

BUILDING A JUST WORLD & A SUSTAINABLE PLANET

The Brazilian Presidency of the G20 has brought an important focus on the interconnection between sustainability from a climate and environmental perspective, and broader social and governance issues.

A just world and a sustainable planet are intrinsically linked.

As the 2030 deadline for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) rapidly approaches, it is more important than ever that policymakers stay focused on delivering these targets. Striking the right balance between environmental, societal and other considerations is essential. Fortunately, investors and policymakers have a powerful new tool at their disposal with the rapid evolution of sustainability information through high-quality reporting and assurance.

The skills, competencies, and public interest mandate of the global accountancy profession—and individual professional accountants acting with independence and in accordance with a Code of Ethics—are key drivers in transforming to a just world and a sustainable planet. This is why policymakers, business and society must view the accountancy profession as central partners in this journey.



KEY ACTION FOR THE BRAZILIAN PRESIDENCY

Recognize that we are at the outset of a significant journey to high-quality sustainability information and embrace a supportive approach to fostering trust in this space. G20 leaders must advocate for a comprehensive ecosystem built upon the IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards, the IAASB's International Standard on Sustainability Assurance 5000, and the IESBA's international ethics and independence standards for sustainability reporting and assurance. This should be reinforced by strong corporate governance requirements aligned with the OECD/G20 Corporate Governance Principles and fit-for-purpose regulation as supported by IOSCO.

In addition to supporting high-quality sustainability information from the private sector, the G20 must also support the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board's initiative to develop high-quality, global sustainability reporting standards for the public sector.

More broadly, governments and public sector bodies must maximize their impact with available resources—and do so with transparency and accountability. The G20 must support high-quality public financial management, the professionalization of public sector finance and accounting functions, and the adoption of accrual accounting at all levels of government.

Supporting integrity across the public and private sectors, the G20 must continue to implement key multilateral instruments including the G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan and Whistleblower Protection Principles, the UN Convention Against Corruption, the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, and the FATF Recommendations.

Small and medium-sized entities (SMEs) are necessary partners and beneficiaries in building a just world and sustainable planet but have limited resources and capacity. The G20 should carefully consider issues specific to SMEs, including proportionality and ensuring that SMEs have the necessary support and tools to play a robust role in sustainable development.
