

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON AUDITING (ISA) 700 (REVISED)

FORMING AN OPINION AND REPORTING ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods [beginning/ending on or after date])

CONTENTS

	Paragraph
Introduction	
Scope of this ISA	1–4
Effective Date	5
Objectives	6
Definitions	7–9
Requirements	
Forming an Opinion on the Financial Statements	10–15
Form of Opinion	16–19
Auditor’s Report	20–48
Supplementary Information Presented with the Financial Statements	49–50
Application and Other Explanatory Material	
Qualitative Aspects of the Entity’s Accounting Practices	A1–A3
Disclosure of the Effect of Material Transactions and Events on the Information Conveyed in the Financial Statements	A4
Description of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework	A5–A10
Form of Opinion	A11–A12
Auditor’s Report	A13–A58
Supplementary Information Presented with the Financial Statements	A58–A65
Appendix: Illustrations of Independent Auditor’s Reports on Financial Statements	

Proposed International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 700 (Revised), *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements*, should be read in conjunction with ISA 200, *Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing*.

Introduction

Scope of this ISA

1. This International Standard on Auditing (ISA) deals with the auditor's responsibility to form an opinion on the financial statements. It also deals with the form and content of the auditor's report issued as a result of an audit of financial statements.
2. Proposed ISA 701¹ deals with the auditor's responsibility to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report. Proposed ISA 705² (Revised) and proposed ISA 706³ (Revised) deal with how the form and content of the auditor's report are affected when the auditor expresses a modified opinion or includes an Emphasis of Matter paragraph or an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor's report. Other ISAs including proposed ISA 570 (Revised)⁴ contain reporting requirements that are applicable when issuing an auditor's report.
3. This ISA is written in the context of a complete set of general purpose financial statements. ISA 800⁵ deals with special considerations when financial statements are prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework. ISA 805⁶ deals with special considerations relevant to an audit of a single financial statement or of a specific element, account or item of a financial statement.
4. The requirements of this ISA are aimed at addressing an appropriate balance between the need for consistency and comparability in auditor reporting globally and the need to increase the value of auditor reporting by making the information provided in the auditor's report more relevant to users. This ISA promotes consistency in the auditor's report, but recognizes the need for flexibility to accommodate particular circumstances of individual jurisdictions. Consistency in the auditor's report, when the audit has been conducted in accordance with ISAs, promotes credibility in the global marketplace by making more readily identifiable those audits that have been conducted in accordance with globally recognized standards. It also helps to promote the user's understanding and to identify unusual circumstances when they occur.

Effective Date

5. This ISA is effective for audits of financial statements for periods [beginning/ending on or after date].

Objectives

6. The objectives of the auditor are:
 - (a) To form an opinion on the financial statements based on an evaluation of the conclusions drawn from the audit evidence obtained; and
 - (b) To express clearly that opinion through a written report.

¹ Proposed ISA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*

² Proposed ISA 705 (Revised), *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report*

³ Proposed ISA 706 (Revised), *Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report*

⁴ Proposed ISA 570 (Revised), *Going Concern*

⁵ ISA 800, *Special Considerations—Audits of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks*

⁶ ISA 805, *Special Considerations—Audits of Single Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement*

Definitions

7. For purposes of the ISAs, the following terms have the meanings attributed below:

- (a) General purpose financial statements – Financial statements prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework.
- (b) General purpose framework – A financial reporting framework designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users. The financial reporting framework may be a fair presentation framework or a compliance framework.

The term “fair presentation framework” is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the requirements of the framework and:

- (i) Acknowledges explicitly or implicitly that, to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements, it may be necessary for management to provide disclosures beyond those specifically required by the framework; or
- (ii) Acknowledges explicitly that it may be necessary for management to depart from a requirement of the framework to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements. Such departures are expected to be necessary only in extremely rare circumstances.

The term “compliance framework” is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the requirements of the framework, but does not contain the acknowledgements in (i) or (ii) above.⁷

- (c) Unmodified opinion – The opinion expressed by the auditor when the auditor concludes that the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.⁸

8. Reference to “financial statements” in this ISA means “a complete set of general purpose financial statements, including the related notes.” The related notes ordinarily comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. The requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework determine the form and content of the financial statements, and what constitutes a complete set of financial statements.

9. Reference to “International Financial Reporting Standards” in this ISA means the International Financial Reporting Standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, and reference to “International Public Sector Accounting Standards” means the International Public Sector Accounting Standards issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board.

⁷ ISA 200, *Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing*, paragraph 13(a)

⁸ Paragraphs 24–25 deal with the phrases used to express this opinion in the case of a fair presentation framework and a compliance framework respectively.

Requirements

Forming an Opinion on the Financial Statements

10. The auditor shall form an opinion on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.^{9,10}
11. In order to form that opinion, the auditor shall conclude as to whether the auditor has obtained reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. That conclusion shall take into account:
 - (a) The auditor's conclusion, in accordance with ISA 330, whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained;¹¹
 - (b) The auditor's conclusion, in accordance with ISA 450, whether uncorrected misstatements are material, individually or in aggregate;¹² and
 - (c) The evaluations required by paragraphs 12–15.
12. The auditor shall evaluate whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework. This evaluation shall include consideration of the qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, including indicators of possible bias in management's judgments. (Ref: Para. A1–A3)
13. In particular, the auditor shall evaluate whether, in view of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework:
 - (a) The financial statements adequately disclose the significant accounting policies selected and applied;
 - (b) The accounting policies selected and applied are consistent with the applicable financial reporting framework and are appropriate;
 - (c) The accounting estimates made by management are reasonable;
 - (d) The information presented in the financial statements is relevant, reliable, comparable, and understandable;
 - (e) The financial statements provide adequate disclosures to enable the intended users to understand the effect of material transactions and events on the information conveyed in the financial statements; and (Ref: Para. A4)
 - (f) The terminology used in the financial statements, including the title of each financial statement, is appropriate.

⁹ ISA 200, paragraph 11

¹⁰ Paragraphs 24–25 deal with the phrases used to express this opinion in the case of a fair presentation framework and a compliance framework respectively.

¹¹ ISA 330, *The Auditor's Responses to Assessed Risks*, paragraph 26

¹² ISA 450, *Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit*, paragraph 11

14. When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the evaluation required by paragraphs 12–13 shall also include whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation. The auditor’s evaluation as to whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation shall include consideration of:
 - (a) The overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements; and
 - (b) Whether the financial statements, including the related notes, represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
15. The auditor shall evaluate whether the financial statements adequately refer to or describe the applicable financial reporting framework. (Ref: Para. A5–A10)

Form of Opinion

16. The auditor shall express an unmodified opinion when the auditor concludes that the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
17. If the auditor:
 - (a) concludes that, based on the audit evidence obtained, the financial statements as a whole are not free from material misstatement; or
 - (b) is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to conclude that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement,the auditor shall modify the opinion in the auditor’s report in accordance with proposed ISA 705 (Revised).
18. If financial statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of a fair presentation framework do not achieve fair presentation, the auditor shall discuss the matter with management and, depending on the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework and how the matter is resolved, shall determine whether it is necessary to modify the opinion in the auditor’s report in accordance with proposed ISA 705 (Revised). (Ref: Para. A11)
19. When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a compliance framework, the auditor is not required to evaluate whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation. However, if in extremely rare circumstances the auditor concludes that such financial statements are misleading, the auditor shall discuss the matter with management and, depending on how it is resolved, shall determine whether, and how, to communicate it in the auditor’s report. (Ref: Para. A12)

