



International  
Federation  
of Accountants®

# Accountability. Now.

International Public Sector Accounting  
Standards Board

December 9, 2014

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

# The problem we are aiming to address

- Governments contribute significantly to GDP but **transparency and accountability for the resources they have stewardship of remains poor** – many stop at cash accounting
- Unlike IFRS, there is **little to compel sovereign governments** to improve their accounting – even financial ruin has not motivated some
- Long list of countries committed to adopting IPSAS; **short list of those reporting against them**
- Improving financial management is a complex/crowded space; **convincing only accountants that change is needed is not enough**

# Accountability. Now.

- **Citizens** should be demanding greater accountability of their governments—now
- Establishing a **global coalition** to ensure support from a broad stakeholder base
- Working closely with the **Global Public Sector Leaders** in the six largest accounting networks; drawing on their expertise
- A **campaign at the global and regional level**—a political problem requires a political solution
- Promoting **awareness** and facilitating **adoption and implementation** of accrual accounting/IPSAS

# The Coalition

- A broad and diverse range of stakeholders supporting the campaign
- A small group willing to provide strong leadership and support
- Global Public Sector Leaders of the six largest accounting networks
- GPSL also suggested groups representing investors, parliamentarians, tax payers, and voters
- In addition, a list of target organizations to be involved at various stages for various purposes

## Real action at the country level

- Raising awareness will not be enough—**governments need help to move from commitment to adoption to implementation**
- **Facilitate workshops to assist key decision-makers with the first steps in developing roadmaps for implementation**—recognizing each jurisdiction has specific issues and needs to address
- Close ties with **PAO capacity building** efforts
- **Market to compete to provide implementation support**—coopetition model of working

# Opportunities and challenges

- This effort goes to the **heart of IFAC's public interest agenda**
- It complements the **sound work of IPSASB**
- Significant **opportunity to strengthen the voice and relevance of the accountancy profession globally**
- It demands **creativity in how we convince key stakeholders**
- It is **an evolution**—there are no quick wins
- Requires us to learn (fast) how to **talk to non-accountants**

# Activities / Progress

- **Understanding the issues**—discussions with:
  - Professional Accounting Organizations Development Committee to explore linkages with PAO capacity building
  - World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank
  - Overseas Development Institute
  - Several member bodies

# Activities / Progress

- **Campaign brochure** now available
- **World Economic Forum engaged and convening meetings with stakeholders**—met in Geneva in August with IFAC CEO and CEOs/representatives of the six largest accounting networks
- **Promoting the campaign**—presentations at:
  - Commonwealth Association of Public Administration and Management (Malaysia)
  - Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (DC)
  - Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Caribbean Board (Suriname)
  - Several conferences in Africa and Asia

## Activities / Progress

- **IFAC Board** engaged, fully supportive, keen to promote
- **Literature review of public sector accounting** in target regions (Africa and the Caribbean)
- Development of **regional strategies**
- Wrote to **potential coalition partners**; follow up in progress
- Development of a **framework for the initial steps to roadmap development workshop**
- **Fundraising** initiated
- Development of a **communications plan**

# Plans for 2015

- Roll out of communications plan in Q1, including a webpage on the IFAC website and regular partner briefings
- For the future, a campaign website hosted by IFAC (funded by coalition partners?)
- Coalition meeting in Q1; refine plan and regional strategies
  - Global and regional awareness events—opportunistic, but strategic and targeted; at least one per quarter
- Framework for initial steps to roadmap development workshops developed and tested by end of Q2
  - Country diagnostics for initial targets by end of Q2
  - Country activities to commence in Q3

# International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board

- The campaign is about “getting the numbers right”—IPSAS core to the campaign
- IPSAS train-the-trainer is an excellent capacity-building tool
- IPSASB is well positioned to facilitate access to potential coalition partners and others helpful to the campaign
- IPSASB has a wealth of knowledge about the status of adoption of IPSAS; valuable to the development of the regional strategies and populating the webpage/website
- IPSASB is known for its high-level high-quality representational activities
- IPSASB thought leadership could provide a “hook” for communications
- ...

# We welcome your input ...

- Comments, suggestions, questions



[www.ifac.org](http://www.ifac.org)

---