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Sept 3, 2020

Public Interest Oversight Board (via electronic mail)

Madrid, Spain

Dear Chairman and members of the Public Interest Oversight Board

I am pleased to submit my second quarter report for 2020, including a summary of Q2<sup>1</sup> highlights for your September 2020 meeting.

At our June 2020 meeting, the IESBA unanimously approved revisions to the Code arising from our project addressing the role and mindset expected of professional accountants. The revisions emphasize accountants' responsibility to act in the public interest and enhance the descriptions of four fundamental principles – integrity, objectivity, professional competence & due care, and professional behavior. In addition, the new pronouncement features a new requirement for accountants to have an inquiring mind when applying the Code's conceptual framework, and it provides new application material to highlight the impact of bias in exercising professional judgment and in applying the Code's conceptual framework. Anticipating the PIOB's approval of the draft pronouncement in September, a number of awareness raising initiatives for Q4 and beyond are already planned to promote adoption of the revisions that will come into effect in December 31, 2021, with early adoption permitted.

I am also pleased to report that at its additional July meeting, the IESBA provided directional input to the Non-Assurance Services (NAS) and Fees Task Forces to assist in their consideration of significant comments raised by respondents to our January 2020 Exposure Drafts (EDs): [Proposed Revisions to the Non-Assurance Services Provisions of the Code](#) and [Proposed Revisions to the Fee-related Provisions of the Code](#). The EDs were open for public comments until June 4, 2020 – extended from May 4, 2020 to allow respondents impacted from COVID-19 more time to respond. We anticipate finalizing the NAS and fee-related revisions in December 2020.

Coordinating topics of mutual interest continues to be a strategic priority for both the IESBA and the IAASB. Regarding the release of the Monitoring Group Report, Chairman Seidenstein and I are working closely together to formulate common proposals on the implementation of the reforms that we fully embrace in our [July 2020 joint statement](#). We have a keen joint interest and responsibility to manage a non-disruptive transition of our respective Boards to the new arrangements while also progressing our current ambitious standard-setting work plans.

In relation to our current work plans, the IESBA received an update on various coordination work-streams in Q2, including in relation to the ethics- and independence-related aspects of the IAASB's Quality

<sup>1</sup> Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IESBA's in-person June 2020 was held virtually, and an additional virtual meeting was held in July 2020.

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Management (QM) projects. The IESBA noted the IAASB's plans to defer the approval of the QM standards from June to September 2020. We also discussed two relevant IESBA work streams.

- First, we considered the significant comments raised by respondents to the its January 2020 ED, [Proposed Revision to the Code Addressing the Objectivity of Engagement Quality Reviewers](#), and related Task Force responses, which included a revised draft of the ED proposals. I acknowledge [PIOB's views about the public interest matters to be considered](#) in relation to the project which has been carefully considered by the Task Force in addition to IESBA members' input from our June meeting deliberations. The IESBA will consider the Task Force's updated thinking which includes revisions to incorporate comments during its September 2020 meeting. In this regard, I look forward to briefing PIOB members on the revisions that the IESBA's September meeting deliberations and decisions to respond to the PIOB's latest publication of their Public Interest issues.
- Second, the IESBA received an update on the preliminary discussions of the Engagement Team-Group Audits Independence project and focused on the Code's approach to independence in a group audit context. As part of this project, the IESBA will explore an approach to align the extant Code's definition of "engagement team" with the proposed revised definition of the same term under ISA 220 (Revised), *Quality Management for an Audit of Financial Statements* while ensuring that the independence provisions in the Code are clear and appropriate when applied to the revised definition.

During Q2, the IESBA continued to work diligently on its other projects and initiatives, including:

