

IASB documents published to accompany**IAS 1****Presentation of Financial Statements**

The text of the unaccompanied standard, IAS 1, is contained in Part A of this edition. Its effective date when issued was 1 January 2009. The text of the Accompanying Guidance on IAS 1 is contained in Part B of this edition. This part presents the following documents:

BASIS FOR CONCLUSIONS**APPENDIX TO THE BASIS FOR CONCLUSIONS****Amendments to the Basis for Conclusions on other IFRSs****DISSENTING OPINIONS**

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Basis for Conclusions on IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements

This Basis for Conclusions accompanies, but is not part of, IAS 1.

The International Accounting Standards Board revised IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements in 2007 as part of its project on financial statement presentation. It was not the Board's intention to reconsider as part of that project all the requirements in IAS 1.

For convenience, the Board has incorporated into this Basis for Conclusions relevant material from the Basis for Conclusions on the revision of IAS 1 in 2003 and its amendment in 2005. Paragraphs have been renumbered and reorganised as necessary to reflect the new structure of the Standard.

Introduction

BC1 The International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) issued the first version of IAS 1 *Disclosure of Accounting Policies* in 1975. It was reformatted in 1994 and superseded in 1997 by IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements*.¹ In 2003 the International Accounting Standards Board revised IAS 1 as part of the Improvements project and in 2005 the Board amended it as a consequence of issuing IFRS 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures*. In 2007 the Board revised IAS 1 again as part of its project on financial statement presentation. This Basis for Conclusions summarises the Board's considerations in reaching its conclusions on revising IAS 1 in 2003, on amending it in 2005 and revising it in 2007. It includes reasons for accepting some approaches and rejecting others. Individual Board members gave greater weight to some factors than to others.

The Improvements project—revision of IAS 1 (2003)

BC2 In July 2001 the Board announced that, as part of its initial agenda of technical projects, it would undertake a project to improve a number of standards, including IAS 1. The project was undertaken in the light of queries and criticisms raised in relation to the standards by securities regulators, professional accountants and other interested parties. The objectives of the Improvements project were to reduce or eliminate alternatives, redundancies and conflicts within standards, to deal with some convergence issues and to make other improvements. The Board's intention was not to reconsider the fundamental approach to the presentation of financial statements established by IAS 1 in 1997.

BC3 In May 2002 the Board published an exposure draft of proposed *Improvements to International Accounting Standards*, which contained proposals to revise IAS 1. The Board received more than 160 comment letters. After considering the responses the Board issued in 2003 a revised version of IAS 1. In its revision the Board's main objectives were:

- (a) to provide a framework within which an entity assesses how to present fairly the effects of transactions and other events, and assesses whether the result of complying with a requirement in an IFRS would be so misleading that it would not give a fair presentation;
- (b) to base the criteria for classifying liabilities as current or non-current solely on the conditions existing at the balance sheet date;
- (c) to prohibit the presentation of items of income and expense as 'extraordinary items';
- (d) to specify disclosures about the judgements that management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies, apart from those involving estimations, and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements; and
- (e) to specify disclosures about sources of estimation uncertainty at the balance sheet date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

BC4 The following sections summarise the Board's considerations in reaching its conclusions as part of its Improvements project in 2003:

- (a) departures from IFRSs (paragraphs BC23–BC30)
- (b) criterion for exemption from requirements (paragraphs BC34–BC36)

¹ IASC did not publish a Basis for Conclusions.

- (c) effect of events after the reporting period on the classification of liabilities (paragraphs BC39–BC48)
- (d) results of operating activities (paragraphs BC55 and BC56)
- (e) minority interest (paragraph BC59)²
- (f) extraordinary items (paragraphs BC60–BC64)
- (g) disclosure of the judgements management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies (paragraphs BC77 and BC78)
- (h) disclosure of major sources of estimation uncertainty (paragraphs BC79–BC84).

Amendment to IAS 1—*Capital Disclosures* (2005)

- BC5 In August 2005 the Board issued an Amendment to IAS 1—*Capital Disclosures*. The amendment added to IAS 1 requirements for disclosure of:
- (a) the entity's objectives, policies and processes for managing capital.
 - (b) quantitative data about what the entity regards as capital.
 - (c) whether the entity has complied with any capital requirements; and if it has not complied, the consequences of such non-compliance.
- BC6 The following sections summarise the Board's considerations in reaching its conclusions as part of its amendment to IAS 1 in 2005:
- (a) disclosures about capital (paragraphs BC85–BC89)
 - (b) objectives, policies and processes for managing capital (paragraphs BC90 and BC91)
 - (c) externally imposed capital requirements (paragraphs BC92–BC97)
 - (d) internal capital targets (paragraphs BC98–BC100).

Amendments to IAS 32 and IAS 1—*Puttable Financial Instruments and Obligations Arising on Liquidation* (2008)

- BC6A In July 2006 the Board published an exposure draft of proposed amendments to IAS 32 and IAS 1 relating to the classification of puttable instruments and instruments with obligations arising only on liquidation. The Board subsequently confirmed the proposals and in February 2008 issued an amendment that now forms part of IAS 1.

***Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income* (Amendments to IAS 1)**

- BC6B In May 2010 the Board published an exposure draft of proposed amendments to IAS 1 relating to the presentation of items of other comprehensive income (OCI). The Board subsequently modified and confirmed the proposals and in June 2011 issued *Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income* (Amendments to IAS 1). The amendments were developed in a joint project with the US national standard-setter, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), with the aim of aligning the presentation of OCI so that information in financial statements prepared by entities using IFRSs and entities using US generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) can be more easily compared.

Financial statement presentation—Joint project

- BC7 In September 2001 the Board added to its agenda the performance reporting project (in March 2006 renamed the 'financial statement presentation project'). The objective of the project was to enhance the usefulness of information presented in the income statement. The Board developed a possible new model for reporting income and expenses and conducted preliminary testing. Similarly, in the United States, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) added a project on performance reporting to its agenda in

² In January 2008 the IASB issued an amended IAS 27 *Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements*, which amended 'minority interest' to 'non-controlling interests'. The consolidation requirements in IAS 27 were superseded by IFRS 10 *Consolidated Financial Statements* issued in May 2011. The term 'non-controlling interests' and the requirements for non-controlling interests were not changed.

October 2001, developed its model and conducted preliminary testing. Constituents raised concerns about both models and about the fact that they were different.

BC8 In April 2004 the Board and the FASB decided to work on financial statement presentation as a joint project. They agreed that the project should address presentation and display not only in the income statement, but also in the other statements that, together with the income statement, would constitute a complete set of financial statements—the balance sheet, the statement of changes in equity, and the cash flow statement. The Board decided to approach the project in two phases. Phase A would address the statements that constitute a complete set of financial statements and the periods for which they are required to be presented. Phase B would be undertaken jointly with the FASB and would address more fundamental issues relating to presentation and display of information in the financial statements, including:

- (a) consistent principles for aggregating information in each financial statement.
- (b) the totals and subtotals that should be reported in each financial statement.
- (c) whether components of other comprehensive income should be reclassified to profit or loss and, if so, the characteristics of the transactions and events that should be reclassified and when reclassification should be made.
- (d) whether the direct or the indirect method of presenting operating cash flows provides more useful information.