Auditor’s Report

20. The auditor’s report shall be in writing. (Ref: Para. A13–A14)

Auditor’s Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing

Title

21. The auditor’s report shall have a title that clearly indicates that it is the report of an independent auditor. (Ref: Para. A15)

Addressee

22. The auditor's report shall be addressed, as appropriate, based on the circumstances of the engagement. (Ref: Para. A16)

Auditor's Opinion

23. The auditor's report shall include a section with the heading "Opinion." (Ref: Para. A17)
24. When expressing an unmodified opinion on financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the auditor's opinion shall, unless otherwise required by law or regulation, use one of the following phrases, which are regarded as being equivalent:
 - (a) In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, [...] in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]; or
 - (b) In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of [...] in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]. (Ref: Para. A18–A25)
25. When expressing an unmodified opinion on financial statements prepared in accordance with a compliance framework, the auditor's opinion shall be that the accompanying financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]. (Ref: Para. A22–A25)
26. If the reference to the applicable financial reporting framework in the auditor's opinion is not to International Financial Reporting Standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board or International Public Sector Accounting Standards issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board, the auditor's opinion shall identify the jurisdiction of origin of the framework.
27. The auditor's report shall:
 - (a) Identify the entity whose financial statements have been audited;
 - (b) State that the financial statements have been audited;
 - (c) Identify the title of each statement comprising the financial statements;
 - (d) Refer to the notes, including the summary of significant accounting policies; and
 - (e) Specify the date of, or period covered by, each financial statement comprising the financial statements. (Ref: Para. A26–A27)

Basis for Opinion

28. The auditor's report shall include a section with the heading "Basis for Opinion" that:
 - (a) States that the audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing; (Ref: Para. A28)
 - (b) Refers to the section of the auditor's report that describes the auditor's responsibilities under the ISAs;
 - (c) Includes a statement that the auditor is independent of the entity within the meaning of the [relevant ethical requirements or applicable law or regulation] and has fulfilled the auditor's other responsibilities under those ethical requirements. If the independence and other ethical

responsibilities are established by different sources, then the second part of the statement shall also specify the source of the other relevant ethical requirements; and (Ref: Para. A29)

- (d) States whether the auditor believes that the audit evidence the auditor has obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the auditor's opinion.

Going Concern

- 29. The auditor shall report in accordance with proposed ISA 570 (Revised).

Key Audit Matters

- 30. For audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of a listed entity, the auditor shall communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report in accordance with proposed ISA 701. When the auditor of a complete set of general purpose financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity is required by law or regulation to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report or otherwise decides to do so, the auditor shall apply proposed ISA 701. (Ref: Para. A30–A31)

Other Information

- 31. The auditor shall report in accordance with proposed ISA 720 (Revised).¹³

Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

- 32. The auditor's report shall include a section with a heading using the appropriate term to describe those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. This heading need not refer specifically to "management," but shall use the term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction. (Ref: Para. A32)
- 33. This section of the auditor's report shall describe the respective responsibilities of those in the organization that are responsible for: (Ref: Para. A33–A35)
 - (a) The preparation of the financial statements and for such internal control as they determine necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
 - (b) Oversight of the financial reporting process, where those responsible for oversight are different from those in (a).
- 34. Where the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the description of responsibilities for the financial statements in the auditor's report shall refer to "the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements" or "the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view," as appropriate in the circumstances.

¹³ Exposure Draft, Proposed ISA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information in Documents Containing or Accompanying Audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's Report Thereon*

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

35. The auditor's report shall include a section with the heading "Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements."
36. The auditor's report shall state that:
- (a) The objectives of the audit are to:
 - (i) Obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
 - (ii) Issue an auditor's report that includes an opinion. (Ref: Para. A36)
 - (b) Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists; and
 - (c) Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.
37. The auditor's report shall further: (Ref: Para. A37)
- (a) State that, as part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, the auditor exercises professional judgment and maintains professional skepticism throughout the planning and performance of the audit; and
 - (b) Describe an audit by stating that the auditor's responsibilities are:
 - (i) To identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the auditor's opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
 - (ii) To obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. In circumstances when the auditor also has a responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements, the auditor shall omit the phrase that the auditor's consideration of internal control is not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
 - (iii) To evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
 - (iv) When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, to evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

- (c) In circumstances where ISA 600¹⁴ applies, further describe an audit by stating that the auditor's responsibilities in a group audit are:
 - (i) To obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities and business activities within the group to express an opinion on the group financial statements;
 - (ii) For the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit; and
 - (iii) To remain solely responsible for the auditor's opinion.

38. The auditor's report shall also state that the auditor is required to:

- (a) Communicate with [those charged with governance] regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that the auditor identifies during the audit; and
- (b) For audits of financial statements of listed entities, provide [those charged with governance] with a statement that the auditor has complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on the auditor's independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Location of the description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

39. The description of the auditor's responsibilities required by paragraphs 37–38 shall be included within the body of the auditor's report or in an Appendix to the auditor's report. When the auditor's responsibilities are included in an Appendix, the body of the auditor's report shall make reference to the location of that Appendix. (Ref: Para. A38–A39)

40. Law, regulation or national auditing standards may expressly permit the auditor to refer to a website of an appropriate authority that contains a description of the auditor's responsibilities. When:

- (a) That description is not inconsistent with the requirements set out in paragraphs 37–38; and
- (b) The auditor decides to refer to that website rather than include the description of the auditor's responsibilities in the auditor's report;

the auditor shall include a reference in the auditor's report to clearly indicate where this description is located. (Ref: Para. A38, A40–A41)

Other Reporting Responsibilities

41. If the auditor addresses other reporting responsibilities in the auditor's report on the financial statements that are in addition to the auditor's responsibilities under the ISAs, these other reporting responsibilities shall be clearly differentiated from reporting required by the ISAs. (Ref: Para. A42–A44)

Name of the Engagement Partner

42. The name of the engagement partner's shall be included in the auditor's report for audits of financial statements of listed entities unless, in rare circumstances, such disclosure is reasonably expected to lead to a significant security threat to the individual. (Ref: Para. A45)

¹⁴ ISA 600, *Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*

Signature of the Auditor

43. The auditor's report shall be signed. (Ref: Para. A46–A47)

Auditor's Address

44. The auditor's report shall name the location in the jurisdiction where the auditor practices.

Date of the Auditor's Report

45. The auditor's report shall be dated no earlier than the date on which the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the auditor's opinion on the financial statements, including evidence that: (Ref: Para. A48–A51)
- (a) All the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared; and
 - (b) Those with the recognized authority have asserted that they have taken responsibility for those financial statements.

