

The Subcommittee on Accounting and Reporting proposes that the GOVs in the 9200 series be updated by providing links to other more current documents that provide substantive guidance.

There are currently 4 GOVs in the 9200 series (Accounting Standards):

9200 – Accounting Standards Framework

9210 – Accounting Standards Framework Implementation Guide for SAIs: Departmental and Government-wide Financial Reporting

9220 – Management Discussion and Analysis of Financial Performance and Other Information

9230 – Guidance on Definition and Disclosure of Public Debt

In reviewing these GOVs, we have concluded that they are significantly out of date. We are proposing that, rather than expending energy on updating the material, we should consider making use of existing material that is already up to date. As you know IPSAS has already completed (or is in the process of preparing) material that is relevant to these topics. We therefore propose to use links to IPSAS documents and, in the case of the guidance on Public Debt, to the new ISSAI on Debt Indicators (5411) rather than producing other GOVs on these subjects.

The following is a review of how each current GOV could be replaced by links to IPSAS documents and to the new ISSAI on Debt Indicators:

GOV9200 – Accounting Standards Framework

Themes in this document are largely covered by two IPSAS documents which represent projects *in process*, not final standards

- Conceptual Framework for General Purpose Financial Reporting by Public Sector Entities – Phase 1 Exposure Draft (addresses Statements 1, 2 and 3 and “The Reporting Entity” portion of Statement 4 of GOV9200); and
- Conceptual Framework for General Purpose Financial Reporting by Public Sector Entities; Elements and Recognition in Financial Statements – Phase 2 Consultation Paper (addresses The Reporting Elements portion of Statement 4 of GOV9200).

The IPSAS documents that will be produced by this process are expected to be current and rigorous .

Not covered in IPSAS are the concepts of compliance reports, performance reports and departmental reports, the types of bases of accounting (cash, modified cash, modified accrual and full accrual) and circumstances where types of reports and bases of accounting would be most appropriate (pages 25-32 of GOV9200).

GOV9210 - Accounting Standards Framework Implementation Guide for SAIs: Departmental and Government-wide Financial Reporting

This GOV gives implementation guidance on Financial, Departmental and Government-wide reporting showing examples of financial, compliance and performance reports. IPSAS does not prepare guidance on this basis. It does, however, have a project underway on how to report service performance information (at the March 2011 meeting the Board reviewed a draft Consultation Paper titled “Service Performance Information”) which is considerably more rigorous than the GOV, albeit not on a financial/compliance/performance report basis.

The IPSAS document that will be produced by this process is expected to be current and rigorous .

GOV9220 – Management Discussion and Analysis of Financial Performance and Other Information

The key themes in this document are covered by an IPSAS project on Narrative Reporting. The IPSASB reviewed an Issues Paper on Narrative Reporting at its March 2011 meeting and is expected to move this project towards a standard in upcoming months.

The IPSAS document that will be produced by this process is expected to be current and rigorous.

GOV 9230 – Guidance on Definition and Disclosure of Public Debt

The key themes in this document are covered in IPSAS 30 – Financial Instruments Disclosures and the recently (Nov. 2010) released ISSAI 5411 Debt Indicators. These documents are current and rigorous.