- *The project to review the Code's definition of the terms "listed entity" and "public interest entity" (PIE).* The IESBA provided input to the Task Force on its proposals, which included a draft list of PIE categories, and a proposal for firms to indicate in their auditor's report whether the audit client has been treated as a PIE. Initially planned to commence in 2021, this project was accelerated because of its strategic importance and its relevance to the proper application of the NAS and fee-related proposals. Accordingly, the effective dates of the revised terms —"listed entity" and "PIE" — and the final pronouncements arising from the NAS and Fees projects will be aligned. Also, as there is considerable overlap between the Code's definition of a PIE and the IAASB's description of "entity of significant public interest" (ESPI). Therefore, the IESBA continues to coordinate its efforts very closely with the IAASB, and in this regard, IESBA representatives provided a [project update](#) to the full IAASB in July 2020.
- *The IESBA's Technology project* which involves a consideration of issues related to the seven recommendations in the [Technology Working Group Phase 1 Final Report](#). The IESBA provided directional input on possible options to address threats to the fundamental principles arising from the complexity of the professional environment in which professional accountants work and discussed how to address threats to independence created by new types of engagements arising from the sale or licensing of new technology tools, and the location for this new material in the Code. Recognizing that the resulting revisions may ultimately affect the Code's NAS provisions, the NAS and Technology Task Force Chairs and staff are coordinating their respective work streams having regard to their respective project scopes.
- *The Tax Planning & Related Services Information Gathering Initiative.* The IESBA was briefed on the progress made on this important initiative. Among other matters, we discussed the inter-related

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impact of tax planning on compliance with each of the fundamental principles and the increased focus on Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) reporting. Despite the challenges involved in stakeholder engagement in the COVID-19 environment, the Working Group's research to-date has benefited from extensive outreach, including from representatives of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), members of European Parliament, and global tax leaders in the Big 4 accounting firms. The IESBA will consider a preliminary draft of Working Group's recommendations in March 2021.

- *Phase 2 eCode Activities.* The IESBA received an update on the status of its eCode Phase 2 work. A key enhancement is a new versioning feature that will allow users the ability to toggle between extant authoritative text of the Code and new pronouncements with future effective dates which is now live. We also learned that the technological infrastructure and related IFAC intellectual property agreements that have been put in place to facilitate the transfer of the eCode platform to PAOs and NSS who wish to leverage it in developing their local eCodes. IESBA members noted with interest the progress update on IFAC's digital publication initiative to explore a solution that will deliver the standards of the three standard setting boards (IAASB, IPSASB and IESBA) on a common digital platform that will preserve, and in some cases enhance, the features and functionalities of the existing IESBA eCode.

I wish to draw your attention to the IESBA's Staff comprehensive Q&As publication, [COVID-19: Ethics and Independence Considerations](#) which was released in May 2020 to highlight aspects of the Code that are relevant in navigating ethics and independence challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic for professional accountants in business and public practice. I also want to point out the IESBA's enhanced collaboration with stakeholders, especially NSS in responding to this unprecedented crisis. In this regard, the IESBA released a publication, [Applying the Code's Conceptual Framework in COVID-19 Circumstances: Scenarios in Taxation and Valuation Services](#) that was developed by the staff of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board (APESB) and the IESBA Staff under the auspices of a newly formed Working Group comprising six national ethics standard setters from Australia, Canada, China, South Africa, the UK and the US. Chaired by the Deputy Chair of the IESBA, the Working Group is charged with assisting accountants to effectively apply the Code when facing circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional publications are being developed and will be released in Q4.

We welcome IFAC emphasis on supporting adoption and implementation activities, especially in relation to the Code. I am pleased to note that as of the date of this letter, nine of the 12-month [Exploring the IESBA Code](#) short publication series are released, and that IFAC is actively encouraging its PAO members to translate and use them.

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In closing, I look forward to the constructive dialogue with the PIOB and its observers at Board meetings, and for your continued support to the IESBA's work.

