



ECOSOC



Building
Our Future
Together

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 **42nd Session of ISAR** considered:

- Review of developments in the harmonization of sustainability reporting requirements and their practical implementation;
- Integrating biodiversity and human capital considerations into sustainability reporting.

as its main agenda items. Additionally, ISAR42 reviewed implementation of the ADT, technical cooperation projects, and capacity-building considerations for effective implementation of sustainability reporting requirements and standards developed at a global level.

The meeting was attended by **314 experts from 78 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, **over 400 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. 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 **30 ADT assessments in 21 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 **sustainability reporting policy guide**, 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. UNCTAD-ISAR has initiated the creation of **Regional Partnerships** for the promotion of sustainability and SDG reporting in Africa (63 members from 31 countries), in Latin America (35 members from 15 countries), in Asia (16 members from 6 countries), in the Gulf region (11 members from 5 countries), and in Eurasia (12 members from 6 countries). UNCTAD, with UN Environment, are co-custodians for the SDG indicator 12.6.1 "Number of companies publishing sustainability reports", and have developed metadata guidance for this indicator.



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



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