Auditor's Report Prescribed by Law or Regulation

46. If the auditor is required by law or regulation of a specific jurisdiction to use a specific layout or wording of the auditor's report, the auditor's report shall refer to International Standards on Auditing only if the auditor's report includes, at a minimum, each of the following elements: (Ref: Para. A52–A56)
- (a) A title.
 - (b) An addressee, as required by the circumstances of the engagement.
 - (c) An Opinion section containing an expression of opinion on the financial statements and a reference to the applicable financial reporting framework used to prepare the financial statements (including identifying the jurisdiction of origin of the financial reporting framework that is not International Financial Reporting Standards or International Public Sector Accounting Standards, see paragraph 26).
 - (d) An identification of the entity's financial statements that have been audited.
 - (e) A statement that the auditor is independent of the entity within the meaning of the [relevant ethical requirements or applicable law or regulation] and has fulfilled the auditor's other responsibilities under those ethical requirements. If the independence and other ethical responsibilities are established by different sources, then the second part of the statement shall also specify the source of the other relevant ethical requirements.
 - (f) A section that addresses the reporting requirements in proposed ISA 570 (Revised) relating to going concern.
 - (g) Where applicable, a section that includes the information required by proposed ISA 701, or additional information about the audit that is prescribed by law or regulation and that is not inconsistent with the reporting requirements in that ISA.¹⁵ In circumstances where law or regulation either requires or permits the auditor or those charged with governance to prepare a separate report including a description of such information, this section either includes a

¹⁵ Proposed ISA 701, paragraphs 9–11

description of the key audit matters, or refers to such a description in a report issued by those charged with governance, or in a supplementary report of the auditor. (Ref: Para. A53–A55)

- (h) A section that addresses the reporting requirements in proposed ISA 720 (Revised).
- (i) A description of the responsibilities of those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- (j) A reference to International Standards on Auditing and the law or regulation and a description of the auditor’s responsibilities for an audit of the financial statements in a manner that is not inconsistent with paragraphs 36–38.
- (k) For audits of financial statements of listed entities, the name of the engagement partner unless, in rare circumstances, such disclosure is reasonably expected to lead to a significant security threat to the individual.
- (l) The auditor’s signature.
- (m) The auditor’s address.
- (n) The date of the auditor’s report.

Auditor’s Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with Both Auditing Standards of a Specific Jurisdiction and International Standards on Auditing

- 47. An auditor may be required to conduct an audit in accordance with the auditing standards of a specific jurisdiction (the “national auditing standards”), but may additionally have complied with the ISAs in the conduct of the audit. If this is the case, the auditor’s report may refer to International Standards on Auditing in addition to the national auditing standards, but the auditor shall do so only if: (Ref: Para. A57–A58)
 - (a) There is no conflict between the requirements in the national auditing standards and those in ISAs that would lead the auditor (i) to form a different opinion, or (ii) not to include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph that, in the particular circumstances, is required by ISAs; and
 - (b) The auditor’s report includes, at a minimum, each of the elements set out in paragraph 46(a)–(n) above when the auditor uses the layout or wording specified by the national auditing standards. However, reference to “law or regulation” in paragraph 46(j) shall be read as reference to the national auditing standards. The auditor’s report shall thereby identify such national auditing standards.
- 48. When the auditor’s report refers to both the national auditing standards and International Standards on Auditing, the auditor’s report shall identify the jurisdiction of origin of the national auditing standards.

Supplementary Information Presented with the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. A59–A65)

- 49. If supplementary information that is not required by the applicable financial reporting framework is presented with the audited financial statements, the auditor shall evaluate whether, in the auditor’s professional judgment, supplementary information is nevertheless an integral part of the financial statements due to either its nature or how it is presented. Where it is an integral part of the financial statements, the supplementary information shall be covered by the auditor’s opinion.
- 50. If supplementary information that is not required by the applicable financial reporting framework is not considered an integral part of the audited financial statements, the auditor shall evaluate

whether such supplementary information is presented in a way that sufficiently and clearly differentiates it from the audited financial statements. If this is not the case, then the auditor shall ask management to change how the unaudited supplementary information is presented. If management refuses to do so, the auditor shall identify the unaudited supplementary information and explain in the auditor's report that such supplementary information has not been audited.

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Accounting Practices (Ref: Para. 12)

- A1. Management makes a number of judgments about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- A2. Proposed ISA 260 (Revised) contains a discussion of the qualitative aspects of accounting practices.¹⁶ In considering the qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, the auditor may become aware of possible bias in management's judgments. The auditor may conclude that the cumulative effect of a lack of neutrality, together with the effect of uncorrected misstatements, causes the financial statements as a whole to be materially misstated. Indicators of a lack of neutrality that may affect the auditor's evaluation of whether the financial statements as a whole are materially misstated include the following:
- The selective correction of misstatements brought to management's attention during the audit (for example, correcting misstatements with the effect of increasing reported earnings, but not correcting misstatements that have the effect of decreasing reported earnings).
 - Possible management bias in the making of accounting estimates.
- A3. ISA 540 addresses possible management bias in making accounting estimates.¹⁷ Indicators of possible management bias do not constitute misstatements for purposes of drawing conclusions on the reasonableness of individual accounting estimates. They may, however, affect the auditor's evaluation of whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement.

Disclosure of the Effect of Material Transactions and Events on the Information Conveyed in the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 13(e))

- A4. It is common for financial statements prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework to present an entity's financial position, financial performance and cash flows. In such circumstances, the auditor evaluates whether the financial statements provide adequate disclosures to enable the intended users to understand the effect of material transactions and events on the entity's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

Description of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework (Ref: Para. 15)

- A5. As explained in ISA 200, the preparation of the financial statements by management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance requires the inclusion of an adequate description of the applicable financial reporting framework in the financial statements.¹⁸ That description is

¹⁶ Proposed ISA 260 (Revised), *Communication with Those Charged with Governance*, Appendix 2

¹⁷ ISA 540, *Auditing Accounting Estimates, Including Fair Value Accounting Estimates, and Related Disclosures*, paragraph 21

important because it advises users of the financial statements of the framework on which the financial statements are based.

- A6. A description that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a particular applicable financial reporting framework is appropriate only if the financial statements comply with all the requirements of that framework that are effective during the period covered by the financial statements.
- A7. A description of the applicable financial reporting framework that contains imprecise qualifying or limiting language (for example, “the financial statements are in substantial compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards”) is not an adequate description of that framework as it may mislead users of the financial statements.

Reference to More than One Financial Reporting Framework

- A8. In some cases, the financial statements may represent that they are prepared in accordance with two financial reporting frameworks (for example, the national framework and International Financial Reporting Standards). This may be because management is required, or has chosen, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with both frameworks, in which case both are applicable financial reporting frameworks. Such description is appropriate only if the financial statements comply with each of the frameworks individually. To be regarded as being prepared in accordance with both frameworks, the financial statements need to comply with both frameworks simultaneously and without any need for reconciling statements. In practice, simultaneous compliance is unlikely unless the jurisdiction has adopted the other framework (for example, International Financial Reporting Standards) as its own national framework, or has eliminated all barriers to compliance with it.
- A9. Financial statements that are prepared in accordance with one financial reporting framework and that contain a note or supplementary statement reconciling the results to those that would be shown under another framework, are not prepared in accordance with that other framework. This is because the financial statements do not include all the information in the manner required by that other framework.
- A10. The financial statements may, however, be prepared in accordance with one applicable financial reporting framework and, in addition, describe in the notes to the financial statements the extent to which the financial statements comply with another framework (for example, financial statements prepared in accordance with the national framework that also describe the extent to which they comply with International Financial Reporting Standards). Such description is supplementary financial information and, as discussed in paragraph 49, is considered an integral part of the financial statements and, accordingly, is covered by the auditor’s opinion.

Form of Opinion (Ref: Para. 18–19)

- A11. There may be cases where the financial statements, although prepared in accordance with the requirements of a fair presentation framework, do not achieve fair presentation. Where this is the case, it may be possible for management to include additional disclosures in the financial statements beyond those specifically required by the framework or, in extremely rare circumstances, to depart from a requirement in the framework in order to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements.

¹⁸ ISA 200, paragraphs A2–A3

A12. It will be extremely rare for the auditor to consider financial statements that are prepared in accordance with a compliance framework to be misleading if, in accordance with ISA 210, the auditor determined that the framework is acceptable.¹⁹

Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 20)

A13. A written report encompasses reports issued in hard copy and those using an electronic medium.

A14. The Appendix contains illustrations of auditor's reports on financial statements, incorporating the elements set forth in paragraphs 21–45.