Kind regards



Stavros Thomadakis, Chairman

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**Attachment 2**

**International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2020 Activity Report**

<b>Major Achievements</b>	
Standards and Guidance	<p>IESBA finalized and unanimously approved the revisions to the <a href="#">International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards)</a> (the Code) addressing the role and mindset expected of professional accountants in June 2020. Subject to Public Interest Oversight Board approval, the final pronouncement is expected to be issued by October 2020 and will be effective December 31, 2021, with early adoption permitted.</p> <p>The IESBA released an IESBA Staff Q&amp;As, <a href="#">COVID-19: Ethics and Independence Considerations</a> in May 2020. The Q&amp;As document emphasizes the need for all professional accountants to comply with the Code during the pandemic and highlights aspects of the Code that are relevant in navigating ethics and independence challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>In July 2020, the IESBA also released a publication, <a href="#">Applying the Code's Conceptual Framework in COVID-19 Circumstances: Scenarios in Taxation and Valuation Services</a> that was developed by the staff of the Accounting APESB and the IESBA Staff under the auspices of a newly formed Working Group comprising six national ethics standard setters from Australia, Canada, China, South Africa, the UK and the US.<sup>2</sup></p>
Adoption and Implementation	<p>As of the date of this letter, IFAC released the following four installments of its <i>Exploring the IESBA Code</i> series.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Installment 6</a>, <i>Conflicts of Interest</i></li> <li>• <a href="#">Installment 7</a>, <i>Inducements</i></li> <li>• <a href="#">Installment 8</a>, <i>Responding to Non-Compliance with Laws and Regulations [for PAIBs]</i></li> <li>• <a href="#">Installment 9</a>, <i>Responding to Non-Compliance with Laws and Regulations [for PAPPs]</i></li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> The Working Group's mandate is to develop implementation support resources to assist accountants effectively apply the Code when facing circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional publications are being developed to address fraud and other illicit acts (e.g. anti-money laundering and cyberthreats); using the work of a specialist; and the ethical considerations in applying for COVID-related government support programs government.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting highlights for the <a href="#">July</a> and <a href="#">June</a> 2020 IESBA virtual meetings are available on the IESBA website.</li> <li>• IESBA and IAASB released a <a href="#">joint message</a> acknowledging the Monitoring Group’s July 2020 Paper: <a href="#">Strengthening the International Audit and Ethics Standard-Setting System</a> aimed at enhancing governance arrangements of the two standard-setting boards.</li> <li>• IESBA Chairman, Dr. Stavros Thomadakis provided welcome remarks at a virtual IFAC Education Panel event featuring IESBA Technology Task Force Chair, Mr. Brian Friedrich in July 2020.</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The IESBA Chairman authored article was featured in July 2020 special issue of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India’s (ICAI) Journal, <i>The Chartered Accountant</i>.</li> <li>• IESBA Deputy Director, Ms. Diane Jules was featured the American Institute of the Certified Public Accountants’ Podcast, <i>Ethically Speaking</i> in July 2020.</li> <li>• IESBA members, Ms. Liesbet Haustermans and Mr. Jens Poll were quoted in Accountancy Europe’s June 2020 publication, <a href="#">How do Multidisciplinary Firms Contribute to Audit Quality</a>.</li> <li>• IESBA Sr Technical Director, Ken Siong was interviewed by A Plus, the magazine of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants in June 2020.</li> <li>• Ethics Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Video Program (<a href="#">Part 1</a> and <a href="#">Part 2</a>) featuring IESBA Chairman, Dr. Stavros Thomadakis hosted by the Financial Management Network (FMN), SmartPros and Kaplan was released in May 2020.</li> </ul> <p>See Appendix for IESBA representation activities in Q2 2020.</p>
<b>Explanations of Changes to Project Plan</b>	
Project Plan	The IESBA’s <a href="#">current project timetable</a> reflects adjustments for certain initiatives due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the planned timeline for finalizing priority projects (e.g., NAS and Fees) have remained unchanged.
<b>Environmental Issues</b>	
<b>Monitoring Group Paper</b>	

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The IAASB and the IESBA welcomed in a joint announcement the Monitoring Group's July 2020 Paper: [Strengthening the International Audit and Ethics Standard-Setting System](#), aimed at enhancing governance arrangements of the two standard-setting boards.

In their announcement the two Boards highlighted that the enhancements reflected in the Paper will support the core mission of the IAASB and the IESBA to promulgate high quality international audit, assurance, related services and ethics standards for the accountancy profession, for worldwide application and developed in the public interest.

### **COVID-19 Pandemic**

#### *IESBA COVID-19 Webpage & Staff Q&As*

The IESBA's [dedicated COVID-19 resource page](#) includes links to useful COVID-19 resources, including the IESBA May 2020 Staff Q&As publication, [COVID-19: Ethics and Independence Considerations](#). The publication emphasizes the need for all professional accountants to comply with the Code during the pandemic and highlights aspects of the Code that can be relevant in navigating ethics and independence challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### *National Ethics Standard Setters COVID-19 Working Group*

In response to COVID-19, the IESBA and national ethics standard setters (NSS) from Australia, Canada, China, South Africa, the UK and the US formed a Working Group to develop implementation support resources to assist professional accountants effectively apply the Code when facing circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Group is chaired by the IESBA Deputy Chair, Mr. Richard Fleck, with support from the staff of the IESBA and the NSS. Working Group organizations comprise: Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board (Australia); Chartered Professional Accountants Canada; the Chinese Institute of Certified Public Accountants; the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (South Africa); the UK Financial Reporting Council; and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (US).