BC9 In March 2006, as a result of its work in phase A, the Board published an exposure draft of proposed amendments to IAS 1—*A Revised Presentation*. The Board received more than 130 comment letters. The exposure draft proposed amendments that affected the presentation of owner changes in equity and the presentation of comprehensive income, but did not propose to change the recognition, measurement or disclosure of specific transactions and other events required by other IFRSs. It also proposed to bring IAS 1 largely into line with the US standard—SFAS 130 *Reporting Comprehensive Income*. After considering the responses to the exposure draft the Board issued a revised version of IAS 1. The FASB decided to consider phases A and B issues together, and therefore did not publish an exposure draft on phase A.

BC10 The following sections summarise the Board's considerations in reaching its conclusions as part of its revision in 2007:

- (a) general purpose financial statements (paragraphs BC11–BC13)
- (b) titles of financial statements (paragraphs BC14–BC21)
- (c) equal prominence (paragraph BC22)
- (d) a statement of financial position as at the beginning of the earliest comparative period (paragraphs BC31 and BC32)
- (e) IAS 34 *Interim Financial Reporting* (paragraph BC33)
- (f) reporting owner and non- owner changes in equity (paragraphs BC37 and BC38)
- (g) reporting comprehensive income (paragraphs BC49–BC54)
- (h) subtotal for profit or loss (paragraphs BC57 and BC58)
- (i) other comprehensive income- related tax effects (paragraphs BC65–BC68)
- (j) reclassification adjustments (paragraphs BC69–BC73)
- (k) effects of retrospective application or retrospective restatement (paragraph BC74)
- (l) presentation of dividends (paragraph BC75)
- (m) IAS 7 *Cash Flow Statements* (paragraph BC76)
- (n) presentation of measures per share (paragraphs BC101–BC104)
- (o) effective date and transition (paragraph BC105)
- (p) differences from SFAS 130 (paragraph BC106).

Definitions

General purpose financial statements (paragraph 7)

- BC11 The exposure draft of 2006 proposed a change to the explanatory paragraph of what ‘general purpose financial statements’ include, in order to produce a more generic definition of a set of financial statements. Paragraph 7 of the exposure draft stated:
- General purpose financial statements include those that are presented separately or within other *public* documents such as a *regulatory filing* or report to shareholders. [emphasis added]
- BC12 Respondents expressed concern about the proposed change. They argued that it could be understood as defining as general purpose financial statements any financial statement or set of financial statements filed with a regulator and could capture documents other than annual reports and prospectuses. They saw this change as expanding the scope of IAS 1 to documents that previously would not have contained all of the disclosures required by IAS 1. Respondents pointed out that the change would particularly affect some entities (such as small private companies and subsidiaries of public companies with no external users of financial reports) that are required by law to place their financial statements on a public file.
- BC13 The Board acknowledged that in some countries the law requires entities, whether public or private, to report to regulatory authorities and include information in those reports that could be beyond the scope of IAS 1. Because the Board did not intend to extend the definition of general purpose financial statements, it decided to eliminate the explanatory paragraph of what ‘general purpose financial statements’ include, while retaining the definition of ‘general purpose financial statements’.

Definition of Material (paragraph 7)

Background

- BC13A The Board was informed at the *Discussion Forum on Financial Reporting Disclosure* it hosted in January 2013,³ through feedback on the amendments to IAS 1 in the 2014 Exposure Draft *Disclosure Initiative*, the 2017 Discussion Paper *Disclosure Initiative—Principles of Disclosure*, and from other sources, that entities experience difficulties in making materiality judgements when preparing financial statements.
- BC13B The feedback indicated that difficulties in making materiality judgements are generally behavioural rather than related to the definition of material. That feedback indicated that some entities apply the disclosure requirements in IFRS Standards mechanically, using them as a checklist for disclosures in their financial statements, rather than applying their judgement to determine what information is material. Some entities have said that it is easier to use a checklist approach than to apply judgement because of management resource constraints, and because following a mechanical approach means that their judgement is less likely to be challenged by auditors, regulators or users of their financial statements. Similarly, some entities say that they prefer to be cautious when deciding whether to omit disclosures to avoid the risk of being challenged by these parties.
- BC13C The Board concluded that these behavioural difficulties could best be addressed by providing guidance to help entities make materiality judgements, rather than by making substantive changes to the definition of material. Consequently, in September 2017 the Board issued IFRS Practice Statement 2 *Making Materiality Judgements* (Materiality Practice Statement).
- BC13D Although many stakeholders agreed that substantive changes to the definition of material were unnecessary, the Board received some feedback that the definition of material might encourage entities to disclose immaterial information in their financial statements. Feedback suggested that the Board should address the following points:
- (a) the phrase ‘could influence decisions of users’, to describe the threshold for deciding whether information is material, may be understood as requiring too much information to be provided, because almost anything ‘could’ influence the decisions of some users of the financial statements, even if such a possibility were remote;
 - (b) the phrase ‘information is material if omitting it or misstating it’ focuses only on information that cannot be omitted (material information) and does not also consider the effect of including immaterial information; and

³ A Feedback Statement summarising the feedback from that forum and from the Board’s related survey on financial reporting disclosure is available on the IFRS Foundation website at <http://www.ifrs.org/-/media/project/disclosure-initiative/feedback-statement-discussion-forum-financial-reporting-disclosure-may-2013.pdf>.

- (c) the definition refers to ‘users’ but does not specify their characteristics, which is interpreted by some as implying that an entity is required to consider all possible users of its financial statements when deciding what information to disclose.
- BC13E The Board also observed that the wording of the definition of material in the *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting (Conceptual Framework)* differed from the wording used in IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* and IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*. The Board believes that the substance of the definitions is the same because these definitions all cover the omission or misstatement of information that could influence the decisions of users of financial statements. Nevertheless, the existence of more than one definition of material could be confusing and could imply that the Board intended these definitions to have different meanings and be applied differently in practice.
- BC13F Consequently, the Board decided to propose refinements to the definition of material and to align the definition across IFRS Standards and other publications. The Board observed that these refinements were intended to make the definition easier to understand and were not intended to alter the concept of materiality in IFRS Standards.