Auditor's Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with International Standards on Auditing

Title (Ref: Para. 21)

A15. A title indicating the report is the report of an independent auditor, for example, "Independent Auditor's Report," distinguishes the independent auditor's report from reports issued by others.

Addressee (Ref: Para. 22)

A16. Law, regulation or the terms of the engagement may specify to whom the auditor's report is to be addressed in that particular jurisdiction. The auditor's report is normally addressed to those for whom the report is prepared, often either to the shareholders or to those charged with governance of the entity whose financial statements are being audited.

Auditor's Opinion (Ref. Para. 23–27)

Placement of the opinion section

A17. The placement of the Opinion section at the beginning of the auditor's report (as illustrated in the Appendix) makes it more prominent to users of the financial statements.

"Present fairly, in all material respects" or "give a true and fair view"

A18. The phrases "present fairly, in all material respects," and "give a true and fair view" are regarded as being equivalent. Whether the phrase "present fairly, in all material respects," or the phrase "give a true and fair view" is used in any particular jurisdiction is determined by the law or regulation governing the audit of financial statements in that jurisdiction, or by generally accepted practice in that jurisdiction. Where law or regulation requires the use of different wording, this does not affect the requirement in paragraph 14 of this ISA for the auditor to evaluate the fair presentation of financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework.

A19. When the auditor expresses an unmodified opinion, it is not appropriate to use phrases such as "with the foregoing explanation" or "subject to" in relation to the opinion as these suggest a conditional opinion or a weakening or modification of opinion.

Description of the financial statements and the matters they present

A20. The auditor's opinion covers the complete set of financial statements as defined by the applicable financial reporting framework. For example, in the case of many general purpose frameworks, the financial statements include: a balance sheet, an income statement, a statement of changes in

¹⁹ ISA 210, *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements*, paragraph 6(a)

equity, a cash flow statement, and related notes, which ordinarily comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. In some jurisdictions, additional information may also be considered to be an integral part of the financial statements.

- A21. In the case of financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the auditor's opinion states that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, or give a true and fair view of, the matters that the financial statements are designed to present. For example, in the case of financial statements prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, these matters are the financial position of the entity as at the end of the period and the entity's financial performance and cash flows for the period then ended.

Description of the applicable financial reporting framework and how it may affect the auditor's opinion

- A22. The identification of the applicable financial reporting framework in the auditor's opinion is intended to advise users of the auditor's report of the context in which the auditor's opinion is expressed; it is not intended to limit the evaluation required in paragraph 14. The applicable financial reporting framework is identified in such terms as:

"... in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards" or

"... in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Jurisdiction X ..."

- A23. When the applicable financial reporting framework encompasses financial reporting standards and legal or regulatory requirements, the framework is identified in such terms as "... in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of Jurisdiction X Corporations Act." ISA 210 deals with circumstances where there are conflicts between the financial reporting standards and the legislative or regulatory requirements.²⁰

- A24. As indicated in paragraph A8, the financial statements may be prepared in accordance with two financial reporting frameworks, which are therefore both applicable financial reporting frameworks. Accordingly, each framework is considered separately when forming the auditor's opinion on the financial statements, and the auditor's opinion in accordance with paragraphs 24–25 refers to both frameworks as follows:

- (a) If the financial statements comply with each of the frameworks individually, two opinions are expressed: that is, that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with one of the applicable financial reporting frameworks (for example, the national framework) and an opinion that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the other applicable financial reporting framework (for example, International Financial Reporting Standards). These opinions may be expressed separately or in a single sentence (for example, the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Jurisdiction X and with International Financial Reporting Standards).
- (b) If the financial statements comply with one of the frameworks but fail to comply with the other framework, an unmodified opinion can be given that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the one framework (for example, the national framework) but a modified opinion given with regard to the other framework (for example, International Financial Reporting Standards) in accordance with proposed ISA 705 (Revised).

²⁰ ISA 210, paragraph 18

- A25. As indicated in paragraph A10, the financial statements may represent compliance with the applicable financial reporting framework and, in addition, disclose the extent of compliance with another financial reporting framework. Such supplementary information is covered by the auditor's opinion if it cannot be clearly differentiated from the financial statements (see paragraphs 49–50 and related application material in paragraphs A59–A65). Accordingly,
- (a) If the disclosure as to the compliance with the other framework is misleading, a modified opinion is expressed in accordance with proposed ISA 705 (Revised).
 - (b) If the disclosure is not misleading, but the auditor judges it to be of such importance that it is fundamental to the users' understanding of the financial statements, an Emphasis of Matter paragraph is added in accordance with proposed ISA 706 (Revised), drawing attention to the disclosure.

Reference to the financial statements that have been audited

- A26. The auditor's report states, for example, that the auditor has audited the financial statements of the entity, which comprise [state the title of each financial statement comprising the complete set of financial statements required by the applicable financial reporting framework, specifying the date or period covered by each financial statement] and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.
- A27. When the auditor is aware that the audited financial statements will be included in a document that contains other information, such as an annual report, the auditor may consider, if the form of presentation allows, identifying the page numbers on which the audited financial statements are presented. This helps users to identify the financial statements to which the auditor's report relates.

Basis for Opinion (Ref: Para. 28)

- A28. The reference to the standards used conveys to the users of the auditor's report that the audit has been conducted in accordance with established standards.
- A29. ISA 200 indicates that the auditor shall not represent compliance with ISAs in the auditor's report unless the auditor has complied with the requirements of ISA 200 and all other ISAs relevant to the audit. This includes complying with relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, relating to financial statement audit engagements.²¹ Although independence requirements in a group audit situation may be complex, ISA 600²² establishes requirements for auditors in performing work on the financial information of a component for a group audit, including those situations where the component auditor does not meet the independence requirements that are relevant to the group audit. However, the ISAs do not establish specific independence or ethical requirements for auditors, or component auditors, and thus do not extend, or otherwise override, the independence requirements of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (IESBA Code) or other ethical requirements to which the group engagement team is subject, nor do the ISAs require that the component auditor in all cases be subject to the same specific independence rules applicable to the group engagement team.

²¹ ISA 200, paragraphs 14 and 20

²² ISA 600, paragraphs 19–20

Key Audit Matters (Ref: Para. 30)

A30. ISA 210 requires the auditor to agree the terms of the audit engagement with management and those charged with governance, as appropriate, and notes that the roles of management and those charged with governance in agreeing the terms of the audit engagement for the entity depend on the governance arrangements of the entity and relevant law or regulation.²³ When agreeing the terms of engagement, if the auditor of an entity other than a listed entity intends to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report, ISA 210 requires the auditor to acknowledge this in the terms of the audit engagement in order to inform management and those charged with governance of the auditor's intent.²⁴

Considerations specific to public sector entities

A31. Public sector entities may be significant due to size, complexity or public interest aspects, and may have a wide range of stakeholders. In such cases, an auditor of such an entity may be required by law or regulation, or otherwise intend to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report.

Responsibilities for the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 32–34)

A32. ISA 200 explains the premise, relating to the responsibilities of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, on which an audit in accordance with ISAs is conducted.²⁵ Management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance accept responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, including, where relevant, their fair presentation. Management also accepts responsibility for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The description of management's responsibilities in the auditor's report includes reference to both responsibilities as it helps to explain to users the premise on which an audit is conducted. Proposed ISA 260 (Revised) uses the term those charged with governance to describe the person(s) or organization(s) with responsibility for overseeing the entity, and provides a discussion about the diversity of governance structures across jurisdictions and by entity.

A33. There may be circumstances when it is appropriate for the auditor to add to the descriptions of the responsibilities of management and those charged with governance in paragraph 33 to reflect additional responsibilities that are relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in the context of the particular jurisdiction or the nature of the entity.

