



**INSTITUTE OF  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
OF UGANDA**

**29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SEMINAR**

**DATES: 4-6 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**PRONOUNCEMENT ON ADOPTION OF IFRS SUSTAINABILITY DISCLOSURE  
STANDARDS IN UGANDA**

**1.0 Introduction**

All protocol observed, ladies and gentlemen, as you have heard, the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) established by the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation issued a comprehensive global baseline of disclosure standards to facilitate consistent and comparable disclosures on risks and opportunities related to sustainability and climate, referred to as IFRS S1 and IFRS S2, respectively. The IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards address longstanding reporting challenges, equipping companies and investors to better understand performance and comply with the ever-evolving regulations.

The ICPAU Council at its 248<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 7 August 2024 approved:

- (a) The adoption of the IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards issued by the International Sustainability Standards Board for use in Uganda initially; and consequently, new or amended Sustainability Disclosure Standards and interpretations shall become applicable as and when they are issued by the ISSB, other than in circumstances where jurisdictional modifications may be considered relevant. In such circumstances, new

or amended Sustainability Disclosure Standards and interpretations shall become applicable as shall be guided by the Council.

- (b) The finalisation and Implementation Guidance (Roadmap) on adopting the Sustainability Disclosure Standards upon the conclusion of the ongoing public consultation.

## **2.0 Policy Rationale for Adoption**

In the Council's view, the policy rationale for the adoption of the IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards is to:

- improve the availability of reliable, comparable, cost-effective, and decision-useful material information on sustainability - related risks and opportunities of organisations;
- promote full disclosure of sustainability related information material to investors' decisions to ensure investor protection;
- enable the use of other complementary reporting frameworks, such as, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), to meet the information needs of different stakeholders to the extent permitted by the sustainability disclosure standards;
- improve domestic entities' access to foreign capital markets and encourage foreign direct investment including access to green financing; and
- support availability and flow of sustainability information across the supply chain.

## **3.0 Collaboration**

The implementation of the Sustainability disclosure standards calls for a strong focus on collaborative efforts for regulators, business associations,

professional trainers and policymakers as well as other stakeholders to deliver effective pathways that guarantee meaningful application of the standards. I therefore call upon all entities represented here especially those that have been identified by the Council to be among the most crucial entities to drive the sustainability disclosure standards implementation agenda.

The ICPAU Council in a Special way, wishes to thank the following entities for having committed representation here to witness today's pronouncement;

- The IFRS foundation and International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) in particular;
- Office of the Accountant General;
- Office of the Auditor General;
- Bank of Uganda;
- Insurance Regulatory Authority;
- Institute of Internal Auditors Uganda;
- Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority;
- Uganda Microfinance Regulatory Authority;
- Capital Markets Authority;
- NGO Bureau;
- Uganda Manufacturers Association;
- Uganda Securities Exchange;
- Uganda Institute of Banking and Financial Services Institute;
- Insurance Training College of Uganda;

We also extend our gratitude to all individuals and organisations that have so far shared feedback on the roadmap to align with IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards.

#### **4.0 Next Steps**

ICPAU will continue to work with other industry players, regulators, development partners and other stakeholders to ensure full preparedness towards compliance with the new standards.

The Uganda Integrated Reporting Committee working with the Professional Standards Committee of ICPAU Council will provide support to enhance the capacity of preparers and users of financial reports in interpreting and relaying sustainability and climate related disclosures.

The public consultation is still on with a comment deadline of **15 September 2024**. Feedback from this consultation will be validated at a stakeholders' meeting that will be held some time before the end of this year. I encourage all of us who can to share their views and participate in developing a workable roadmap for Uganda. To comment simply visit the Institute's website to access the consultation paper.

Thank you

**Josephine Okui Ossiya**  
**President**  
**ICPAU Council**