Refinements to the definition of material

- BC13G In September 2017 the Board published the Exposure Draft *Definition of Material* (Proposed amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8) which proposed a revised definition.
- BC13H The Board developed this definition by:
- (a) replacing the description of the threshold ‘could influence’ with ‘could reasonably be expected to influence’ to incorporate the existing clarification in paragraph 7 of IAS 1 which states: ‘Therefore, the assessment needs to take into account how users with such attributes *could reasonably be expected to be influenced* in making economic decisions’ [emphasis added]. This wording helps to address concerns raised by some parties that the threshold ‘could influence’ in the existing definition of material is too low and might be applied too broadly (see paragraph BC13D(a)).
 - (b) using the wording of the definition of material in the *Conceptual Framework*.⁴ The Board concluded that this wording was clearer than the definition in IAS 1 and IAS 8. However, the Board decided to refer to ‘financial statements’ rather than ‘financial reports’ in the amendments to IAS 1 to be consistent with the scope of that Standard.⁵ The *Conceptual Framework* definition also clarifies that the users to whom the definition refers are the primary users of an entity’s financial reports or statements. Referring to the primary users in the definition of material in IAS 1 helps to respond to concerns that the term ‘users’ may be interpreted too widely (see paragraph BC13D(c)).
 - (c) including ‘obscuring’ in the definition of material to incorporate the existing concept in paragraph 30A of IAS 1 which states: ‘An entity shall not reduce the understandability of its financial statements by obscuring material information with immaterial information or by aggregating items that have different natures or functions.’ Referring to ‘obscuring’ in the definition of material is intended to respond to concerns that the effect of including immaterial information should also be considered in addition to ‘misstating’ and ‘omitting’ (see paragraphs BC13D(a) and (b)).
 - (d) relocating wording that explains rather than defines material from the definition itself to its explanatory paragraphs. This reorganisation clarifies which requirements are part of the definition and which paragraphs explain the definition.
- BC13I Some parties said that the Board should raise the threshold at which information becomes material by replacing ‘could’ with ‘would’ in the definition. However, the Board did not do this because it concluded that using ‘would’ would be a substantive change that might have unintended consequences. For example, ‘would influence decisions’ might be interpreted as a presumption that information is not material unless it can be proved otherwise, ie for information to be seen as material it would be necessary to prove that the information would influence the decisions of users of the financial statements.

⁴ The wording in paragraph 2.11 of the *Conceptual Framework* is: ‘Information is material if omitting it or misstating it could influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial reports make on the basis of those reports, which provide financial information about a specific reporting entity’.

⁵ Financial statements are a type of financial report.

Obscuring information

- BC13J Responses to the Exposure Draft *Definition of Material* (Proposed amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8) indicated strong support for the definition of material to be aligned across the *Conceptual Framework* and IFRS Standards. However, many respondents had some concerns—in particular about including the existing concept of ‘obscuring’ (as set out in paragraph 30A of IAS 1) in the definition of material in the way proposed in the Exposure Draft. Many respondents thought that if the Board were to include this concept in the definition, then ‘obscuring information’ would need to be more precisely defined or explained than it was in the Exposure Draft.
- BC13K The Board agreed with respondents that the concept of ‘obscuring information’ is inherently more judgemental than ‘omitting’ or ‘misstating’ information and considered removing the concept from the definition of material and its explanatory paragraphs altogether. However, the Board decided that the benefit of including ‘obscuring’ in the definition of material outweighed these concerns. Including this concept emphasises that obscuring information can affect the decisions of primary users just as omitting or misstating that information can. In particular, including ‘obscuring’ in the definition of material addresses concerns that the former definition could be perceived by stakeholders as focusing only on information that cannot be omitted (material information) and not also on why it may be unhelpful to include immaterial information.
- BC13L The Board did not intend to be prescriptive by including the word ‘obscuring’ in the definition of material and by further clarifying it—the Board is not prohibiting entities from disclosing immaterial information or introducing a required quality of explanations and information included in the financial statements. For example, the Board did not intend the addition of the word ‘obscure’ to prevent entities from providing information required by local regulators or prescribe how an entity organises and communicates information in the financial statements. Rather, the Board’s intention is to:
- (a) support the existing requirements in paragraph 30A of IAS 1 which state that ‘An entity shall not reduce the understandability of its financial statements by obscuring material information with immaterial information or by aggregating material items that have different natures or functions’; and
 - (b) help entities and other stakeholders avoid instances in which material information may be obscured by immaterial information to the extent that it has a similar effect on the primary users of financial statements to omitting or misstating that information.

Other amendments

- BC13M While the revised definition of material in IAS 1 has been based on the definition of material in the *Conceptual Framework*, some adjustments were made to the *Conceptual Framework* definition to improve clarity and consistency between the *Conceptual Framework* and the IFRS Standards. The definition in the *Conceptual Framework*, however, continues to refer to ‘financial reports’ rather than ‘financial statements’.
- BC13N The Board also made amendments to the Materiality Practice Statement to align it with the revised definition of material. The Materiality Practice Statement continues to refer to both ‘immaterial’ and ‘not material’ as the Board concluded that these terms have the same meaning.
- BC13O As explained in paragraph BC13H, the amendments incorporate existing guidance from the *Conceptual Framework* and IAS 1 and are not substantive changes to the existing requirements in IFRS Standards. For this reason, the Board concluded that the guidance in the Materiality Practice Statement and the *Conceptual Framework* would not be affected by these amendments.
- BC13P Because the amendments are based on existing guidance, they are not considered to be substantive changes. The Board consequently concluded that amendments to other requirements in IFRS Standards are unnecessary, other than to update the definition of material where it is quoted or referred to directly.
- BC13Q The Board also decided that it was unnecessary to change all instances of ‘economic decisions’ to ‘decisions’, and all instances of ‘users’ to ‘the primary users of financial statements’ in IFRS Standards. In its Conceptual Framework project, the Board clarified that:
- (a) the terms ‘primary users’ and ‘users’ are intended to be interpreted the same way and both refer to existing and potential investors, lenders and other creditors who must rely on general purpose financial reports for much of the financial information they need (see the footnote to paragraph 1.5 of the *Conceptual Framework*); and
 - (b) the terms ‘decisions’ and ‘economic decisions’ are intended to be interpreted the same way.

Likely effects of the amendments to IFRS Standards

- BC13R In the Board's view, the amendments will improve understanding of the definition of material by:
- (a) aligning the wording of the definition in IFRS Standards and the *Conceptual Framework* to avoid the potential for confusion arising from different definitions;
 - (b) incorporating supporting requirements in IAS 1 into the definition to give them more prominence and clarify their applicability; and
 - (c) providing existing guidance on the definition of material in one place, together with the definition.
- BC13S The Board concluded that the amendments do not change existing requirements substantively because:
- (a) the refinements to the definition of material:
 - (i) are based on wording in the *Conceptual Framework* that is similar to but clearer than the existing definition in IAS 1 and IAS 8 (see paragraphs BC13E and BC13H(b)); and
 - (ii) incorporate wording that already exists in IAS 1 (see paragraphs BC13H(a), (c) and (d)).
 - (b) the clarification that 'users' are the primary users and the description of their characteristics have been taken from the *Conceptual Framework*.
 - (c) the inclusion of 'obscuring information' reflects the existing requirement, as set out in paragraph 30A of IAS 1, that an entity shall not reduce the understandability of its financial statements by obscuring material information. This amendment is not expected to substantively change an entity's decisions about whether information is material—in no circumstances would obscuring information influence the decisions of users, if omitting or misstating the same information would have no influence on those decisions.

