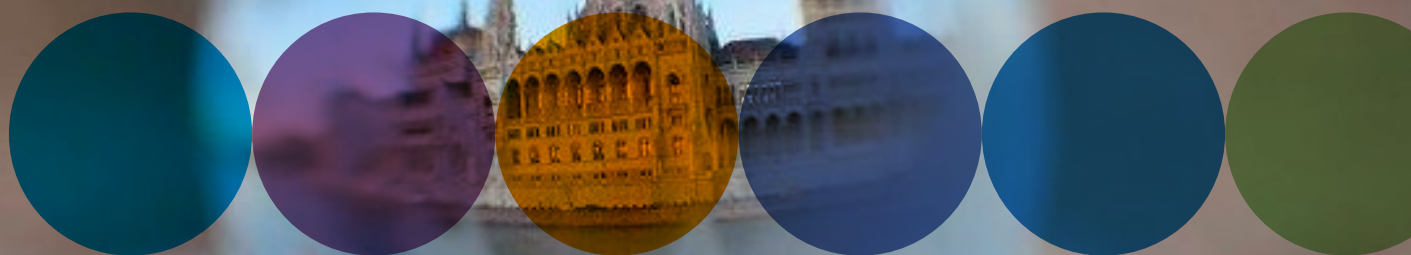




IAIS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
INSURANCE SUPERVISORS

2016



IAIS ANNUAL REPORT

Activities from January
through December 2016

Including 2016 Financial Statements

TABLE OF ACRONYMS

A2II	Access to Insurance Initiative
CSFWG	Capital, Solvency and Field Testing Working Group
FSTC	Financial Stability and Technical Committee
GIMAR	Global Insurance Market Report
G-SII	Global Systemically Important Insurer
IAA	International Association of Actuaries
IAASB	International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board
IAIG	Internationally Active Insurance Group
IASB	International Accounting Standards Board
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
ICP	Insurance Core Principle
ICS	Insurance Capital Standard
ISA	International Standard on Accounting
KIRT	Key Insurance Risks and Trends
MMOU	Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding
SAPR	Self-Assessment and Peer Review

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



Yoshihiro Kawai
Secretary General

"Making the Impossible, Possible"

As Secretary General, I have had the privilege of living through a remarkable period of IAIS history – one marked by a root culture of commitment to its mission and cooperation across jurisdictions. The issues IAIS Members tackle are often complex and the parties involved are typically many and diverse. Discussions can be intense, but are always constructive and built on a foundation of cooperation that is the source of IAIS success. From the beginning, IAIS Members have helped one another by exchanging information and developing and implementing supervisory standards. Thanks to the continued dedication and cooperation, and the strong operational foundation supporting its work, the IAIS has achieved excellent results. These results demonstrate why the IAIS has a history of making the impossible, possible.

For instance, some said it was impossible for the IAIS to develop Insurance Core Principles (ICPs). We now have 26 ICPs. Some said developing a systemic risk assessment process was not possible. The IAIS now has effective entity-based processes in place, while also exploring an activity-based approach to systematic risk assessment. Others said it was impossible to develop the Basic Capital Requirement. Once again, what was said to be impossible was made possible because of the vision and commitment of IAIS Members.

The IAIS has made remarkable progress on the Insurance Capital Standard (ICS) through intensive field testing, analysis and discussion. We are excited about the July 2017 release of Version 1.0 for extended field testing. In 2016, the IAIS continued to make progress on ComFrame, the Common Framework for the Supervision of Internationally Active Insurance Groups (IAIGs), including both qualitative standards and the development of ICS Version 1.0 for extended field testing. It updated the assessment methodology for Global Systemically Important Insurers (G-SIIs) and applied it in making G-SII recommendations to the Financial Stability Board.

Several ICPs were revised and, subject to Executive Committee approval, were scheduled for public consultation in March 2017. The Stakeholder Engagement Task Force completed work on a draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

As the volume of projects would suggest, the rhythm of our work is changing. This organisation is experiencing a steady increase in the number of meetings, consultations stakeholder events and papers.

As I pointed out in my report at the 2016 IAIS Annual General Meeting, and as evidenced by our many workstreams, the IAIS contributes to a whole range of insurance activities from standard-setting to standard implementation, from financial stability to financial inclusion. It contributes more directly to regulation and supervision within Member jurisdictions. IAIS assessment activities are achieving significant results. Over 115 jurisdictions have now participated in the Self-Assessment and Peer Review (SAPR) programme.

IAIS standards directly influence Member regulation and supervision. The meetings, negotiations and debates have grown more robust as the stakes have risen and the timeframes for achieving our goals have become more compressed.

