



International Accreditation Forum, Inc.

10 January 2024

Gabriela Figueiredo Dias
Chair
IESBA
International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants
529 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10017 USA

Subject: Letter of Intent - Collaboration between International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA)

Dear Ms. Figueiredo Dias,

I am writing to express the intent of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) to collaborate on achieving common objectives for corporate sustainability disclosures with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA). This letter serves as a Letter of Intent (LOI) to solidify our commitment to cooperation and joint efforts.

We recognize the significance of our respective organizations and the shared goal of promoting professional ethical conduct, competence and capacity in the delivery of sustainability disclosure by professional accountancy firms and conformity assessment bodies.

- The IESBA, as an independent global standard-setting board, is dedicated to setting high-quality ethics standards and auditor independence requirements that enhance the quality and consistency of services provided by professional accountants.
- The IAF, as the international organization for accreditation bodies, aims to facilitate trade, support regulators, and ensure the acceptance of certificates of conformity and validation/verification statements issued by accredited bodies.

Considering our common interests, we hereby confirm the following key objectives of collaboration:

1. **Framework of Requirements:** We both acknowledge the importance of defining a framework of requirements in terms of impartiality and independence applicable to all actors involved in sustainability disclosure, including statutory auditors, audit firms, accredited bodies, and other professionals. Our objective is to facilitate the development and use of professionally agnostic standards that instil confidence in regulatory bodies for corporate sustainability disclosure.
2. **Mutual Consultation:** The IAF invites the IESBA to participate in the work of the IAF Working Group on Sustainability, facilitating collaboration and knowledge sharing. Similarly, the IESBA invites the IAF to participate in the Consultative Advisory Group (CAG), fostering a mutual exchange of insights and expertise.



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3. Application of the IESBA Code Part 5: The IAF will work with IESBA to determine the method of application of the IESBA ethical requirements part 5, in accredited verification activities of programs compliant with ISO/IEC 17029, which assess the conformity of sustainability information.

4. License to accredit against IESBA Code Part 5: The IAF is authorised to use and refer to the IESBA Code in its communication channels, accreditation documents, and other relevant materials, under license from the IESBA. However, it is understood that the intellectual property rights (copyrights) of the IESBA Code shall remain with the IESBA.

5. Training Activities: The IESBA authorises and will support the IAF members to conduct training activities on all topics related to the IESBA Code Part 5 for accreditation bodies and accredited verification bodies organizations. This collaboration aims to enhance knowledge and understanding of ethical standards among relevant stakeholders.

It is important to note that this LOI does not create a legal relationship between our organizations but signifies our commitment to cooperation with IESBA.

We also acknowledge the importance of protecting each other's intellectual property rights and agree to determine ownership and use of any intellectual property resulting from our collaborative activities through separate written agreements.

We anticipate that our collaboration and the activities conducted under it will be publicly disclosed in accordance with our respective disclosure policies. We will consult with each other regarding the manner and form of acknowledging each other's support in these activities. The use of names, emblems, logos, or abbreviations thereof will require prior written approval from the respective party.

We look forward to a fruitful collaboration that contributes to the advancement of ethical standards and sustainability practices in the field of corporate sustainability disclosure. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your attention, and we eagerly anticipate your response to establish a successful collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emanuele Riva". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E" and "R".

Emanuele Riva
IAF Chair