A34. Paragraph 33 is consistent with the form in which the responsibilities are agreed in the engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement, as required by ISA 210.²⁶ ISA 210 provides some flexibility by explaining that, if law or regulation prescribes the responsibilities of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance in relation to financial reporting, the auditor may determine that the law or regulation includes responsibilities that, in the auditor's judgment, are equivalent in effect to those set out in ISA 210. For such responsibilities that are equivalent, the auditor may use the wording of the law or regulation to describe them in the engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement. In such cases, this wording may also be used in the

²³ ISA 210, *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements*, paragraphs 9 and A21

²⁴ ISA 210, paragraphs 10(e) and A23a

²⁵ ISA 200, paragraph 13(j)

²⁶ ISA 210, paragraph 6(b)(i)–(ii)

auditor's report to describe the responsibilities as required by paragraph 33. In other circumstances, including where the auditor decides not to use the wording of law or regulation as incorporated in the engagement letter; the wording of paragraph 33 is used. Where not prohibited, the auditor may elect to refer to a more detailed description of these responsibilities by including a reference to where such information may be obtained (for example, in the annual report of the entity or a website of an appropriate authority).

- A35. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation prescribing management's responsibilities may specifically refer to a responsibility for the adequacy of accounting books and records, or accounting system. As books, records and systems are an integral part of internal control (as defined in ISA 315 (Revised)²⁷), the descriptions in ISA 210 and in paragraph 33 do not make specific reference to them.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 35–40)

- A36. The auditor's report explains that the objective of an audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement to contrast it to management's responsibilities for the preparation for the financial statements.

Relocation of the description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (Ref: Para. 39–40)

- A37. The description of the auditor's responsibilities as required by paragraphs 37(b) and (c) of this ISA may be tailored to reflect the specific nature of the entity (for example, when the auditor's report addresses consolidated financial statements).
- A38. Relocating certain information to an Appendix to the auditor's report, or a website of an appropriate authority, may be a useful way of streamlining the content of the auditor's report. However, because the description of the auditor's responsibilities contains information that is necessary to inform users' expectations of an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs, reference is to be made to where such information can be accessed.
- A39. For example, paragraph 39 permits the auditor to relocate the statements required by paragraphs 37–38 describing the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements to an Appendix to the auditor's report, provided that appropriate reference is made within the body of the auditor's report to the location of the Appendix. The following is an illustration of how such a reference to an Appendix could be made in the auditor's report:

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

²⁷ ISA 315 (Revised), *Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment*, paragraph 4(c)

A further discussion of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in Appendix X of this auditor's report, which is located at *[indicate page number or other reference to location]*.

- A40. The auditor may only refer to the description of the auditor's responsibilities located on a website of an appropriate authority if the requirements of paragraph 40 are met. The information included on the website may describe the auditor's work or the audit process in accordance with ISAs more broadly, but cannot be inconsistent with the description required by paragraphs 37–38 of this ISA.
- A41. An appropriate authority could be a national auditing standard setter, regulator, or an audit oversight body. Such organizations are well-placed to ensure the accuracy, completeness and continued availability of the standardized information. It would not be appropriate for the auditor to maintain such a website. The following is an illustration of how such a reference to a website could be made in the auditor's report:

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements that is part of this auditor's report is located at *[Organization's]* website at: *[website link]*.

Other Reporting Responsibilities (Ref: Para. 41)

- A42. In some jurisdictions, the auditor may have additional responsibilities to report on other matters that are supplementary to the auditor's responsibilities under the ISAs. For example, the auditor may be asked to report certain matters if they come to the auditor's attention during the course of the audit of the financial statements. Alternatively, the auditor may be asked to perform and report on additional specified procedures, or to express an opinion on specific matters, such as the adequacy of accounting books and records, internal control over financial reporting or other information. Auditing standards in the specific jurisdiction often provide guidance on the auditor's responsibilities with respect to specific additional reporting responsibilities in that jurisdiction.
- A43. In some cases, the relevant law or regulation may require or permit the auditor to report on these other responsibilities within the auditor's report on the financial statements. In other cases, the auditor may be required or permitted to report on them in a separate report.
- A44. Distinguishing other reporting responsibilities from the auditor's responsibilities under the ISAs may be done in different ways, for example:
- By including a separate section in the auditor's report with a heading "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements," or otherwise as appropriate to the content of the section. In such cases, the auditor may consider it necessary to include a heading "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements."

- In the same section where reporting on the matter in accordance with ISAs is presented, with wording in the auditor's report that clearly distinguishes between reporting required by the ISAs and other reporting required by law or regulation.

Name of the Engagement Partner (Ref: Para. 42)

A45. Law or regulation may require that the name of the engagement partner responsible for audits of financial statements of entities other than listed entities be included in the auditor's report.

Signature of the Auditor (Ref: Para. 43)

A46. The auditor's signature is either in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction. In addition to the auditor's signature, in certain jurisdictions, the auditor may be required to declare in the auditor's report the auditor's professional accountancy designation or the fact that the auditor or firm, as appropriate, has been recognized by the appropriate licensing authority in that jurisdiction.

A47. In some cases, law or regulation may allow for the use of electronic signatures in the auditor's report.

Date of the Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 45)

A48. The date of the auditor's report informs the user of the auditor's report that the auditor has considered the effect of events and transactions of which the auditor became aware and that occurred up to that date. The auditor's responsibility for events and transactions after the date of the auditor's report is addressed in ISA 560.²⁸

A49. Since the auditor's opinion is provided on the financial statements and the financial statements are the responsibility of management, the auditor is not in a position to conclude that sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained until evidence is obtained that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared and management has accepted responsibility for them.

A50. In some jurisdictions, the law or regulation identifies the individuals or bodies (for example, the directors) that are responsible for concluding that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared, and specifies the necessary approval process. In such cases, evidence is obtained of that approval before dating the report on the financial statements. In other jurisdictions, however, the approval process is not prescribed in law or regulation. In such cases, the procedures the entity follows in preparing and finalizing its financial statements in view of its management and governance structures are considered in order to identify the individuals or body with the authority to conclude that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared. In some cases, law or regulation identifies the point in the financial statement reporting process at which the audit is expected to be complete.

A51. In some jurisdictions, final approval of the financial statements by shareholders is required before the financial statements are issued publicly. In these jurisdictions, final approval by shareholders is not necessary for the auditor to conclude that sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained. The date of approval of the financial statements for purposes of ISAs is the earlier date

²⁸ ISA 560, *Subsequent Events*, paragraphs 10–17

on which those with the recognized authority determine that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared and that those with the recognized authority have asserted that they have taken responsibility for them.