This evolution is both positive and remarkable. As we contribute to insurance supervision and regulation globally, it is important that we do not forget the importance of the process – the process of dialogue, understanding and learning from one another.

Because of the intensity of our schedule throughout the year, we must redouble our efforts to allocate sufficient time for reflection and planning. As we do from time to time in our personal lives, this is critical to our long-term organisational well-being and achieving the ambitious goals reflected in our mission statement and five-year strategic plan

So as we move forward, let's recommit ourselves to the root culture of cooperation and appreciation that has made the "impossible, possible", for the greater good of all and continue to enjoy the success built upon this foundation.

ABOUT US

Established in 1994, the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) is a voluntary Member-driven, non-profit organisation of insurance supervisors and regulators formed under Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code. With over 210 Members (accounting for nearly 100% of worldwide premium volume),¹ the IAIS is the international standard-setting body responsible for developing and supporting the implementation of principles, standards and guidance for the supervision of the insurance sector.

The IAIS provides an important forum for Members and stakeholders to discuss supervisory practices and issues of mutual interest.

Because the IAIS represents a body of informed professional opinion within the field of insurance supervision, the Group of 20 and many international bodies routinely call upon the collective expertise of IAIS Members. Hosted by the Bank for International Settlements, the IAIS operates with the support of a Secretariat located in Basel, Switzerland under the direction of a Secretary General.

GOVERNING STRUCTURE

The IAIS consists of the following three organs: the General Meeting of Members, the Executive Committee and its committees and subcommittees, and the Secretariat.

The **General Meeting of Members** may amend the by-laws; adopt principles, standards and guidance developed by the association or other persons or entities not already adopted by the Executive Committee (eg Executive Committee defers the decision to the General Meeting), elect Executive Committee Members and take other actions specified in the bylaws.

The **Executive Committee** is responsible for providing strategic direction and managing IAIS affairs in a manner consistent with the specific duties set forth in the by-laws. It appoints the Secretary General and takes all decisions necessary to achieve the IAIS mission in accordance with the directions given by the General Meeting. From time-to-time, it creates subcommittees to work on specific issues. Representatives are drawn from every region of the world and different types of insurance markets.

In accordance with IAIS by-laws, the Executive Committee has established the following four committees, all of which report to the Executive Committee:

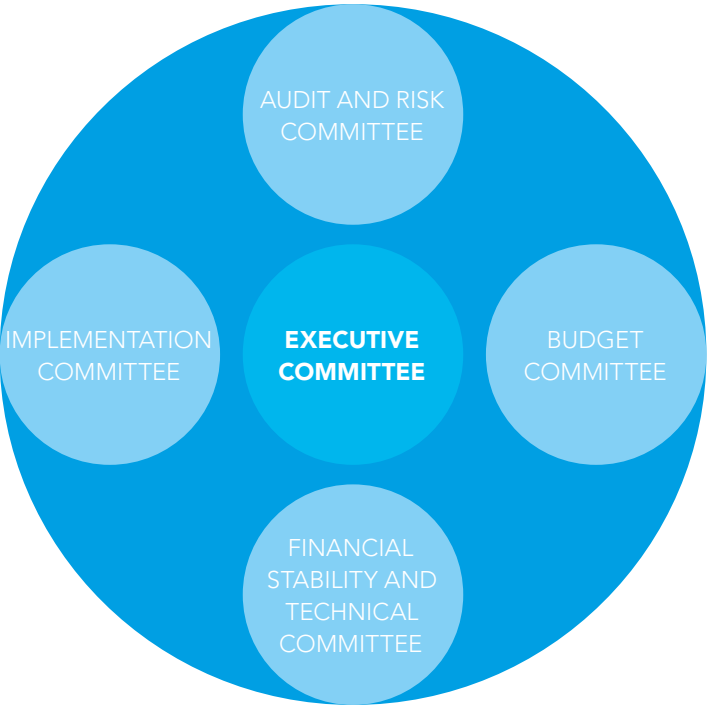
- [Audit and Risk](#)
- [Budget](#)
- [Financial Stability and Technical](#)
- [Implementation](#)

The **Audit and Risk Committee** is responsible for reviewing IAIS internal controls and monitoring IAIS activities for achievement of objectives and compliance with applicable procedures and resolutions.

The **Budget Committee** is responsible for proposing an annual budget and annual member fees to the Executive Committee and periodically reporting to the Executive Committee on the financial situation of the IAIS.

The **Financial Stability and Technical Committee** (FSTC) is responsible for developing international principles, standards, guidance and other documents related to insurance supervision and performing work on issues related to financial stability, systemic risk and macroprudential supervision and surveillance. It steers and oversees this standard-setting and financial stability work consistent with strategic guidance from the Executive Committee.

