Scorecard

ISSB IFRS S1

About ISSB

COVERAGE OF COMPANIES
Global

LAUNCH DATE
2023

FOCUS
Financially material sustainability-related risks and opportunities

LINK:
https://www.ifrs.org/issued-standards/ifrs-sustainability-standards-navigator/ifrs-s1-general-requirements/
ISSB IFRS S1 Score

Tracker Rank and Score for ISSB
The score is out of a total of 200 and the rank describes the standards position in the 26 standards assessed by the Tracker.

Category scores of ISSB

- General disclosure on Corporate Political Activities
- Political contributions
- Lobbying and advocacy activities
- Influence via third-parties

*Categories where the standard received no points do not appear in the colour-coded graph.

Rank and scores for all standards

1. UN-PRI Investor Expectations
2. Responsible Lobbying Framework
3. OECD Principles
4. ICGN
5. AccountAbility
6. EFRAG
7. Positive Compass
8. Moody’s
9. S&P
10. World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA)
11. Erb Principles
12. GRI 415
13. ISS ESG
14. CDP
15. Sustainalytics
16. Fitch
17. WEF Measuring Stakeholder Capitalism
18. FTSE4Good
19. MSCI
20. ISSB
21. B-Lab
22. Refinitiv
23. TCFD
24. EcoVadis
25. Bloomberg
26. RepRisk
Description

The International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) IFRS S1 General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information are the result of ongoing work to standardise sustainability reporting and integrate it into international financial accounting standards. The ISSB was launched by the UK-based International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation at the COP26 conference in November 2021. The ISSB was asked to develop and maintain IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards which provide investors and other capital market participants with information about companies’ sustainability-related risks and opportunities to help them make informed decisions. The ISSB sits alongside the existing International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) as a body that informs the evolution of international accounting standards and associated financial reporting norms. Although they are separate and independent boards, they intend to work alongside each other to enhance interconnectedness between financial reporting and sustainability reporting.

In March 2022, the ISSB issued two Exposure Drafts, based on the prototype documents created by its Technical Readiness Working Group (TRWG). The TRWG undertook the preparatory work to give the ISSB a running start. The two draft standards were IFRS S1 General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information; and IFRS S2 Climate-related Disclosures. Proposals set out in IFRS S1 require an entity to disclose material information about all the significant sustainability-related risks and opportunities to which it is exposed. The Tracker analysed the extent to which the draft IFRS S1 framework addresses corporate political activities and related lobbying conduct. The standard was adopted by the IFRS in June of 2023.

Summary

The IFRS S1 disclosure recommendations received a Tracker score of 30 out of a total possible score of 200. This reflects the IFRS Foundation’s focus on financial accounting disclosures and the ISSB’s tendency to ignore the financial materiality of corporate political activities and associated lobbying conduct in their standards development process. IFRS S1 requires an entity to disclose information about all sustainability-related risks and opportunities that could reasonably be expected to affect the entity’s cash flows, its access to finance or cost of capital over the short, medium or long term. Corporate political activities may be included implicitly in the IFRS definition of sustainability-related risks, but these are not mentioned anywhere in the standard. The IFRS S1 standard receives Tracker points for its governance and feedback mechanisms.
Opportunities for improvement

In future revisions to the S1 standard, the ISSB should consider assessing the financial materiality of corporate political activities, and the applicability of each of the 8 Tracker categories as guides for preparers of corporate financial reports.

Endnotes

1 https://www.ifrs.org/issued-standards/ifrs-sustainability-standards-navigator/ifrs-s1-general-requirements/#