In July 2020, the Staff of the APESB and the IESBA released the first publication, [Applying the Code's Conceptual Framework in COVID-19 Circumstances: Scenarios in Taxation and Valuation Services](#). Future publications are being developed and will cover the following topics:

- The IESBA Code and considerations relating to fraud.
- Using specialists in the COVID environment.
- Ethical considerations in applications for COVID-related government support programs.

### **Stakeholder Outreach**

#### *Meeting with IESBA NSS Representatives and IESBA-IAASB NSS Joint Session*

IESBA NSS Representatives met virtually in May 2020 and provided input on the IESBA's Tax Planning and Related Services Initiative. In addition, the Representatives of the IESBA and IAASB NSS met jointly and:

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- Provided input on the Definition of a Listed Entity and Public Interest Entity (PIE) project.
- Shared their reflections and asked for input about the possible ways to enhance the coordination and discussion between the IAASB, the IESBA and their respective NSS.

The next virtual meeting with the IESBA NSS representative is planned for Q4 2020.

*IFAC Small and Medium Practices Committee (IFAC SMPC)*

Engagement Team-Group Audits Independence Task Force Chair, Ms. Sylvie Soulier and Tax Planning Chair, Mr. Jens Poll briefed the IFAC SMPC on the progress of their respective projects in July 2020.

*Targeted and Project-specific Outreach*

Tax Planning and Related Services. As part of its fact-finding activities, the members of the Tax Planning Working Group and staff met with several subject matter experts from firms' and professional bodies, including the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Q2. In addition, the Task force Chair, Mr. Poll presented to the Wirtschaftsprüferkammer Board.

Definition of Listed Entity and PIE. In Q2, the Task Force Chair, Mr. Mike Ashley obtained input on the Task Force current thinking and related proposals from representatives of the APESB, the New Zealand External Reporting Board (XRB) and the Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants (ZICA).

**Coordination with IAASB**

*Quality Management (QM) Projects*

The IESBA received an update on coordination activities with the IAASB during Q2 and provided input on certain aspects of the IAASB's proposals, in particular with respect to the IAASB's QM projects. The IESBA noted the IAASB's plans to defer the approval of the QM standards from June to September 2020 (see Key Project Update section below for more information).

*Definition of Listed Entity/ PIE Project*

In July 2020, Task Force Chair, Mr. Ashley and Deputy Chair Mr. Richard Fleck co-presented to the IAASB during a virtual board meeting and obtained the IAASB members' input on the Task Force's proposed list of categories of entities to be considered PIEs, and the proposed approach to revising the definition of a listed entity. Highlights of that meeting are set out below.

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<p><b>Key Project Updates<sup>3</sup></b> (June and July 2020 IESBA Virtual Meetings)</p>
<p><b>Role and Mindset Expected of Professional Accountants</b></p> <p>The IESBA unanimously approved revisions to the Code arising from the project addressing the role and mindset expected of professional accountants. Key revisions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A renewed emphasis on accountants’ responsibility to act in the public interest.</li> <li>• Enhancements to the descriptions of the fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, and professional behavior.</li> <li>• A new requirement for accountants to have an inquiring mind when applying the Code’s conceptual framework.</li> <li>• New application material to highlight the impact of bias in exercising professional judgment and applying the conceptual framework.</li> </ul> <p>Subject to PIOB approval, the final pronouncement is expected to be issued by October 2020 and will be effective December 31, 2021, with early adoption permitted.</p> <p><b>Tax Planning</b></p> <p>The IESBA received an update on the Working Group’s information gathering activities and the Working Group’s preliminary observations from its analysis and stakeholder outreach to date. Among other matters, the IESBA was briefed on the inter-related impact of tax planning on compliance with each of the fundamental principles; the relevance of the concepts of “fairness” and “transparency;” the “complexity” risk associated with multi-faceted tax planning strategies; the increasing importance and value of professional judgment in addressing jurisdictional-level ethical dimensions in tax planning; and the increased focus on Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) reporting.</p> <p>The IESBA was also briefed on the Working Group’s Q1 and Q2 2020 discussions with a broad range of stakeholders, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); members of the European Parliament; some professional accountancy organizations (PAOs); global tax leaders in the Big 4 accounting firms; the IESBA Consultative Advisory Group (CAG); and NSS.</p> <p>The IESBA will receive an update on the Working Group’s activities at its December 2020 meeting and will consider preliminary Working Group recommendations in March 2021.</p> <p><b>IAASB-IESBA Coordination</b></p> <p>The IESBA received an update on coordination activities with IAASB during Q2 2020 and provided input on certain aspects of the IAASB’s proposals, in particular with respect to the IAASB’s Quality</p>

<sup>3</sup> Additional information about the IESBA’s current projects and initiatives is available at: [www.ethicsboard.org/consultations-projects](http://www.ethicsboard.org/consultations-projects).

