



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING (ISAR)



ISAR is the United Nations focal point on **financial and sustainability reporting** matters. It assists Member States in the implementation of best practices to promote harmonization and improvement of enterprise reporting to facilitate financial stability, international and domestic investment, social and economic progress.

Open to all UN Member States, ISAR has **34 formal members** including 9 African, 7 Asian, 6 Latin American, 3 Eastern European, and 9 Western European and other States.



The **40th Session of ISAR** welcomed with appreciation the publication of *Tackling the Sustainability Reporting Challenge: A Policy Guide*. ISAR highlighted the importance of reliable accounting and reporting on the financial and sustainability performance of private and public sector entities is a prerequisite for informed investment decisions. The Group of Experts expressed its appreciation for the insights provided during the session by speakers from a diverse range of sustainable finance and investment stakeholder organizations due to the collocation with the World Investment Forum. The meeting was attended by **412 experts from 101 countries**.



**ISAR Honours** was launched in 2018 to raise awareness and disseminate global best practices on sustainability and SDG reporting. It recognizes policy, institutional, and capacity building initiatives at the national and international level that enhance the quality and comparability of entity reporting.

Since its launch, **almost 300 initiatives** have been nominated by **over 50 countries**.



The ADT is a tool to measure the level of development of a country's financial and sustainability reporting environment. The ADT provides a **quantitative benchmark** of a country's position and points at priorities for improvement. It also helps to build **country action plans** to improve the regulatory, institutional, and human capacity foundations of enterprise reporting, to foster a favourable investment climate and sustainable development

Since its inception, UNCTAD has conducted **25 ADT assessments in 20 countries**.



## STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

UNCTAD-ISAR possesses a **comprehensive technical assistance programme** which relies on the use of the capacity building tools and cooperation mechanisms. This includes the **Accounting Development Tool (ADT)**, the

**Guidance on Core Indicators** for sustainability and SDG impact reporting (GCI) and its case studies, the **Core SDG indicators Training Manual**, the e-learning course on Implementation of core SDG indicators for sustainability reporting by companies, and the **Regional Partnerships** for the promotion of sustainability and SDG reporting in Africa (58 members from 29 countries), and in Latin America (29 members from 14 countries).



## FOSTERING MSMEs RESILIENCE AND GROWTH

UNCTAD has a set of tools and **capacity building activities** available to increase financial literacy, promote access to finance and help MSMEs to stay in the formal market and grow. The tools also include the Accounting Training Manual for MSMEs aimed at improving financial literacy, facilitating MSMEs' access to finance and financial inclusion; the Train of Trainers (TOT) Workshop on

Accounting for MSMEs to assist participants to learn how to make the best use of the Accounting Training Manual for MSMEs; and the e-Accounting tool for MSMEs that provides MSME owners with a free and simple tool to generate meaningful financial statements.

## ISAR Tools and Publications

The exhaustive list of publications is available on the ISAR website

Guidance on Core Indicators for Sustainability and SDG Impact Reporting

ISAR's Annual Reviews of international accounting and reporting issues since 2001

Training manual on accounting for MSMEs

E-learning courses on Implementation of Core SDG Indicators for Sustainability Reporting

Case studies on the practical implementation of the GCI

Tackling the sustainability reporting challenge - A Policy Guide (in progress)