Consequently, the Board expects that the effect of the revised definition will be to help entities to make better materiality judgements.

Effective date of the amendments

- BC13T Because the amendments do not substantively change existing requirements, the Board decided that:
- (a) prospective application is appropriate;
 - (b) a long implementation period is unnecessary; and
 - (c) early adoption of the amendments should be permitted.

Financial statements

Complete set of financial statements

Titles of financial statements (paragraph 10)

- BC14 The exposure draft of 2006 proposed changes to the titles of some of the financial statements—from 'balance sheet' to 'statement of financial position', from 'income statement' to 'statement of profit or loss' and from 'cash flow statement' to 'statement of cash flows'. In addition, the exposure draft proposed a 'statement of recognised income and expense' and that all owner changes in equity should be included in a 'statement of changes in equity'. The Board did not propose to make any of these changes of nomenclature mandatory.
- BC15 Many respondents opposed the proposed changes, pointing out that the existing titles had a long tradition and were well understood. However, the Board reaffirmed its view that the proposed new titles better reflect the function of each financial statement, and pointed out that an entity could choose to use other titles in its financial report.
- BC16 The Board reaffirmed its conclusion that the title 'statement of financial position' not only better reflects the function of the statement but is consistent with the *Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements*, which contains several references to 'financial position'. Paragraph 12 of the

*Framework*⁶ states that the objective of financial statements is to provide information about the financial position, performance and changes in financial position of an entity; paragraph 19 of the *Framework* states that information about financial position is primarily provided in a balance sheet. In the Board's view, the title 'balance sheet' simply reflects that double entry bookkeeping requires debits to equal credits. It does not identify the content or purpose of the statement. The Board also noted that 'financial position' is a well-known and accepted term, as it has been used in auditors' opinions internationally for more than 20 years to describe what the 'balance sheet' presents. The Board decided that aligning the statement's title with its content and the opinion rendered by the auditor would help the users of financial statements.

- BC17 As to the other statements, respondents suggested that renaming the balance sheet the 'statement of financial position' implied that the 'cash flow statement' and the 'statement of recognised income and expense' do not also reflect an entity's financial position. The Board observed that although the latter statements reflect changes in an entity's financial position, neither can be called a 'statement of changes in financial position', as this would not depict their true function and objective (ie to present cash flows and performance, respectively). The Board acknowledged that the titles 'income statement' and 'statement of profit or loss' are similar in meaning and could be used interchangeably, and decided to retain the title 'income statement' as this is more commonly used.
- BC18 The title of the proposed new statement, the 'statement of recognised income and expense', reflects a broader content than the former 'income statement'. The statement encompasses both income and expenses recognised in profit or loss and income and expenses recognised outside profit or loss.
- BC19 Many respondents opposed the title 'statement of recognised income and expense', objecting particularly to the use of the term 'recognised'. The Board acknowledged that the term 'recognised' could also be used to describe the content of other primary statements as 'recognition', explained in paragraph 82 of the *Framework*, is 'the process of incorporating in the balance sheet or income statement an item that meets the definition of an element and satisfies the criteria for recognition set out in paragraph 83.' Many respondents suggested the term 'statement of comprehensive income' instead.
- BC20 In response to respondents' concerns and to converge with SFAS 130, the Board decided to rename the new statement a 'statement of comprehensive income'. The term 'comprehensive income' is not defined in the *Framework* but is used in IAS 1 to describe the change in equity of an entity during a period from transactions, events and circumstances other than those resulting from transactions with owners in their capacity as owners. Although the term 'comprehensive income' is used to describe the aggregate of all components of comprehensive income, including profit or loss, the term 'other comprehensive income' refers to income and expenses that under IFRSs are included in comprehensive income but excluded from profit or loss.
- BC20A In May 2010 the Board published the exposure draft *Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income* (proposed amendments to IAS 1) relating to the presentation of items of other comprehensive income (OCI). One of the proposals in the exposure draft related to the title of the statement containing profit or loss and other comprehensive income. The Board proposed this change so that it would be clear that the statement had two components: profit or loss and other comprehensive income. A majority of the respondents to the exposure draft supported the change and therefore the Board confirmed the proposal in June 2011. IAS 1 allows preparers to use other titles for the statement that reflect the nature of their activities.
- BC20B Several other IFRSs refer to the 'statement of comprehensive income'. The Board considered whether it should change all such references to 'statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income'. The Board noted that the terminology used in IAS 1 is not mandatory and that 'statement of comprehensive income' is one of the examples used in the standard. The Board decided that there was little benefit in replacing the title 'statement of comprehensive income' in other IFRSs or 'income statement' with the 'statement of profit or loss'. However, the Board did change the terminology when an IFRS made reference to the two- statement option.
- BC21 In finalising its revision, the Board confirmed that the titles of financial statements used in this Standard would not be mandatory. The titles will be used in future IFRSs but are not required to be used by entities in their financial statements. Some respondents to the exposure draft expressed concern that non-mandatory titles will result in confusion. However, the Board believes that making use of the titles non-mandatory will allow time for entities to implement changes gradually as the new titles become more familiar.

⁶ References to the *Framework* in this Basis for Conclusions are to the IASC's *Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements*, adopted by the Board in 2001 and in effect when the Standard was revised and amended.

Equal prominence (paragraphs 11 and 12)

- BC22 The Board noted that the financial performance of an entity is not assessed by reference to a single financial statement or a single measure within a financial statement. The Board believes that the financial performance of an entity can be assessed only after all aspects of the financial statements are taken into account and understood in their entirety. Accordingly, the Board decided that in order to help users of the financial statements to understand the financial performance of an entity comprehensively, all financial statements within the complete set of financial statements should be presented with equal prominence.