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Management (QM) projects. Among other matters, the IESBA noted the IAASB’s plans to defer the approval of the QM standards from June to September 2020.

The IESBA also discussed the following two projects relating to coordination with the IAASB:

- In relation to the Objectivity of the Engagement Quality Reviewer (EQR) project, the IESBA considered the significant comments raised by respondents to the January 2020 Exposure Draft (ED), [Proposed Revision to the Code Addressing the Objectivity of Engagement Quality Reviewers](#) and related Task Force responses, including a “first-read” draft of revised proposals. Among other matters, the IESBA considered the need for a “cooling off” requirement with respect to an engagement partner being appointed to an EQR role on the same engagement, and whether that requirement should be located in the IAASB’s standard (proposed ISQM 2, *Engagement Quality Reviews*) or the Code; and the Task Force’s proposal to broaden the scope of the guidance to the concept of an “appropriate reviewer,” which is described in the Code.

The IESBA will consider a revised draft of the proposed revisions to the Code with a view to finalizing them at the September 2020 IESBA meeting.

- In relation to the Engagement Team-Group Audits Independence project, the IESBA received an update on the Task Force’s preliminary discussions to date as well as a briefing on the Code’s approach to independence in a group audit context. Among other matters, the IESBA discussed:
  - A possible approach to aligning the definition of “engagement team” in the extant Code with the proposed revised definition of the same term under ISA 220 (Revised), *Quality Management for an Audit of Financial Statements* while ensuring the independence requirements in the Code are clear and appropriate when applied to the revised definition.
  - Initial matters relating to clarifying to the application of the Code’s independence provisions in a group audit context, including with respect to non-network component auditors.

The IESBA will continue discussion of the issues at its September 2020 meeting.

**Definitions of Listed Entity and PIE**

The IESBA considered issues and revised Task Force proposals reflecting input from the IESBA’s March 2020 discussion as well as feedback from the CAG and NSS. Among other matters, the IESBA considered: a revised overarching objective clarifying that there is public interest in the financial condition of certain entities that is relevant to those entities being classified as PIEs; possible terms that might replace the term “listed entity;” a draft list of PIE categories as well as other possible categories

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considered by the Task Force; and the role of firms, including a proposal for a firm to include in its audit report whether the audit client has been treated as a PIE.

The IESBA will continue its deliberations on the issues and consider revised Task Force proposals in September 2020.

### **Technology**

The IESBA considered issues related to the seven recommendations outlined in the approved project proposal. The IESBA provided directional input on possible options to address threats that are created by the complexity of the professional environment in which professional accountants work, including whether to: revisit the description of the categories of threats set out in the Code's conceptual framework (i.e., amend the existing threat categories or add a new type of threat); and/or highlight complexity as a factor that impacts on the accountant's application of the conceptual framework, including the exercise of professional judgment.

The IESBA also discussed how to address threats to independence created by new types of engagements arising from the sale or licensing of new technology tools and the location for this new material in the Code. Among other suggestions, the IESBA considered developing new material for inclusion in subsections to the extent that new engagement types are not covered within the extant Code's non-assurance services subsections; and expanding the material in extant Section 520, *Business Relationships* to incorporate the potential business relationships that might result from the sale or licensing of a tool developed by the firm to a client.

The IESBA will consider the Task Force's updated approach and continue its deliberations in relation to the Technology project in September 2020.

### **eCode Phase 2**

The IESBA received an update on the status of Phase 2 of the eCode initiative, including a demonstration of the new features that are visible to users, as well as the features that are implemented behind the scenes. The IESBA was informed that as part of Phase 2, users will be able to toggle between extant authoritative text of the Code and a future version incorporating recently approved IESBA pronouncements coming into effect at a future date. In addition, the technological infrastructure and related IFAC intellectual property agreements have been put in place to facilitate the transfer of the eCode platform to interested PAOs and NSS who wish to leverage it in developing their own local eCodes.

