRAG CFSS members received an update on the IASB's latest tentative decisions and discussed the expected benefits and costs of the IASB's proposals for stakeholders in their jurisdiction.
- 5 In general, EFRAG FR TEG and EFRAG CFSS members supported the direction of the redeliberation and recognised that this project would simplify and reduce the cost of financial reporting for eligible subsidiaries and their parents, even in jurisdictions that currently do not allow or require the use of IFRS Accounting Standards in the annual accounts (e.g., for international groups), while still providing relevant information to users of financial statements. One CFSS member reported that in his jurisdiction the applicability of IFRS for individual financial statements is currently being investigated and discussed.
- 6 On [30 March 2023](#), EFRAG FRB received an update on the IASB's latest decisions and generally agreed with the IASB's proposals. Some EFRAG FRB members questioned the scope exclusion for the insurance industry. In addition, EFRAG FRB highlighted the need to consider the interaction of the IASB's proposals with European legislation.
- 7 On [19 October 2023](#) EFRAG FR TEG received an update on the IASB's latest tentative decisions and generally agree with IASB' proposals although some of the disclosures required by EFRAG are still missing. EFRAG FR TEG provided comments on the proposed disclosure requirements, on paragraph 16 of the ED regarding materiality, on the effective date, transition, maintenance, relationship with the PFS Standard and on the scope. An IASB member participated in the discussion.