Departures from IFRSs (paragraphs 19–24)

- BC23 IAS 1 (as issued in 1997) permitted an entity to depart from a requirement in a Standard ‘in the extremely rare circumstances when management concludes that compliance with a requirement in a Standard would be misleading, and therefore that departure from a requirement is necessary to achieve a fair presentation’ (paragraph 17, now paragraph 19). When such a departure occurred, paragraph 18 (now paragraph 20) required extensive disclosure of the facts and circumstances surrounding the departure and the treatment adopted.
- BC24 The Board decided to clarify in paragraph 15 of the Standard that for financial statements to present fairly the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of an entity, they must represent faithfully the effects of transactions and other events in accordance with the definitions and recognition criteria for assets, liabilities, income and expenses set out in the *Framework*.
- BC25 The Board decided to limit the occasions on which an entity should depart from a requirement in an IFRS to the extremely rare circumstances in which management concludes that compliance with the requirement would be so misleading that it would conflict with the objective of financial statements set out in the *Framework*. Guidance on this criterion states that an item of information would conflict with the objective of financial statements when it does not represent faithfully the transactions, other events or conditions that it either purports to represent or could reasonably be expected to represent and, consequently, it would be likely to influence economic decisions made by users of financial statements.
- BC26 These amendments provide a framework within which an entity assesses how to present fairly the effects of transactions, other events and conditions, and whether the result of complying with a requirement in an IFRS would be so misleading that it would not give a fair presentation.
- BC27 The Board considered whether IAS 1 should be silent on departures from IFRSs. The Board decided against making that change, because it would remove the Board’s capability to specify the criteria under which departures from IFRSs should occur.
- BC28 Departing from a requirement in an IFRS when considered necessary to achieve a fair presentation would conflict with the regulatory framework in some jurisdictions. The revised IAS 1 takes into account the existence of different regulatory requirements. It requires that when an entity’s circumstances satisfy the criterion described in paragraph BC25 for departure from a requirement in an IFRS, the entity should proceed as follows:
- (a) When the relevant regulatory framework requires—or otherwise does not prohibit—a departure from the requirement, the entity should make that departure and the disclosures set out in paragraph 20.
 - (b) When the relevant regulatory framework prohibits departure from the requirement, the entity should, to the maximum extent possible, reduce the perceived misleading aspects of compliance by making the disclosures set out in paragraph 23.
- This amendment enables entities to comply with the requirements of IAS 1 when the relevant regulatory framework prohibits departures from accounting standards, while retaining the principle that entities should, to the maximum extent possible, ensure that financial statements provide a fair presentation.
- BC29 After considering the comments received on the exposure draft of 2002, the Board added to IAS 1 a requirement in paragraph 21 to disclose the effect of a departure from a requirement of an IFRS in a prior period on the current period’s financial statements. Without this disclosure, users of the entity’s financial statements could be unaware of the continuing effects of prior period departures.
- BC30 In view of the strict criteria for departure from a requirement in an IFRS, IAS 1 includes a rebuttable presumption that if other entities in similar circumstances comply with the requirement, the entity’s compliance with the requirement would not be so misleading that it would conflict with the objective of financial statements set out in the *Framework*.

Materiality and aggregation (paragraphs 29–31)

- BC30A The Board was informed at the Discussion Forum *Financial Reporting Disclosure* in January 2013, in its related survey and by other sources, that there are difficulties applying the concept of materiality in practice. Some are of the view that these difficulties contribute to a disclosure problem, namely, that there is both too much irrelevant information and not enough relevant information in financial statements. A number of factors have been identified for why materiality may not be applied well in practice. One of these is that the guidance on materiality in IFRS is not clear.
- BC30B Some think that the statement in IAS 1 that an entity need not provide a specific disclosure if the information is not material means that an entity does not need to present an item in the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and the statement of changes in equity, but must instead disclose it in the notes. However, the Board noted that the concept of materiality is applicable to financial statements, which include the notes, and not only to those statements.
- BC30C Some are of the view that when IFRS states that a specific disclosure is required, the concept of materiality does not apply to those disclosure requirements, ie disclosures specifically identified in IFRS are required irrespective of whether they result in material information. In addition, some people think that when a line item is presented, or a material item is otherwise recognised, in the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and the statement of financial position, all the disclosures in IFRS specified for that item must be disclosed. The Board observed that paragraph 31 of IAS 1 is clear that the concept of materiality applies to specific disclosures required by an IFRS and therefore an entity does not have to disclose information required by an IFRS if that information would not be material.
- BC30D The Board understands that these misconceptions may have arisen because of the wording that is used when specifying presentation or disclosure requirements in IFRS; for example, the use of the words ‘as a minimum’. For this reason, the Board removed the phrase ‘as a minimum’ in paragraph 54 of IAS 1, which lists line items for presentation in the statement of financial position. This also makes the requirement broadly consistent with the corresponding requirement in paragraph 82 of IAS 1 for the profit or loss section of the statement of comprehensive income or the statement of profit or loss.
- BC30E On the basis of its observations and conclusions set out in paragraphs BC30A–BC30D, the Board added a new paragraph, paragraph 30A, and amended paragraph 31 of IAS 1.
- BC30F Paragraph 30A was added to IAS 1 to highlight that when an entity decides how it aggregates information in the financial statements, it should take into consideration all relevant facts and circumstances. Paragraph 30A emphasises that an entity should not reduce the understandability of its financial statements by providing immaterial information that obscures the material information in financial statements or by aggregating material items that have different natures or functions. Obscuring material information with immaterial information in financial statements makes the material information less visible and therefore makes the financial statements less understandable. The amendments do not actually prohibit entities from disclosing immaterial information, because the Board thinks that such a requirement would not be operational; however, the amendments emphasise that disclosure should not result in material information being obscured.
- BC30G The Exposure Draft *Disclosure Initiative* (Proposed amendments to IAS 1) (the ‘March 2014 Exposure Draft’), which was published in March 2014, also proposed that an entity should not ‘disaggregate’ information in a manner that obscures useful information. Disaggregation is often used to describe the process of expanding totals, subtotals and line items into further items that themselves may reflect the aggregated results of transactions or other events. Because the process of expanding totals, subtotals and line items is more likely to increase the transparency of information rather than obscuring it, the Board decided not to include the term disaggregation in paragraph 30A of IAS 1. In addition, the Board was of the view that items resulting from the process of disaggregation that themselves reflect the aggregated results of transactions would be covered by paragraphs 29–31 of IAS 1.
- BC30H The Board amended paragraph 31 of IAS 1 to highlight that materiality also applies to disclosures specifically required by IFRS. In addition, to highlight that materiality not only involves decisions about excluding information from the financial statements, the Board amended paragraph 31 to reiterate the notion already stated in paragraph 17(c) of IAS 1 that materiality also involves decisions about whether to include additional information in the financial statements. Consequently, an entity should make additional disclosures when compliance with the specific requirements in IFRS is insufficient to enable users of financial statements to understand the impact of particular transactions, other events and conditions on the entity’s financial position and financial performance.
- BC30I The Board noted that the definition of ‘material’ in paragraph 7 of IAS 1 discusses omissions or misstatements of items being material if they could individually or collectively influence economic

decisions. The Board considered making amendments to paragraph 31 of IAS 1 to say that an entity need not provide a specific disclosure if the information provided by that disclosure is not material, either individually or collectively. However, the Board decided not to make that change since the definition of material already incorporates the notions of individual and collective assessment and, therefore, reference to the term material in paragraph 31 is sufficient to incorporate this concept.