The IESBA received an update on the next steps for the eCode, including a presentation about IFAC's plans to undertake a broader digital publication initiative in collaboration with the global standard setting boards (SSBs) supported by IFAC. The objective of the IFAC staff-led initiative is to explore a solution to deliver the SSBs' standards to stakeholders on a common digital platform that would achieve consistency in terms of appearance and ease of use and maintenance without losing the functionalities and benefits achieved in the eCode.

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### **Fees**

The IESBA considered a high-level summary of the significant comments raised by the [respondents](#) to the January 2020 Exposure Draft, [Proposed Revisions to the Fee-related Provisions of the Code](#) (Fees ED) and the Task Force's preliminary views about how to address them. Among other matters, the IESBA exchanged preliminary views on respondents' feedback on:

- The fee-related proposals relating to highlighting the self-interest threat to independence created when fees are negotiated with and paid by an audit client.
- The threshold for fee dependency in the case of an audit client that is not a PIE.
- Public transparency about fee-related information.

The IESBA will undertake a full review of the respondents' comments and a revised draft of the proposed changes to the Code at its September 2020 meeting.

### **Non-assurance Services**

The IESBA considered a high-level summary of the significant comments raised by the [respondents](#) to the January 2020 Exposure Draft, [Proposed Revisions to the Non-assurance Provisions of the Code](#) (NAS ED) and the Task Force's preliminary views about the way forward. Among other matters, the IESBA considered respondents' feedback on:

- The proposal relating to prohibiting firms and network firms from providing a non-assurance service (NAS) that will create a self-review threat in the case of an audit client that is a PIE,
- The proposed withdrawal of materiality as a factor when determining whether a NAS will create a self-review threat in relation to PIE audits,
- The application of the self-review threat prohibition in relation to certain scenarios involving related entities, and
- The adequacy of certain safeguards relating to NAS.

The IESBA also considered respondents' feedback regarding the timeline for completion of the project given the concurrent project to revise the definition of a PIE in the Code. The IESBA supported the Task Force's proposal to finalize the project by December 2020 in accordance to the timeline set out in the NAS ED.

The IESBA will undertake a full review of the respondents' comments and a revised draft of the proposed changes to the Code at its September 2020 meeting.

### **Benchmarking Initiative**

The IESBA received a presentation that set out the approach to and timeline for a benchmarking initiative to compare the [International Independence Standards](#) (IIS) that are applicable to PIEs to the relevant independence requirements that apply in major jurisdictions, starting first with the

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<p>requirements of the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB).</p> <p>The initiative will serve to provide insights to stakeholders about the similarities and key differences between the IIS and independence requirements in major jurisdictions.</p> <p>The IESBA will receive an update on the Working Group's activities at its March 2021 meeting.</p>
<b>Other Matters</b>
<p><b>Staff Matters</b></p> <p>Ms. Kam Leung has joined the IESBA staff team as a Principal on August 3, 2020.</p>

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## Appendix

### IESBA Outreach Activities for the Second Quarter of 2020

IESBA representatives participated in, or presented, at the following events:

#### January

- Australia Video Interview on NAS and Fees Exposure Drafts hosted by the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board (APESB) – Melbourne, Australia (Soulier)
- Tax Planning and Related Services outreach – Paris, France (Poll, Vijian)
  - Meeting with Pascal Saint-Amans, Director, and staff, Center for Tax Policy and Administration, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
  - Meeting with Prof. Dr. Stef van Weeghel, Global Tax Policy Leader, PwC
- New Zealand Outreach on NAS and Fees Exposure Drafts hosted by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (NZAuASB) – Wellington (in person); Auckland (via Webinar), New Zealand (Soulier)
- Saudi Organization for Certified Public Accountants (SOCPA) International Forum for Accountants – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Thomadakis, Clark)
- Technology WG Outreach, London, United Kingdom (Barbour, Kwan)
  - Meeting with Kirstin Gillon, Technical Manager IT Faculty and Tony Bromell, Head of Integrity and markets, of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)
  - Meeting with senior staff, Professional Insights of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
  - Innovation Lead, Ernst & Young