Auditor's Report Prescribed by Law or Regulation (Ref: Para. 46)

- A52. ISA 200 explains that the auditor may be required to comply with legal or regulatory requirements in addition to ISAs.²⁹ Where this is the case, the auditor may be obliged to use a layout or wording in the auditor's report that differs from that described in paragraphs 20–45 of this ISA. As explained in paragraph 4, consistency in the auditor's report, when the audit has been conducted in accordance with ISAs, promotes credibility in the global marketplace by making more readily identifiable those audits that have been conducted in accordance with globally recognized standards. When the differences between the legal or regulatory requirements and ISAs relate only to the layout and wording of the auditor's report and, at a minimum, each of the elements identified in paragraph 46(a)–(n) are included in the auditor's report, the auditor's report may refer to International Standards on Auditing. Accordingly, in such circumstances the auditor is considered to have complied with the requirements of ISAs, even when the layout and wording used in the auditor's report are specified by legal or regulatory reporting requirements. Where specific requirements in a particular jurisdiction do not conflict with ISAs, adoption of the layout and wording, including the use of the titles of section headings, used in this ISA assists users of the auditor's report in more readily recognizing the auditor's report as a report of an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs.
- A53. Law or regulation may require the auditor to provide additional information about the audit that was performed, which may include information that is consistent with the objectives of proposed ISA 701, or may prescribe the nature and extent of communication about such matters. Alternatively, law or regulation may require those charged with governance (for example, an entity's Board of Directors or Audit Committee) to issue a report including a description of certain matters communicated to them by the auditor in connection with their oversight responsibilities. The auditor may then be required to report by exception when the report of those charged with governance does not appropriately address matters communicated by the auditor to those charged with governance, and to remedy such a deficiency by communicating the matter in the auditor's report.
- A54. The ISAs do not override law or regulation that governs an audit of financial statements. When proposed ISA 701 is applicable, reference can only be made to ISAs in the auditor's report if, in applying the law or regulation, the section required by paragraph 46(g) of this ISA is not inconsistent with the reporting requirements in proposed ISA 701. In such circumstances, the auditor may need to tailor certain aspects of the communication of key audit matters in the auditor's report required by proposed ISA 701, for example by:
- Modifying the heading "Key Audit Matters", if law or regulation prescribes a specific heading;
 - Explaining why the information required by law or regulation is being provided in the auditor's report, for example by making a reference to the relevant law or regulation and describing how that information relates to the key audit matters;
 - Where applicable, including a cross-reference in the auditor's report to a description of the matter included in the report of those charged with governance; or

²⁹ ISA 200, paragraph A55

- Where law or regulation prescribes the nature and extent of the description, supplementing the prescribed information to achieve an overall description of each key audit matter that is consistent with the requirement of paragraph 10 of proposed ISA 701.

A55. ISA 210 deals with circumstances where law or regulation of the relevant jurisdiction prescribes the layout or wording of the auditor's report in terms that are significantly different from the requirements of ISAs, which in particular includes the auditor's opinion. In these circumstances, ISA 210 requires the auditor to evaluate:

- (a) Whether users might misunderstand the assurance obtained from the audit of the financial statements and, if so,
- (b) Whether additional explanation in the auditor's report can mitigate possible misunderstanding.

If the auditor concludes that additional explanation in the auditor's report cannot mitigate possible misunderstanding, ISA 210 requires the auditor not to accept the audit engagement, unless required by law or regulation to do so. In accordance with ISA 210, an audit conducted in accordance with such law or regulation does not comply with ISAs. Accordingly, the auditor does not include any reference in the auditor's report to the audit having been conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing.³⁰

Considerations specific to public sector entities

A56. Auditors of public sector entities may also have the ability according to law or regulation to report publicly on certain matters, either in the auditor's report or in a supplementary report, which may include information that is consistent with the objectives of proposed ISA 701. In such circumstances, the auditor may need to tailor certain aspects of the communication of key audit matters in the auditor's report required by proposed ISA 701 or include a reference in the auditor's report to a description of the matter in the supplementary report.

Auditor's Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with Both Auditing Standards of a Specific Jurisdiction and International Standards on Auditing (Ref: Para. 47)

A57. The auditor may refer in the auditor's report to the audit having been conducted in accordance with both International Standards on Auditing as well as the national auditing standards when, in addition to complying with the relevant national auditing standards, the auditor complies with each of the ISAs relevant to the audit.³¹

A58. A reference to both International Standards on Auditing and the national auditing standards is not appropriate if there is a conflict between the requirements in ISAs and those in the national auditing standards that would lead the auditor to form a different opinion or not to include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph that, in the particular circumstances, is required by ISAs. In such a case, the auditor's report refers only to the auditing standards (either International Standards on Auditing or the national auditing standards) in accordance with which the auditor's report has been prepared.

³⁰ ISA 210, paragraph 21

³¹ ISA 200, paragraph A56

Supplementary Information Presented with the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 49–50)

- A59. In some circumstances, the entity may be required by law, regulation or standards, or may voluntarily choose, to present together with the financial statements supplementary information that is not required by the applicable financial reporting framework. For example, supplementary information might be presented to enhance a user’s understanding of the applicable financial reporting framework or to provide further explanation of specific financial statement items. Such information is normally presented in either supplementary schedules or as additional notes.
- A60. Paragraph 49 of this ISA explains that the auditor’s opinion covers supplementary information that is an integral part of the financial statements because of its nature and how it is presented. This evaluation is a matter of professional judgment. To illustrate:
- When the notes to the financial statements include an explanation or the reconciliation of the extent to which the financial statements comply with another financial reporting framework, the auditor may consider this to be supplementary information that cannot be clearly differentiated from the financial statements. The auditor’s opinion would also cover notes or supplementary schedules that are cross-referenced from the financial statements.
 - When an additional profit and loss account that discloses specific items of expenditure is disclosed as a separate schedule included as an Appendix to the financial statements, the auditor may consider this to be supplementary information that can be clearly differentiated from the financial statements.
- A61. Supplementary information that is covered by the auditor’s opinion does not need to be specifically referred to in the auditor’s report when the reference to the notes in the description of the statements that comprise the financial statements in the auditor’s report is sufficient.
- A62. Law or regulation may not require that the supplementary information be audited, and management may decide not to ask the auditor to include the supplementary information within the scope of the audit of the financial statements.
- A63. The auditor’s evaluation whether unaudited supplementary information is presented in a manner that could be construed as being covered by the auditor’s opinion includes, for example, where that information is presented in relation to the financial statements and any audited supplementary information, and whether it is clearly labeled as “unaudited.”
- A64. Management could change the presentation of unaudited supplementary information that could be construed as being covered by the auditor’s opinion, for example, by:
- Removing any cross-references from the financial statements to unaudited supplementary schedules or unaudited notes so that the demarcation between the audited and unaudited information is sufficiently clear.
 - Placing the unaudited supplementary information outside of the financial statements or, if that is not possible in the circumstances, at a minimum placing the unaudited notes together at the end of the required notes to the financial statements and clearly labeling them as unaudited. Unaudited notes that are intermingled with the audited notes can be misinterpreted as being audited.
- A65. The fact that supplementary information is unaudited does not relieve the auditor of the responsibility to read that information to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial

statements. The auditor's responsibilities with respect to unaudited supplementary information are consistent with those described in proposed ISA 720 (Revised).[^]

[^] Conforming amendments to this paragraph were proposed in the Exposure Draft of proposed ISA 720 (Revised). The IAASB will consider feedback from that consultation in determining whether this change continues to be appropriate as it finalizes both proposed ISA 700 (Revised) and proposed ISA 720 (Revised).

Appendix

(Ref: Para. A14)

Illustrations of Independent Auditor's Reports on Financial Statements

- Illustration 1: An auditor's report on financial statements of a listed entity prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework
- Illustration 2: An auditor's report on consolidated financial statements of a listed entity prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework
- Illustration 3: An auditor's report on financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework (where reference is made to material that is located on a website of an appropriate authority)
- Illustration 4: An auditor's report on financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity prepared in accordance with a general purpose compliance framework

Illustration 1 – Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements of a Listed Entity Prepared in Accordance with a Fair Presentation Framework

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit conducted in accordance with ISA 600.
- The financial statements are prepared for a general purpose by management of the entity in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with proposed ISA 701.
- No material uncertainty relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern has been identified in accordance with proposed ISA 570.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

Paragraph references below are to the relevant requirements in this ISA.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT (para. 21)

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee] (para. 22)

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements³²

Opinion (paras. 23–27)

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of ABC Company (the Company) as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

We have audited the financial statements of the Company, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

Basis for Opinion (para. 28)

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company within the meaning of [*indicate relevant ethical requirements or applicable law or regulation*] and have fulfilled our other responsibilities under those ethical requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

³² The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

Key Audit Matters (para. 30 and paras. 9–11 of proposed ISA 701)

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements. Key audit matters are selected from the matters communicated with *[those charged with governance]*, but are not intended to represent all matters that were discussed with them. Our audit procedures relating to these matters were designed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole. Our opinion on the financial statements is not modified with respect to any of the key audit matters described below, and we do not express an opinion on these individual matters.

