ECOSOC | Economic and Social Council

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

UN trade & development

ISAR International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

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 **41st Session of ISAR** considered:
- Review of progress in harmonization and practical implementation of sustainability reporting, assurance and ethical considerations;
- Integrating reporting on the financial and sustainability performance of entities: Leveraging digitalization.

At its main agenda items. Additionally, ISAR41 reviewed technical assistance and capacity-building efforts aimed at strengthening the financial and sustainability reporting infrastructure of beneficiary countries.

The meeting was attended by **294 experts from 66 countries.**

iSAR Honours

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, **over 300 initiatives** have been nominated by **over 50 countries.**

UNCTAD – iSAR THE ACCOUNTING DEVELOPMENT TOOL Building Accounting for Development

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.UNCTAD is currently in the process of further developing the tool in light of new developments including sustainability reporting standards

Since its inception, UNCTAD has conducted **29 ADT assessments in 21 countries.**

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION **17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**

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 (66 members from 31 countries), in Latin America (31 members from 15 countries), in Asia (16 members from 6 countries), in the Gulf region (11 members from 5 countries), and in Eurasia (13 members from 7 countries).

4 QUALITY EDUCATION **8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

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