

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

IASB® Chairman to prioritise communication effectiveness of financial statements during second term

Hans Hoogervorst, Chairman of the International Accounting Standards Board (the Board), today outlined plans to prioritise improvements to the communications effectiveness of financial statements as the main outcome of the Board’s recent Agenda Consultation.

Speaking at the IFRS® Foundation’s annual European Conference—held in Zurich, Switzerland—Mr Hoogervorst stated that the completion of several big IFRS Standards now allows the Board to focus its efforts on increasing the communication effectiveness of financial statements. He intends to prioritise the theme of ‘Better Communication’ during his second term as Chair, which commences tomorrow, 1 July 2016.

Mr Hoogervorst said:

“Valuable information gets drowned out by ‘tick the box’ disclosures and voluminous, but poorly organised and presented, financial statements. For the investor, it is often difficult to see the woods through the multitude of information trees.

We will take a fresh look at how financial information is presented, how it is grouped together, and in what form it is made available.”

‘Better Communication’ will bring together a number of work streams, including:

- **Primary Financial Statements**—improving the organisation and structure of the ‘face of financial statements’ (statements of financial position, financial performance and cash flows);
- **Disclosure Initiative**—improving the quality and usefulness of financial disclosures through amendments;
- **Financial Instruments with the Characteristics of Equity (FICE)**—clarifying the definition, presentation and disclosure requirements for such instruments;
- **Digital reporting**—further developing the IFRS Taxonomy to ensure it meets electronic reporting needs and remains fit for purpose; and
- **Non-financial reporting**—assessing strategic challenges and exploring any potential future role that the Board may play in this area.

'Better Communication' as a theme for the Board's work responds to much of the feedback received through the *2015 Agenda Consultation*, and should deliver material improvements to users' ability to make economic decisions from financial information.

Mr Hoogervorst also announced that the Board will be playing a more active role in supporting jurisdictions in the implementation of new and existing IFRS Standards.

The full speech can be found [here](#).

END

Notes to editors:

- Further information about the Agenda Consultation can be found [here](#).
- The Board is expected to take final decisions on its detailed work-plan for the next five-year period at the July Board meeting.

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About the IFRS Foundation

The IFRS Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, overseen by a Monitoring Board of public authorities. Its vision of a single set of global accounting standards is supported by G20 leaders and other international organisations with responsibility for the global financial system.

The mission of the IFRS Foundation is to develop IFRS Standards that bring transparency, accountability and efficiency to financial markets around the world, fostering trust, growth and long-term financial stability. The International Accounting Standards Board is the standard-setting body of the IFRS Foundation, made up of independent experts from diverse professional and geographical backgrounds. IFRS Standards are adopted by more than 100 countries globally.

For detailed information on the organisation's structure, the standard-setting process and the spread of IFRS Standards, visit www.ifrs.org.

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