

IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING STANDARDS (IPSAS)



IPSAS®

Benefits of Accrual Accounting

Increased transparency

- Full reporting and disclosure of financial transactions when they occur.
- More accurate reflection of overall financial position with recognition of assets and liabilities.

Informed decision making

- Better information for resource allocation and assessing financial sustainability, including the availability of accounting information as inputs for statistical reporting and budgets.
- Reflects the true costs of activities for a longer-term view of financing decisions.
- Assists in evaluating whether current revenues cover the costs of current programs and services.

Accountability

- Ensures governments are accountable for decisions by reflecting actual costs.
- Requires complete records of assets and liabilities, enabling:
 - Better planning for future funding needs for asset maintenance and replacement.
 - Assessment of the affordability of ongoing and new programs and services.
- Promotes inter-generational equity by revealing the financial impact of decisions on current and future net assets/equity.

IFAC TOOLS TO SUPPORT IPSAS IMPLEMENTATION

High-quality, global public sector accounting standards are critical to strong public financial management (PFM), driving transparency and comparability, accountability and informed decision making in governments worldwide. IFAC strongly advocates for the adoption and implementation of accrual accounting, in particular the accrual-basis International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), developed by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB).

The *International Public Sector Financial Accountability Index* forecasts a significant global shift from cash to accrual accounting by 2030, and as more jurisdictions commit to the adoption of accrual accounting, there is increasing demand for support to ensure its successful implementation.

A move to accrual accounting is best undertaken as part of an integrated public financial reform program. Such a program involves different stakeholder groups, as well as skills and expertise at various stages throughout the reform process. IFAC's role in supporting adoption and implementation includes:

Global Advocacy

- IFAC's Points of View: [Greater Transparency and Accountability in the Public Sector | IFAC](#)
- G20 Call to Action: [Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet: G20 Call to Action | IFAC](#)

Capacity Building

- Engagement with international donors and the development community through [MOSAIC](#).
- Programs to strengthen accountancy expertise and PFM skills, including with [GAVI and the Global Fund](#).

Guidance & Thought Leadership

- IPSAS implementation support tools, including [Pathways to Accrual](#) & [Implementing IPSAS: A Guide for Trainers](#), outlined below.
- Thought leadership on related topics including professionalization and preparing for sustainability reporting and assurance in the public sector: [Public Sector | IFAC](#)

IFAC Membership Obligations

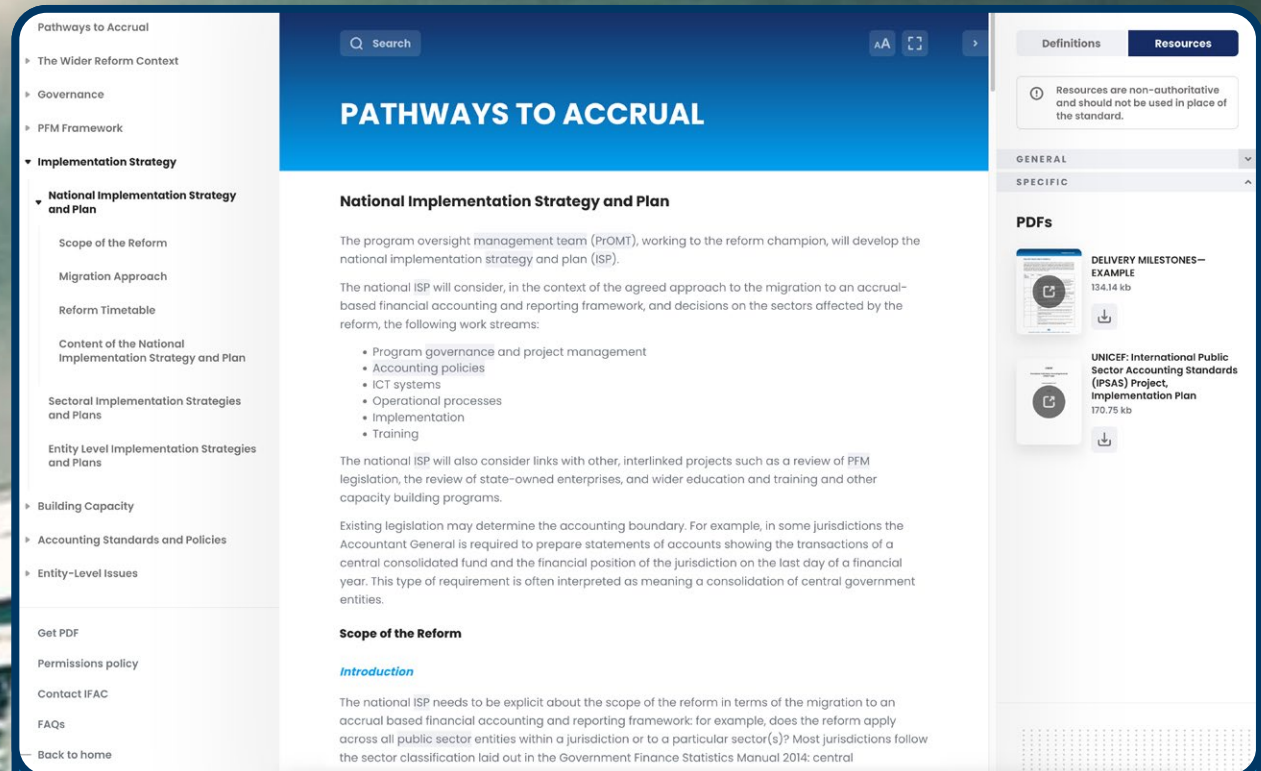
- IFAC's [Statements of Membership Obligations](#) require IFAC members, within the scope of their regulatory authority, to identify and undertake actions to advance adoption of IPSAS and support implementation in their jurisdictions.
- IFAC's [Member Compliance Program](#) monitors these actions and tracks progress. IPSAS Adoption amongst IFAC member jurisdictions is published on the [International Standards' Adoption Map](#).