- BC30J In the March 2014 Exposure Draft the Board proposed to use the term ‘present’ to refer to line items, subtotals and totals on the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and the statement of changes in equity, and the term ‘disclose’ to mean information in the notes. However, respondents to the March 2014 Exposure Draft did not support the distinction between present and disclose because they considered that the terminology has not been used consistently throughout IAS 1 and that any changes in how these terms are used should be done as part of a comprehensive review of IAS 1. Because of this, and because making such comprehensive changes to IAS 1 would be outside the scope of these amendments, the Board did not finalise the proposed changes regarding use of the terms present and disclose.

Comparative information

A statement of financial position as at the beginning of the earliest comparative period (paragraph 39)

- BC31 The exposure draft of 2006 proposed that a statement of financial position as at the beginning of the earliest comparative period should be presented as part of a complete set of financial statements. This statement would provide a basis for investors and creditors to evaluate information about the entity’s performance during the period. However, many respondents expressed concern that the requirement would unnecessarily increase disclosures in financial statements, or would be impracticable, excessive and costly.
- BC32 By adding a statement of financial position as at the beginning of the earliest comparative period, the exposure draft proposed that an entity should present three statements of financial position and two of each of the other statements. Considering that financial statements from prior years are readily available for financial analysis, the Board decided to require only two statements of financial position, except when the financial statements have been affected by retrospective application or retrospective restatement, as defined in IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*, or when a reclassification has been made. In those circumstances three statements of financial position are required.

Clarification of requirements for comparative information

- BC32A In *Annual Improvements 2009–2011 Cycle* (issued in May 2012) the Board addressed a request to clarify the requirements for providing comparative information for:
- (a) the comparative requirements for the opening statement of financial position when an entity changes accounting policies, or makes retrospective restatements or reclassifications, in accordance with IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*; and
 - (b) the requirements for providing comparative information when an entity provides financial statements beyond the minimum comparative information requirements.

Opening statement of financial position

- BC32B In *Annual Improvements 2009–2011 Cycle* (issued in May 2012) the Board addressed a request to clarify the appropriate date for the opening statement of financial position. The Board decided to amend the current requirements in IAS 1 that relate to the presentation of a statement of financial position for the beginning of the earliest comparative period presented in cases of changes in accounting policies, retrospective restatements or reclassifications to clarify that the appropriate date for the opening statement of financial position is the beginning of the preceding period.
- BC32C The Board also decided to change the previous requirements so that related notes to this opening statement of financial position are no longer required to be presented. The Board’s decision to give this relief was based on the fact that circumstances in which an entity changes an accounting policy, or makes a retrospective restatement or a reclassification in accordance with IAS 8, are considered narrow, specific and limited. However, the circumstances in which an entity chooses to provide additional financial statements (ie on a voluntary basis) can be viewed as more generic and may arise for different reasons. Accordingly, this relief is not available when additional financial statements are provided on a voluntary basis.

- BC32D The Board added the guidance in paragraph 40A(a) to clarify when an opening statement of financial position provides useful information and, should therefore be required. Paragraph 40A(b) is a reminder that the concept of materiality should be considered in applying the guidance in paragraph 40A(a). The Board noted that the entity would still be required to disclose the information required by IAS 8 for changes in accounting policies and retrospective restatements.

Comparative information beyond minimum requirements

- BC32E In *Annual Improvements 2009–2011 Cycle* (issued in May 2012) the Board addressed a request to clarify the requirements for providing comparative information. Specifically, the Board was asked to consider whether an entity should be required to present a complete set of financial statements when it provides financial statements beyond the minimum comparative information requirements (ie additional comparative information). In response to this request, the Board decided to clarify that additional financial statement information need not be presented in the form of a complete set of financial statements for periods beyond the minimum requirements. The Board also noted that additional comparative information might include:
- (a) information that is presented voluntarily, beyond the information that is included within a complete set of financial statements; or
 - (b) comparative information that is required by law or other regulations but that is not required by IFRSs.
- BC32F The Board also decided to amend paragraphs 38–41 of IAS 1 to clarify that, when additional comparative information (that is not required by IFRSs) is provided by an entity, this information should be presented in accordance with IFRSs and the entity should present comparative information in the related notes for that additional information. The Board determined that requiring full notes for additional information in accordance with paragraph 38C is necessary to ensure that the additional information that the entity provides is balanced and results in financial statements that achieve a fair presentation.
- BC32G In the light of the concerns raised by interested parties, the Board decided that the amendments should be introduced through the Annual Improvements process instead of through the Financial Statement Presentation project, so that the changes could be made more quickly.

IAS 34 Interim Financial Reporting

- BC33 The Board decided not to reflect in paragraph 8 of IAS 34 (ie the minimum components of an interim financial report) its decision to require the inclusion of a statement of financial position as at the beginning of the earliest comparative period in a complete set of financial statements. IAS 34 has a year- to- date approach to interim reporting and does not replicate the requirements of IAS 1 in terms of comparative information.

Criterion for exemption from requirements (paragraphs 41–44)

- BC34 IAS 1 as issued in 1997 specified that when the presentation or classification of items in the financial statements is amended, comparative amounts should be reclassified unless it is impracticable to do so. Applying a requirement is impracticable when the entity cannot apply it after making every reasonable effort to do so.
- BC35 The exposure draft of 2002 proposed a different criterion for exemption from particular requirements. For the reclassification of comparative amounts, and its proposed new requirement to disclose key assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period (discussed in paragraphs BC79–BC84), the exposure draft proposed that the criterion for exemption should be that applying the requirements would require undue cost or effort.
- BC36 In the light of respondents' comments on the exposure draft, the Board decided that an exemption based on management's assessment of undue cost or effort was too subjective to be applied consistently by different entities. Moreover, balancing costs and benefits was a task for the Board when it sets accounting requirements rather than for entities when they apply them. Therefore, the Board retained the 'impracticability' criterion for exemption. This affects the exemptions now set out in paragraphs 41–43 and 131 of IAS 1. Impracticability is the only basis on which IFRSs allow specific exemptions from applying particular requirements when the effect of applying them is material.⁷

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In 2006 the IASB issued IFRS 8 *Operating Segments*. As explained in paragraphs BC46 and BC47 of the Basis for Conclusions on IFRS 8, that IFRS includes an exemption from some requirements if the necessary information is not available and the cost to develop it would be excessive.

Reporting owner and non- owner changes in equity

- BC37 The exposure draft of 2006 proposed to separate changes in equity of an entity during a period arising from transactions with owners in their capacity as owners (ie all owner changes in equity) from other changes in equity (ie non- owner changes in equity). All owner changes in equity would be presented in the statement of changes in equity, separately from non- owner changes in equity.
- BC38 Most respondents welcomed this proposal and saw this change as an improvement of financial reporting, by increasing the transparency of those items recognised in equity that are not reported as part of profit or loss. However, some respondents pointed out that the terms ‘owner’ and ‘non- owner’ were not defined in the exposure draft, the *Framework* or elsewhere in IFRSs, although they are extensively used in national accounting standards. They also noted that the terms ‘owner’ and ‘equity holder’ were used interchangeably in the exposure draft. The Board decided to adopt the term ‘owner’ and use it throughout IAS 1 to converge with SFAS 130, which uses the term in the definition of ‘comprehensive income’.