The two specific topics and content presented below are purely for illustrative purposes. This section would be tailored to the facts and circumstances of the individual audit engagement and the entity. Accordingly, the IAASB has intentionally drafted these examples in a manner that illustrates that Key Audit Matters will vary in terms of the number and selection of topics addressed and the nature in which they may be described, and are intended to be consistent with the disclosures in the entity's financial statements.

Valuation of Financial Instruments

The Company's disclosures about its structured financial instruments are included in Note 5. The Company's investments in structured financial instruments represent *[x%]* of the total amount of its financial instruments. Because the valuation of the Company's structured financial instruments is not based on quoted prices in active markets, there is significant measurement uncertainty involved in this valuation. As a result, the valuation of these instruments was significant to our audit. The Company has determined it is necessary to use an entity-developed model to value these instruments, due to their unique structure and terms. We challenged management's rationale for using an entity-developed model, and discussed this with *[those charged with governance]*, and we concluded the use of such a model was appropriate. Our audit procedures also included, among others, testing management's controls related to the development and calibration of the model and confirming that management had determined it was not necessary to make any adjustments to the output of the model to reflect the assumptions that marketplace participants would use in similar circumstances.

Revenue Recognition Relating to Long-Term Contracts

The terms and conditions of the Company's long-term contracts in its *[name of segment]* affect the revenue that the Company recognizes in a period, and the revenue from such contracts represents a material amount of the Company's total revenue. The process to measure the amount of revenue to recognize in the *[name of industry]*, including the determination of the appropriate timing of recognition, involves significant management judgment. We identified revenue recognition of long-term contracts as a significant risk requiring special audit consideration. This is because side agreements may exist that effectively amend the original contracts, and such side agreements may be inadvertently unrecorded or deliberately concealed and therefore present a risk of material misstatement due to fraud. In addition to testing the controls the Company has put in place over its process to enter into and record long-term contracts and other audit procedures, we considered it necessary to confirm the terms of these contracts directly with customers and testing journal entries made by management related to revenue recognition. Based on the audit procedures performed, we did not find evidence of the existence of side agreements. The Company's disclosures about revenue recognition are included in the summary of significant accounting policies in Note 1, as well as Note 4.

Going Concern (para. 29 and paras. 19–25 of proposed ISA 570 (Revised))

The Company's financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting. The use of this basis of accounting is appropriate unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. As part of our audit of the financial statements, we

have concluded that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the Company's financial statements is appropriate.

Management has not identified a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, and accordingly none is disclosed in the financial statements. Based on our audit of the financial statements, we also have not identified such a material uncertainty. However, neither management nor the auditor can guarantee the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Other Information (para. 31)

[The illustrative wording for this section is subject to the IAASB's finalization of proposed ISA 720 (Revised). The content of this section may include, among other matters: (a) a description of the auditor's responsibilities with respect to other information; (b) identification of the document(s) available at the date of the auditor's report that contain the other information to which the auditor's responsibilities apply; (c) a statement addressing the outcome of the auditor's work on the other information; and (d) a statement that the auditor has not audited or reviewed the other information and, accordingly, does not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on it.]

Responsibilities of [Management³³ and Those Charged with Governance or other appropriate terms] for the Financial Statements (paras. 32–34)

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with IFRSs,³⁴ and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. *[Those charged with governance]* are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (paras. 35–40)

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report (see paragraph 39 of this ISA). When law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permits, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report (see paragraph 40 of this ISA).

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the planning and performance of the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit

³³ Throughout the illustrative auditor's reports in the Proposed ISAs, the term management may need to be replaced by another term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction. For example, those charged with governance, rather than management, may have these responsibilities.

³⁴ Where management's responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: "Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRSs, and for such ..."

evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.³⁵
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We are required to communicate with [*those charged with governance*] regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We are also required to provide [*those charged with governance*] with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements (para. 41)

[The form and content of this section of the auditor's report would vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities prescribed by local law, regulation, or national auditing standards. Depending on the matters addressed by other law, regulation or national auditing standards, national standard setters may choose to combine reporting on these matters with reporting as required by the ISAs (shown in the Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements section), with wording in the auditor's report that clearly distinguishes between reporting required by the ISAs and other reporting required by law or regulation.]

The engagement partner responsible for the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [*name*]. (para. 42)

[*Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction*] (para. 43)

[*Auditor Address*] (para. 44)

[*Date*] (para. 45)

³⁵ This sentence would be modified, as appropriate, in circumstances when the auditor also has a responsibility to issue an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements.

Illustration 2 – Auditor’s Report on Consolidated Financial Statements of a Listed Entity Prepared in Accordance with a Fair Presentation Framework

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is a group audit of an entity with subsidiaries conducted in accordance with ISA 600.
- The consolidated financial statements are prepared for a general purpose by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs.
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the consolidated financial statements in ISA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with proposed ISA 701.
- No material uncertainty relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern has been identified in accordance with proposed ISA 570.
- In addition to the audit of the consolidated financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements³⁶

Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the consolidated financial position of ABC Company and its subsidiaries (the Group) as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) their consolidated financial performance and their consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of the Group, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group within the meaning of [*indicate relevant ethical requirements or applicable law or regulation*] and have fulfilled our other responsibilities under those ethical requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate

³⁶ The sub-title “Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements” is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title “Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements” is not applicable.

to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements. Key audit matters are selected from the matters communicated with *[those charged with governance]*, but are not intended to represent all matters that were discussed with them. Our audit procedures relating to these matters were designed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole. Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements is not modified with respect to any of the key audit matters described below, and we do not express an opinion on these individual matters.

The four specific topics and content presented below are purely for illustrative purposes. This section would be tailored to the facts and circumstances of the individual audit engagement and the entity. Accordingly, the IAASB has intentionally drafted these examples in a manner that illustrates that Key Audit Matters will vary in terms of the number and selection of topics addressed and the nature in which they may be described, and are intended to be consistent with the disclosures in the entity's consolidated financial statements.

Goodwill

Under IFRSs, the Group is required to annually test the amount of goodwill for impairment. This annual impairment test was significant to our audit because the assessment process is complex and highly judgmental and is based on assumptions that are affected by expected future market or economic conditions, particularly those in *[Countries X and Y]*. As a result, our audit procedures included, among others, using a valuation expert to assist us in evaluating the assumptions and methodologies used by the Group, in particular those relating to the forecasted revenue growth and profit margins for *[name of business lines]*. We also focused on the adequacy of the Group's disclosures about those assumptions to which the outcome of the impairment test is most sensitive, that is, those that have the most significant effect on the determination of the recoverable amount of goodwill. The Group's disclosures about goodwill are included in Note 3, which specifically explains that small changes in the key assumptions used could give rise to an impairment of the goodwill balance in the future.