#### February

- Tax Planning and Related Services outreach
  - Teleconference meeting with Dr. Veerinderjeet Singh, President, Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA), and member of the Board of Trustees of the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (Poll, Vijian)
  - Meeting with Chris Morgan, Head of Global Tax Policy, KPMG – London, UK (Poll, Vijian)
  - Meeting with UK professional accountancy bodies – London, UK (Poll, Vijian)
  - Meeting with representative of Mr. Garicano, Member of European Parliament – Brussels, Belgium (Poll, Vijian)
  - Accountancy Europe Tax Planning Day – Brussels, Belgium (Chaudhary, Mintzer, Poll and Vijian)

	<b>64<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PIOB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE 28-30 SEPTEMBER 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING</b>	<b>Agenda Item 1.4</b>
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- Meeting with Accountancy Europe Tax Faculty Group – Brussels, Belgium (Chaudhary, Mintzer, Poll and Vijian)
- Teleconference with Chair of the Global Accounting Alliance Tax Group (Poll, Mintzer and Vijian)
- Teleconference with the Chair of the Public Trust Committee of CPA Canada Canada (Poll and Vijian)
- Outreach to audit firms registered with the Dubai Financial Services Authority (Clark)
- Meeting with MIA CEO and ASEAN Federation of Accountants Executive Director (Kwan)
- Teleconference with the IFAC Technology Advisory Group (Friedrich, Siong)

### **March**

- IESBA CAG meeting – New York, USA (Thomadakis, Fleck, Ashley, Poll, Friedrich, Soulier, Gunn, Siong, Jules, Kwan, Sramko, Vijian)
- Webinar on Proposed Revisions to the Non-Assurance Services Provisions of the Code (Fleck, Sramko)
- Webinar on Proposed Revisions to the Fee-Related Provisions of the Code (McPhee, Sramko)
- Tax Planning and Related Services outreach teleconference with Global Tax Policy Leaders, Deloitte (Chaudhary, Juenemann, Mintzer, Poll and Vijian)
- Forum of Firms virtual meeting (Fleck, Soulier, Siong)
- Virtual Meeting with the South African Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA) to discuss the PIE Project (Ashley, Kwan)

### **April**

- Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board (APESB) virtual roundtables on the IESBA's Non-assurance Services and Fees Exposure Drafts (McPhee)
- Technology initiative webinar (Friedrich)
- Tax Planning and Related Services outreach teleconference with the Chair of the Public Trust Committee of CPA Canada Canada (Chaudhary, Mintzer, Poll and Vijian)
- PIE project virtual outreach (Ashley, MCPhee, Kwan)
  - APESB
  - New Zealand External Reporting Board (XRB)
  - Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants (ZICA)

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## May

- IESBA-NSS and joint IAASB-IESBA-NSS virtual meetings (Thomadakis, Fleck, Ashley, Poll, Gunn, Siong, Jules, Kwan, Sramko, Vijian)
- Tax Planning and Related Services outreach teleconference with the Head of International Tax, Iberdrola (Chaudhary, Juenemann, Mintzer, Poll and Vijian)
- Presentation to Die Wirtschaftsprüferkammer (WPK) Board on the IESBA's Tax Planning and Related Services initiative (Poll)
- Virtual meeting with the IFIAR Standards Coordination Working Group to discuss the PIE Project (Ashley, Siong, Kwan)
- Interview with *A Plus*, the magazine of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Siong)
- Interview in an Ethics Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Video Program hosted by the Financial Management Network (FMN), SmartPros and Kaplan (Thomadakis)

## June

- Tax Planning and Related Services outreach teleconference with the Global Head of Tax, BBVA (Juenemann, Poll and Vijian)
- Virtual joint IAASB-IESBA Chairs' presentation to the IFAC Board (Thomadakis)
- Tax Planning and Related Services outreach teleconference with Tax Faculty members of Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Chaudhary, Juenemann, Mintzer, Poll and Vijian)
- Article for the July 2020 special issue of ICAI Journal, *The Chartered Accountant* (Thomadakis)
- Interview with *Ethically Speaking*, Podcast of the American Institute of the Certified Public Accountants Professional Ethics Division (Jules)

## July

- Virtual meeting with the IFAC SMP Committee (Poll, Soulier, Siong, Vijian)
- IFAC Webinar on Ethics and Accountancy Education, *Panel Conversation with Experts* (Thomadakis, Friedrich)

## August

- Virtual Train the Trainer Program hosted by the Chinese Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (Lee)

## September

- IESBA CAG meeting

## October/ November

- IESBA-NSS meeting