Statement of financial position

Information to be presented in the statement of financial position (paragraphs 54–55A)

- BC38A Paragraph 54 of IAS 1 lists line items that are required to be presented in the statement of financial position. The Board has been informed that some have interpreted that list as prescriptive and that those line items cannot be disaggregated. There is also a perception by some that IFRS prevents them from presenting subtotals in addition to those specifically required by IFRS.
- BC38B Paragraph 55 of IAS 1 requires an entity to present additional line items, headings and subtotals when their presentation is relevant to an understanding of the entity’s financial position. This highlights that the line items listed for presentation in paragraph 54 of IAS 1 should be disaggregated and that subtotals should be presented, when relevant. Paragraphs 78 and 98 of IAS 1 give examples of potential disaggregations of line items in the statement of financial position and the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.
- BC38C Consequently, the Board:
- (a) removed the wording ‘as a minimum’ from paragraph 54 of IAS 1 (see paragraph BC30D) to address the possible misconception that this wording prevents entities from aggregating the line items specified in paragraph 54 if those specified line items are immaterial; and
 - (b) clarified that the presentation requirements in paragraphs 54–55 may be fulfilled by disaggregating a specified line item.
- BC38D The Board noted that there are similar presentation requirements in paragraph 85 of IAS 1 for the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. The Board therefore amended those requirements to make them consistent.
- BC38E Some respondents to the proposals suggested that the Board should make clear that the line items listed in paragraph 54 of IAS 1 are required ‘when material’. The Board decided not to state that the line items are only required when material, because materiality is generally not referenced specifically in disclosure requirements in IFRS and so including a specific reference in this case could make it less clear that materiality applies to other disclosure requirements.
- BC38F The Board understands that some are concerned about the presentation of subtotals, in addition to those specified in IFRS, in the statement of financial position and the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. Those with this concern think that some subtotals can be misleading, for example, because they are given undue prominence. The Board noted that paragraphs 55 and 85 of IAS 1 require the presentation of subtotals when such presentation is relevant to an understanding of the entity’s financial position or financial performance.
- BC38G The Board therefore included additional requirements in IAS 1 to help entities apply paragraphs 55 and 85. These additional requirements supplement the existing guidance on fair presentation in paragraphs 15 and 17 of IAS 1. They are designed to clarify the factors that should be considered when fairly presenting subtotals in the statement of financial position and the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. Specifically, the subtotal should:
- (a) be comprised of line items made up of amounts recognised and measured in accordance with IFRS.

- (b) be understandable. It should be clear what line items are included in the subtotal by the way that the subtotal is presented and labelled. For example, if an entity presents a commonly reported subtotal, but excludes items that would normally be considered as part of that subtotal, the label should reflect what has been excluded.
- (c) be consistent from period to period. The subtotal should be consistently presented and calculated from period to period (in accordance with paragraph 45 of IAS 1), subject to possible changes in accounting policy or estimates assessed in accordance with IAS 8.
- (d) not be displayed with more prominence than those subtotals and totals required in IFRS for either the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income or the statement of financial position.

Current assets and current liabilities (paragraphs 68 and 71)

- BC38H As part of its improvements project in 2007, the Board identified inconsistent guidance regarding the current/non-current classification of derivatives. Some might read the guidance included in paragraph 71 as implying that financial liabilities classified as held for trading in accordance with IAS 39 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*⁸ are always required to be presented as current.
- BC38I The Board expects the criteria set out in paragraph 69 to be used to assess whether a financial liability should be presented as current or non-current. The 'held for trading' category in paragraph 9 of IAS 39⁹ is for measurement purposes and includes financial assets and liabilities that may not be held primarily for trading purposes.
- BC38J The Board reaffirmed that if a financial liability is held primarily for trading purposes it should be presented as current regardless of its maturity date. However, a financial liability that is not held for trading purposes, such as a derivative that is not a financial guarantee contract or a designated hedging instrument, should be presented as current or non-current on the basis of its settlement date. For example, derivatives that have a maturity of more than twelve months and are expected to be held for more than twelve months after the reporting period should be presented as non-current assets or liabilities.
- BC38K Therefore, the Board decided to remove the identified inconsistency by amending the examples of current liabilities in paragraph 71. The Board also amended paragraph 68 in respect of current assets to remove a similar inconsistency.

Classification of the liability component of a convertible instrument (paragraph 69)

- BC38L As part of its improvements project in 2007, the Board considered the classification of the liability component of a convertible instrument as current or non-current. Paragraph 69(d) of IAS 1 states that when an entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of a liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period, the liability should be classified as current. According to the *Framework*, conversion of a liability into equity is a form of settlement.
- BC38M The application of these requirements means that if the conversion option can be exercised by the holder at any time, the liability component would be classified as current. This classification would be required even if the entity would not be required to settle unconverted instruments with cash or other assets for more than twelve months after the reporting period.
- BC38N IAS 1 and the *Framework* state that information about the liquidity and solvency positions of an entity is useful to users. The terms 'liquidity' and 'solvency' are associated with the availability of cash to an entity. Issuing equity does not result in an outflow of cash or other assets of the entity.
- BC38O The Board concluded that classifying the liability on the basis of the requirements to transfer cash or other assets rather than on settlement better reflects the liquidity and solvency position of an entity, and therefore it decided to amend IAS 1 accordingly.
- BC38P The Board discussed the comments received in response to its exposure draft of proposed *Improvements to IFRSs* published in 2007 and noted that some respondents were concerned that the proposal in the exposure draft would apply to all liabilities, not just those that are components of convertible instruments as originally contemplated in the exposure draft. Consequently, in *Improvements to IFRSs* issued in April

⁸ IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments* replaced IAS 39. IFRS 9 applies to all items that were previously within the scope of IAS 39. This paragraph refers to matters relevant when IAS 1 was issued.

⁹ IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments* replaced IAS 39. IFRS 9 applies to all items that were previously within the scope of IAS 39. This paragraph refers to matters relevant when IAS 1 was issued.

2009, the Board amended the proposed wording to clarify that the amendment applies only to the classification of a liability that can, at the option of the counterparty, be settled by the issue of the entity's equity instruments.

Effect of events after the reporting period on the classification of liabilities (paragraphs 69–76)

BC39 Paragraph 63 of IAS 1 (as issued in 1997) included the following:

An enterprise should continue to classify its long- term interest- bearing liabilities as non- current, even when they are due to be settled within twelve months of the balance sheet date if:

- (a) the original term was for a period of more than twelve months;
- (b) the enterprise intends to refinance the obligation on a long- term basis; and
- (c) that intention is supported by an agreement to refinance, or to reschedule payments, which is completed before the financial statements are authorised for issue.