Valuation of Financial Instruments

The Group's disclosures about its structured financial instruments are included in Note 5. The Group's investments in structured financial instruments represent *[x%]* of the total amount of its financial instruments. Because the valuation of the Group's structured financial instruments is not based on quoted prices in active markets, there is significant measurement uncertainty involved in this valuation. As a result, the valuation of these instruments was significant to our audit. The Group has determined it is necessary to use an entity-developed model to value these instruments, due to their unique structure and terms. We challenged management's rationale for using an entity-developed model, and discussed this with *[those charged with governance]*, and we concluded the use of such a model was appropriate. Our audit procedures also included, among others, testing management's controls related to the development and calibration of the model and confirming that management had determined it was not necessary to make any adjustments to the output of the model to reflect the assumptions that marketplace participants would use in similar circumstances.

Acquisition of XYZ Business

As described in Note 2, in December 20X1, the Group completed the acquisition of XYZ Business. XYZ Business was a division of a large private company. As of December 31, 20X1 the Group has completed the

initial acquisition accounting on a preliminary basis. The Group will finalize the initial acquisition accounting during 20X2, and the amounts recorded as of December 31, 20X1 could change. We focused on this transaction because it is material to the consolidated financial statements as a whole and the fact that values had not previously been assigned to the division as a standalone operation. In addition, determining the assumptions that underlie the initial acquisition accounting and the useful lives associated with the acquired intangible assets involves significant management judgment given the nature of the *[name of industry]*.

Revenue Recognition Relating to Long-Term Contracts

The terms and conditions of the Group's long-term contracts in its *[name of segment]* affect the revenue that the Group recognizes in a period, and the revenue from such contracts represents a material amount of the Group's total revenue. The process to measure the amount of revenue to recognize in the *[name of industry]*, including the determination of the appropriate timing of recognition, involves significant management judgment. We identified revenue recognition of long-term contracts as a significant risk requiring special audit consideration. This is because side agreements may exist that effectively amend the original contracts, and such side agreements may be inadvertently unrecorded or deliberately concealed and therefore present a risk of material misstatement due to fraud. In addition to testing the controls the Group has put in place over its process to enter into and record long-term contracts and other audit procedures, we considered it necessary to confirm the terms of these contracts directly with customers and testing journal entries made by management related to revenue recognition. Based on the audit procedures performed, we did not find evidence of the existence of side agreements. The Group's disclosures about revenue recognition are included in the summary of significant accounting policies in Note 1, as well as Note 4.

Going Concern

The consolidated financial statements of the Group have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting. The use of this basis of accounting is appropriate unless management either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. As part of our audit of the consolidated financial statements, we have concluded that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the Group's consolidated financial statements is appropriate.

Management has not identified a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, and accordingly none is disclosed in the consolidated financial statements of the Group. Based on our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the Group, we also have not identified such a material uncertainty. However, neither management nor the auditor can guarantee the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

Other Information

[The illustrative wording for this section is subject to the IAASB's finalization of proposed ISA 720 (Revised). The content of this section may include, among other matters: (a) a description of the auditor's responsibilities with respect to other information; (b) identification of the document(s) available at the date of the auditor's report that contain the other information to which the auditor's responsibilities apply; (c) a statement addressing the outcome of the auditor's work on the other information; and (d) a statement that the auditor has not audited or reviewed the other information and, accordingly, does not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on it.]

Responsibilities of [Management³⁷ and Those Charged with Governance or other appropriate terms] for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with IFRSs,³⁸ and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. [*Those charged with governance*] are responsible for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

The shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report (see paragraph 39 of this ISA). When law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permits, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report (see paragraph 40 of this ISA).

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the planning and performance of the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.³⁹
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities and business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements.

³⁷ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction

³⁸ Where management's responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: "Management is responsible for the preparation of consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRSs, and for such ..."

³⁹ This sentence would be modified, as appropriate, in circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to issue an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the consolidated financial statements.

We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We are required to communicate with [*those charged with governance*] regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We are also required to provide [*those charged with governance*] with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

[*Reporting in accordance with proposed ISA 700 (Revised) – see Illustration 1.*]

The engagement partner responsible for the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [*name*].

[*Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction*]

[*Auditor Address*]

[*Date*]

Illustration 3 – Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements of an Entity Other than a Listed Entity Prepared in Accordance with a Fair Presentation Framework

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit conducted in accordance with ISA 600.
- The financial statements are prepared for a general purpose by management of the entity in accordance with IFRSs.
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- No material uncertainty relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern has been identified in accordance with proposed ISA 570.
- The auditor is not required, and otherwise has not decided, to include key audit matters in accordance with proposed ISA 701.
- No other information is included with audited financial statements (i.e., proposed ISA 720 (Revised) does not apply).
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under local law.
- The auditor elects to refer to the description of the auditor’s responsibility included on a website of an appropriate authority.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, (or *give a true and fair view of*) the financial position of ABC Company (the Company) as at December 31, 20X1, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

We have audited the financial statements of the Company, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company within the meaning of [*indicate relevant ethical requirements or applicable law or regulation*] and have fulfilled our other responsibilities under those ethical requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Going Concern

The Company's financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting. The use of this basis of accounting is appropriate unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. As part of our audit of the financial statements, we have concluded that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the Company's financial statements is appropriate.

Management has not identified a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, and accordingly none is disclosed in the financial statements. Based on our audit of the financial statements, we also have not identified such a material uncertainty. However, neither management nor the auditor can guarantee the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Responsibilities of [Management⁴⁰ and Those Charged with Governance or other appropriate terms] for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with IFRSs,⁴¹ and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. [Those charged with governance] are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements that is part of this auditor's report is located at [Organization's] website at: [website link].

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

⁴⁰ Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction

⁴¹ Where management's responsibility is to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view, this may read: "Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRSs, and for such..."

Illustration 4 – Auditor’s Report on Financial Statements of an Entity Other than a Listed Entity Prepared in Accordance with a General Purpose Compliance Framework

For purposes of this illustrative auditor’s report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity required by law or regulation. The audit is not a group audit conducted in accordance with ISA 600.
- The financial statements are prepared for a general purpose by management of the entity in accordance with the Financial Reporting Framework (XYZ Law) of Jurisdiction X (that is, a financial reporting framework, encompassing law or regulation, designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users, but which is not a fair presentation framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management’s responsibility for the financial statements in ISA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., “clean”) opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- No material uncertainty relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern has been identified in accordance with proposed ISA 570.
- The auditor is not required, and otherwise has not decided, to include key audit matters in accordance with proposed ISA 701.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements of ABC Company (the Company) are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with XYZ Law of Jurisdiction X.

We have audited the financial statements of the Company, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 20X1, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company within the meaning of [*indicate relevant ethical requirements or applicable law or regulation*] and have fulfilled our other responsibilities under those relevant ethical requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Going Concern

[Reporting in accordance with proposed ISA 570 (Revised) – see Illustration 1]

Other Information

[The illustrative wording for this section is subject to the IAASB’s finalization of proposed ISA 720 (Revised). The content of this section may include, among other matters: (a) a description of the auditor’s responsibilities

with respect to other information; (b) identification of the document(s) available at the date of the auditor's report that contain the other information to which the auditor's responsibilities apply; (c) a statement addressing the outcome of the auditor's work on the other information; and (d) a statement that the auditor has not audited or reviewed the other information and, accordingly, does not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on it.]

Responsibilities of [Management⁴² and Those Charged with Governance or other appropriate terms] for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with XYZ Law of Jurisdiction X, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. [*Those charged with governance*] are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report (see paragraph 39 of this ISA). When law, regulation or national auditing standards expressly permits, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report (see paragraph 40 of this ISA).

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the planning and performance of the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.⁴³
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

We are required to communicate with [*those charged with governance*] regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

⁴² Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction

⁴³ This sentence would be modified, as appropriate, in circumstances when the auditor also has responsibility to issue an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements.

[Signature in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor, or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]