



## IPSASB Meeting Highlights

May 2009

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This Meeting Highlights from the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) meeting in Washington DC, USA on May 18-21, 2009 has been prepared for information purposes only.

For more detailed information on individual projects beyond that provided below, please refer to the IPSASB's project history pages:  
<http://www.ifac.org/PublicSector/Projects.php#InProgress>.

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### Global Financial Crisis

The IPSASB started the meeting with presentations from IMF staff on various aspects of the current global financial crisis. This is the third consecutive meeting that has included such discussions. The IPSASB sees these as critical in understanding the current environment and in contributing to the debates on various projects currently underway, in particular the public sector conceptual framework.

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### Conceptual Framework

#### *Consultation Paper – Phase 1*

The IPSASB considered responses to the Consultation Paper, “Conceptual Framework for General Purpose Financial Reporting by Public Sector Entities: The objectives of financial reporting; The scope of financial reporting; The qualitative characteristics of information included in general purpose financial reports; The reporting entity.”

The IPSASB will continue its review of the responses at its December 2009 meeting.

#### *Consultation Paper – Phase 2*

The IPSASB reviewed a revised draft Consultation Paper on the definition and recognition of elements. Based on discussions, amendments will be made and further discussion will take place in September 2009. The draft Consultation Paper will include a comparison with the treatment of elements in the Government Finance Statistics (GFS) Manual.

#### *Consultation Paper – Phase 3*

The IPSASB also considered a first paper on measurement. The IPSASB agreed that it will proceed with this phase of the project irrespective of the

IASB's work on the Measurement phase of its Conceptual Framework project. The eventual draft Consultation Paper will include a discussion on the IASB's proposals as they proceed. It will also include discussion on the linkage between this phase of the Conceptual Framework and the previous two phases of this project.

The IPSASB will consider a further paper at its September 2009 meeting.

IFAC staff member contacts – Technical Director, Stephenie Fox: [stepheniefox@ifac.org](mailto:stepheniefox@ifac.org) or Senior Advisor, Paul Sutcliffe: [paulsutcliffe@ifac.org](mailto:paulsutcliffe@ifac.org).

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### Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability

The IPSASB reviewed a draft Consultation Paper, “Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability in the Context of General Purpose Financial Reporting.” The IPSASB reaffirmed its commitment to this project and noted that its relevance has increased as a result of the global financial crisis.

The IPSASB will consider a revised draft Consultation Paper at its September 2009 meeting with a view to approval.

IFAC staff member contact – John Stanford: [johnstanford@ifac.org](mailto:johnstanford@ifac.org)

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### Cash Basis Review

The IPSASB noted a progress report on the activities of the Task Force for the Review of International Public Sector Accounting Standard, “Financial Reporting Under the Cash Basis of Accounting” (the Cash Basis IPSAS). A brief questionnaire seeking input on implementation issues has been issued. Responses are requested by July 15, 2009. Further information can be found on the IFAC website: <http://www.ifac.org/MediaCenter/?q=node/view/646>

The Task Force will continue the data collection phase of the review during 2009 and intends to report to the IPSASB during the first quarter of 2010.

IFAC staff member contact – Paul Sutcliffe: [paulsutcliffe@ifac.org](mailto:paulsutcliffe@ifac.org)

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## Service Concession Arrangements

The IPSASB reviewed a proposed Exposure Draft (ED) XX, “Service Concession Arrangements.” The proposed ED was developed based on the principles set out in the Consultation Paper issued in March 2008. It addresses the specific accounting and reporting issues of the grantor in a service concession arrangement and provides guidance for other types of similar contractual arrangements.

The IPSASB will consider a further draft ED at its meeting in December 2009.

IFAC staff member contact – Joy Keenan: [joykeen@ifac.org](mailto:joykeen@ifac.org)

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## Improvements to IPSASs

The IPSASB approved Exposure Draft (ED) 42, “Improvements to IPSASs.” The proposed amendments are to converge existing IPSASs with the relevant IFRSs and arise from the improvements adopted by the IASB in May 2008.

The ED will be issued by June 30, 2009, with a comment deadline of September 30, 2009.

IFAC staff member contact – John Stanford: [johnstanford@ifac.org](mailto:johnstanford@ifac.org)

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## Borrowing Costs

Staff had followed up with the respondents to ED 35, “Borrowing Costs” to further analyze the rationale for views held and reported to the IPSASB on this work. The IPSASB agreed to consider the issue further using the preliminary views developed in the Measurement phase of its Conceptual Framework project.

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## Next Meeting

The next IPSASB meeting will be held in Toronto, Canada on September 8-11, 2009.