IAIS COMMITTEES



This includes, but is not limited to, completing, reviewing and updating IAIS supervisory and supporting material; developing ComFrame, including an ICS; and analysing and developing IAIS supervisory and supporting material on issues related to financial stability, systemic risk and macroprudential supervision.

The **Implementation Committee** is responsible for issues related to assessments and assistance in the implementation of IAIS principles, standards and guidance.

The IAIS holds committee meetings at least four times a year, and subcommittee meetings on an as-needed basis, in Member jurisdictions throughout the world.

The **Secretariat** is directed by the Secretary General appointed by the Executive Committee and acts at the direction of the Executive Committee. Its main responsibilities are to support IAIS activities; ensure efficient communication among Members, stakeholders and others; maintain and reinforce the IAIS; facilitate cooperation with other institutions; manage the financial, material and human resources of the IAIS and carry out all other functions assigned by the Executive Committee.

"Actively contributing to the IAIS mission promotes mutual understanding globally for the benefit of consumers and policyholders around the world".

[Gabriel Bernardino, Chair, EIOPA; Member, IAIS Executive Committee](#)

¹ A current membership list can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

MISSION

The IAIS is guided by the following mission statement:

The IAIS mission is to promote effective and globally consistent supervision of the insurance industry in order to develop and maintain fair, safe and stable insurance markets for the benefit and protection of policyholders, and to contribute to global financial stability.

In carrying out its mission, the IAIS operates in an open and transparent manner, setting an appropriate example of transparency, administrative due process and governance, while maintaining the ability of supervisors to exchange sensitive information in confidence. All consultations on supervisory and supporting material are conducted in public.

Stakeholder meetings are an integral part of the IAIS decision-making process. Extensive stakeholder engagement is reflected in the work of IAIS committees and subcommittees and in the commitments contained in the IAIS [Stakeholder Engagement Plan](#).

The IAIS mission has evolved steadily over time. Starting out

modestly as a forum to exchange views and information, the IAIS has evolved into a global insurance standard-setting body responsible for developing and assisting in the implementation of supervisory and supporting material and contributing to financial stability. Yet, importantly, it still serves as a forum for Members to share their experiences and understanding of insurance supervision and insurance markets.

In addition to its mission statement, the IAIS is guided by a five-year Strategic Plan and Financial Outlook, with the current version covering the period 2015-19. As shown in [Figure 1](#), this strategic plan includes seven "High Level Goals", each of which is accompanied by specific strategies for achieving that goal and supported with a detailed project roadmap.

It is important to point out that the IAIS is a stand-setter, not a legislature. Members do not pass laws; through agreement, they recommend principles and standards and provide supervisory guidance. It is the prerogative of the appropriate sovereign authorities to implement or not implement IAIS core principles, standards or policies.

IAIS HIGH LEVEL GOALS, 2015 – 19

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Assessing/responding to insurance sector vulnerabilities | 3. Contributing to financial stability in the insurance sector | 5. Enhancing implementation/observance of ICPs |
| 2. The IAIS as global standard setter for insurance | 4. Enhancing effective supervision | 6. Effective stakeholder outreach and external interaction |
| | | 7. Effective and efficient organisation and operations |

Figure 1

EVOLUTION OF THE IAIS MISSION (1994-2016)

