

Sustainability DIY

IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards

Journey 5



The background features a dark teal gradient. At the top, there are two stylized clouds: a larger blue one on the left and a smaller teal one on the right. On the right side, there are several large, layered green leaves of varying shades. At the bottom, there are purple and teal wavy shapes representing hills or water, with a small pink and purple plant-like graphic on the left.

DIY your report in accordance to the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Sustainability Disclosure Standards

Journey 5

The assurance process for your sustainability report

Disclaimer: This resource has been developed by Sustain Labs Paris & Microsoft to support using IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards for sustainability reporting. It is not an initiative of ISSB or IFRS Foundation, or endorsed by these parties.



Assurance is not explicitly required by the IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards

1. IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards do not explicitly require assurance; however, it mentions that assurance requirements are determined by various jurisdictions.¹
2. Additionally, it also mentions that “verifiability” is included as a qualitative characteristic for useful sustainability-related and climate-related financial information in the IFRS sustainability disclosures.²

1 - IFRS. (n.d.). *IFRS - ISSB: Frequently Asked Questions*.

<https://www.ifrs.org/groups/international-sustainability-standards-board/issb-frequently-asked-questions/>

2 - IFRS. (2023, June 26). *IFRS S1 General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information*. (pg. 41)



Despite ongoing developments, your organization should keep itself aware of the changes in local jurisdictional norms around assurance requirements of the sustainability report.

If your organization decides to add assurance to your sustainability report then please proceed to the next page.



Steps to get an assurance letter for your sustainability report³

1

An assurance provider is hired by the organization writing the sustainability report

2

The assurance provider is handed over the draft sustainability report

3

The assurance provider is given access to conduct site visits and speak to internal and external stakeholders in all business entities included in the sustainability report

4

The assurance provider investigates business sites, checks records, and interviews internal and external stakeholders

5

The assurance provider presents findings to the organization writing the sustainability report

6

The organization writing the sustainability report corrects errors, if any, in its sustainability report

7

The assurance provider provides an assurance statement to the organization writing the sustainability report

8

The organization writing the sustainability report adds the assurance statement at the end of its sustainability report

Preparation for the assurance process of your sustainability report⁴

Who

Hire a third party assurance provider with whom your organization has no past or current business relationships.

When

Hire the third party assurance provider at the time that you start the process of writing your sustainability report.

Where

Organize travel of the assurance provider to business sites only after you have handed over the draft sustainability report over to the assurance provider.

Preparation for the assurance process of your sustainability report⁵

Until when

Site visits and the subsequent analysis by the assurance provider require a minimum of 3 weeks and can extend depending on the size of the organization and the reporting boundaries. Factor this into your sustainability reporting timeline.

How

Open frank channels of communication with your assurance provider to receive feedback for improving your sustainability performance and potential lapses in your disclosures.

With the use of **Microsoft Sustainability Manager**, the process of reporting is simplified with its ability to integrate with any business system and automate data connections, thereby eliminating any ambiguity in data. The solution provides custom reports on waste, water and carbon, making it easier to access and understand key information. This results in more efficient, time-saving, and reader-friendly reporting.⁶ For more information on Microsoft Sustainability Manager, please click [here](#).

5 - IFRS. (n.d.). *IFRS - ISSB: Frequently Asked Questions*. <https://www.ifrs.org/groups/international-sustainability-standards-board/issb-frequently-asked-questions/>

6 - Microsoft. (2023). Get Started with Microsoft Sustainability Manager. <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/industry/sustainability/sustainability-manager-overview>