PATHWAYS TO ACCRUAL

Pathways to Accrual is a digital platform offering guidance, templates and case studies, serving as a central hub of resources to support governments and other public sector entities plan and execute a transition from cash to accrual accounting.

Through an easy to navigate platform, *Pathways to Accrual* helps entities consider key aspects, identify critical tasks and issues, and tailor their approach to transition.

- Outlines the benefits and implications of implementing accrual accounting.
- Lays out the fundamentals to strong governance and PFM.
- Explores multiple transition pathways for incremental implementation of accrual.
- Identifies the main tasks associated with recognition of assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses, including issues and challenges in the identification and measurement of those elements in financial statements.
- Gives practical suggestions and guidance based on the experience of other entities and jurisdictions.
- Provides links to other useful guidance and resources to help entities make appropriate decisions for their unique circumstances.



The platform will continue to improve and adapt with resources and feedback. If your jurisdiction has a case study or resource to share, let us know by [completing this form](#) or by email to pathways@ifac.org

Scan QR code to access
or visit pathways.ifac.org



IMPLEMENTING IPSAS: A GUIDE FOR TRAINERS

This comprehensive package of training materials collectively titled *Implementing IPSAS: A Guide for Trainers* equips trainers with resources to deliver effective training on the IPSAS and their application. Comprising ten modules, each with a trainer's manual and customizable slide decks, the materials focus on key areas most relevant to public sector entities transitioning to IPSAS for the first time.

Updated in 2024, these materials are technically sound and can help in the provision of training that delivers the skills and knowledge necessary for a successful reform program.



Ten modules covering: Introduction, Assets, Liabilities, Revenues, Expenses, Financial Instruments, Consolidation and Public Sector Combinations, Presentation, First Time Adoption of Accrual Basis IPSAS, and Other Pronouncements.

Designed to be customizable:

- Each module is broken down into standalone topics that can be delivered as individual sessions.
- Trainers can choose which topics to focus on, and in what order to run sessions.
- Slide decks include speaker notes.

- Country specific requirements or considerations can be incorporated.
- Can be used for in-person or virtual training.

Developed with students in mind:

- Practical examples.
- Review questions to test understanding.



Scan QR code to access or visit [Implementing IPSAS: A Guide for Trainers | IFAC](#)

IPSASB'S STANDARDS AND PRONOUNCEMENTS

The *Handbook of International Public Sector Accounting Pronouncements* is the primary authoritative source of international generally accepted accounting principles for public sector entities. [Access the IPSASB's Standards and Pronouncements.](#)

IPSASB

International Public
Sector Accounting
Standards Board®