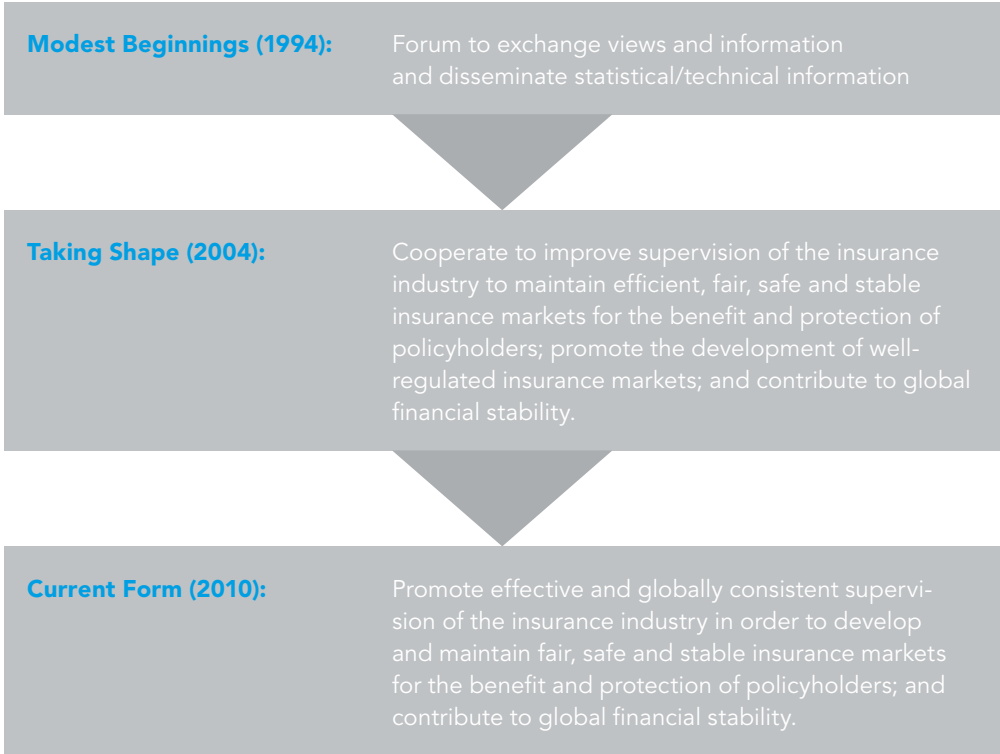


Figure 2

"When I joined the IAIS in 1994, the Association was a big family of insurance supervisors. Today, it is still a big family but now a recognized international standard setter".

Peter Braumüller, Managing Director, Austrian Financial Market Authority; former Chair, IAIS Executive Committee, and Chair, IAIS Budget Committee

ACTIVITIES

The IAIS reach in the global insurance sector is broad. Work streams include, but are not limited to, capital and solvency, financial stability, governance, accounting and auditing, resolution, reinsurance, systemic risk, conduct of business, risk management, FinTech, emerging risks, financial inclusion and supervisory capacity building.

These work streams all fit together and feed into and support one another. Standard-setting is the origin of IAIS activities from which the other work streams are developed. They rest upon this foundation. There is a sequential order to IAIS activities. Activities undertaken by the IAIS in furtherance of its mission can be grouped into three primary areas: standard-setting, financial stability and implementation.

STANDARD-SETTING

Standard-setting is a core IAIS activity. The IAIS develops and publishes supervisory, supporting and other material with the objective of promoting consistent, sound and effective supervision of the insurance sector. The IAIS completed substantial standard-setting work in 2016.

Supervisory material consists of principles, standards and guidance and is classified into the following categories using a three-tier approach as depicted in Figure 3: ICPs, ComFrame, and G-SII policy measures. The ICPs apply to the supervision of all insurers within a jurisdiction. ComFrame builds upon the ICPs with standards and guidance specific to the supervision of IAIGs.

The three-tier approach reflects the proportionate response of the IAIS; that is, that supervisors should have the flexibility to tailor certain supervisory requirements and actions in accordance with the nature, scale and complexity of individual insurers and exercise "supervisory common sense" – fit solutions to the risk in a flexible and evolving way that achieves IAIS objectives but does not impede stable business development.

Supporting material consists of **Issues Papers** and **Application Papers**. Issues Papers provide background on particular topics, describe current practices, actual examples or case studies pertaining to a particular topic and/or identify related regulatory and supervisory issues and challenges. Issues Papers are primarily descriptive and not meant to create expectations on how supervisors should implement supervisory material. Issues Papers often form part of the preparatory work for developing standards and may contain recommendations for future work by the IAIS.

Application Papers provide additional material related to one or more ICPs, ComFrame

"Throughout the last two decades the IAIS has evolved in a dramatic way. The two main drivers in this evolution have been its capacity to adapt to the changing global financial environment and the outstanding commitment of its membership".

Manuel Aguilera Verduzco, former IAIS Executive Committee Chair

or G-SII policy measures, including actual examples or case studies that help with the practical application of supervisory material. Application Papers could be provided in circumstances where the practical application of principles and standards may vary or where their interpretation and implementation may pose challenges. Application Papers can provide further advice, illustrations, recommendations or examples of good practice to supervisors on how supervisory material may be implemented.

Supervisory and supporting material must undergo a public consultation process.

The IAIS produces other written material such as reports, surveys and comment letters that falls outside of supervisory and supporting material

(For a complete list of action taken on supervisory and supporting material, please see pages 44-45 of this report.)

ARCHITECTURE OF IAIS INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISORY REQUIREMENTS

Type of Entity	Legal Entity	Group	Internationally Active Insurance Group	Global Systematically Important Insurer	
First tier ICPs	ICPs that apply only to legal entities	ICPs that apply to legal entities and groups			
Second tier ComFrame	ComFrame				
Third tier G-SII package				G-SII package	

Figure 3

