

A Resolution on IASC Standards

Passed by the Presidents' Committee
May 2000

In order to respond to the significant growth in cross-border capital flows, IOSCO has sought to facilitate cross-border offerings and listings. IOSCO believes that cross-border offerings and listings would be facilitated by high quality, internationally accepted accounting standards that could be used by incoming multinational issuers in cross-border offerings and listings. Therefore, IOSCO has worked with the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) as it sought to develop a reasonably complete set of accounting standards through the IASC core standards work program.

IOSCO has assessed 30 IASC standards, including their related interpretations ("the IASC 2000 standards"), considering their suitability for use in cross-border offerings and listings. IOSCO has identified outstanding substantive issues relating to the IASC 2000 standards in a report that includes an analysis of those issues and specifies supplemental treatments that may be required in a particular jurisdiction to address each of these concerns.

The Presidents' Committee congratulates the IASC for its hard work and contribution to raising the quality of financial reporting worldwide. The IASC's work to date has succeeded in effecting significant improvements in the quality of the IASC standards. Accordingly, the Presidents' Committee recommends that IOSCO members permit incoming multinational issuers to use the 30 IASC 2000 standards to prepare their financial statements for cross-border offerings and listings, as supplemented in the manner described below (the "supplemental treatments") where necessary to address outstanding substantive issues at a national or regional level.¹

Those supplemental treatments are:

- **reconciliation:** requiring reconciliation of certain items to show the effect of applying a different accounting method, in contrast with the method applied under IASC standards;
- **disclosure:** requiring additional disclosures, either in the presentation of the financial statements or in the footnotes; and
- **interpretation:** specifying use of a particular alternative provided in an IASC standard, or a particular interpretation in cases where the IASC standard is unclear or silent.

In addition, as part of national or regional specific requirements, waivers may be envisaged of particular aspects of an IASC standard, without requiring that the effect of the accounting method used be reconciled to the effect of applying the IASC method. The use of waivers should be restricted to exceptional circumstances such as issues identified by a domestic regulator when a specific IASC standard is contrary to domestic or

regional regulation.

The concerns identified and the expected supplemental treatments are described in the report entitled [*IASC Standards – Assessment Report*](#)² (Assessment Report).

IOSCO notes that a body of accounting standards like the IASC standards must continue to evolve in order to address existing and emerging issues. IOSCO's recommendation assumes that IOSCO will continue to be involved in the IASC work and structure and that the IASC will continue to develop its body of standards. IOSCO strongly urges the IASC in its future work program to address the concerns identified in the Assessment Report, in particular, future projects.

IOSCO expects to survey its membership by the end of 2001 in order to determine the extent to which members have taken steps to permit incoming multinational issuers to use the IASC 2000 standards, subject to the supplemental treatments described above. At the same time IOSCO expects to continue to work with the IASC, and will determine the extent to which IOSCO's outstanding substantive issues, including proposals for future projects, have been addressed appropriately.

Endnotes:

1. This recommendation is made without prejudice to the treatments or measures that would be adopted regionally as part of a specific legal framework and / or mutual recognition agreements.
2. Report of the Technical Committee regarding the [*IASC Standards*](#).