BC40 Paragraph 65 stated:

Some borrowing agreements incorporate undertakings by the borrower (covenants) which have the effect that the liability becomes payable on demand if certain conditions related to the borrower's financial position are breached. In these circumstances, the liability is classified as non- current only when:

- (a) the lender has agreed, prior to the authorisation of the financial statements for issue, not to demand payment as a consequence of the breach; and
- (b) it is not probable that further breaches will occur within twelve months of the balance sheet date.

BC41 The Board considered these requirements and concluded that refinancing, or the receipt of a waiver of the lender's right to demand payment, that occurs after the reporting period should not be taken into account in the classification of a liability.

BC42 Therefore, the exposure draft of 2002 proposed:

- (a) to amend paragraph 63 to specify that a long- term financial liability due to be settled within twelve months of the balance sheet date should not be classified as a non- current liability because an agreement to refinance, or to reschedule payments, on a long- term basis is completed after the balance sheet date and before the financial statements are authorised for issue. This amendment would not affect the classification of a liability as non- current when the entity has, under the terms of an existing loan facility, the discretion to refinance or roll over its obligations for at least twelve months after the balance sheet date.
- (b) to amend paragraph 65 to specify that a long- term financial liability that is payable on demand because the entity breached a condition of its loan agreement should be classified as current at the balance sheet date even if the lender has agreed after the balance sheet date, and before the financial statements are authorised for issue, not to demand payment as a consequence of the breach. However, if the lender has agreed by the balance sheet date to provide a period of grace within which the entity can rectify the breach and during which the lender cannot demand immediate repayment, the liability is classified as non- current if it is due for settlement, without that breach of the loan agreement, at least twelve months after the balance sheet date and:
 - (i) the entity rectifies the breach within the period of grace; or
 - (ii) when the financial statements are authorised for issue, the period of grace is incomplete and it is probable that the breach will be rectified.

BC43 Some respondents disagreed with these proposals. They advocated classifying a liability as current or non- current according to whether it is expected to use current assets of the entity, rather than strictly on the basis of its date of maturity and whether it is callable at the end of the reporting period. In their view, this would provide more relevant information about the liability's future effect on the timing of the entity's resource flows.

BC44 However, the Board decided that the following arguments for changing paragraphs 63 and 65 were more persuasive:

- (a) refinancing a liability after the balance sheet date does not affect the entity's liquidity and solvency at the balance sheet date, the reporting of which should reflect contractual arrangements in force on that date. Therefore, it is a non- adjusting event in accordance with IAS 10 *Events after the Balance Sheet Date* and should not affect the presentation of the entity's balance sheet.

- (b) it is illogical to adopt a criterion that ‘non- current’ classification of short- term obligations expected to be rolled over for at least twelve months after the balance sheet date depends on whether the roll- over is at the discretion of the entity, and then to provide an exception based on refinancing occurring after the balance sheet date.
 - (c) in the circumstances set out in paragraph 65, unless the lender has waived its right to demand immediate repayment or granted a period of grace within which the entity may rectify the breach of the loan agreement, the financial condition of the entity at the balance sheet date was that the entity did not hold an absolute right to defer repayment, based on the terms of the loan agreement. The granting of a waiver or a period of grace changes the terms of the loan agreement. Therefore, an entity’s receipt from the lender, after the balance sheet date, of a waiver or a period of grace of at least twelve months does not change the nature of the liability to non- current until it occurs.
- BC45 IAS 1 now includes the amendments proposed in 2002, with one change. The change relates to the classification of a long- term loan when, at the end of the reporting period, the lender has provided a period of grace within which a breach of the loan agreement can be rectified, and during which period the lender cannot demand immediate repayment of the loan.
- BC46 The exposure draft proposed that such a loan should be classified as non- current if it is due for settlement, without the breach, at least twelve months after the balance sheet date and:
- (a) the entity rectifies the breach within the period of grace; or
 - (b) when the financial statements are authorised for issue, the period of grace is incomplete and it is probable that the breach will be rectified.
- BC47 After considering respondents’ comments, the Board decided that the occurrence or probability of a rectification of a breach after the reporting period is irrelevant to the conditions existing at the end of the reporting period. The revised IAS 1 requires that, for the loan to be classified as non- current, the period of grace must end at least twelve months after the reporting period (see paragraph 75). Therefore, the conditions (a) and (b) in paragraph BC46 are redundant.
- BC48 The Board considered arguments that if a period of grace to remedy a breach of a long- term loan agreement is provided before the end of the reporting period, the loan should be classified as non- current regardless of the length of the period of grace. These arguments are based on the view that, at the end of the reporting period, the lender does not have an unconditional legal right to demand repayment before the original maturity date (ie if the entity remedies the breach during the period of grace, it is entitled to repay the loan on the original maturity date). However, the Board concluded that an entity should classify a loan as non- current only if it has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the loan for at least twelve months after the reporting period. This criterion focuses on the legal rights of the entity, rather than those of the lender.

Statement of comprehensive income

Reporting comprehensive income (paragraph 81)

- BC49 The exposure draft of 2006 proposed that all non- owner changes in equity should be presented in a single statement or in two statements. In a single- statement presentation, all items of income and expense are presented together. In a two- statement presentation, the first statement (‘income statement’) presents income and expenses recognised in profit or loss and the second statement (‘statement of comprehensive income’) begins with profit or loss and presents, in addition, items of income and expense that IFRSs require or permit to be recognised outside profit or loss. Such items include, for example, translation differences related to foreign operations and gains or losses on available- for- sale financial assets.¹⁰ The statement of comprehensive income does not include transactions with owners in their capacity as owners. Such transactions are presented in the statement of changes in equity.
- BC50 Respondents to the exposure draft had mixed views about whether the Board should permit a choice of displaying non- owner changes in equity in one statement or two statements. Many respondents agreed with the Board’s proposal to maintain the two- statement approach and the single- statement approach as alternatives and a few urged the Board to mandate one of them. However, most respondents preferred the two- statement approach because it distinguishes profit or loss and total comprehensive income; they believe that with the two- statement approach, the ‘income statement’ remains a primary financial

¹⁰ IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments* eliminated the category of available-for-sale financial assets. This paragraph refers to matters relevant when IAS 1 was issued.

statement. Respondents supported the presentation of two separate statements as a transition measure until the Board develops principles to determine the criteria for inclusion of items in profit or loss or in other comprehensive income.

- BC51 The exposure draft of 2006 expressed the Board's preference for a single statement of all non-owner changes in equity. The Board provided several reasons for this preference. All items of non-owner changes in equity meet the definitions of income and expenses in the *Framework*. The *Framework* does not define profit or loss, nor does it provide criteria for distinguishing the characteristics of items that should be included in profit or loss from those items that should be excluded from profit or loss. Therefore, the Board decided that it was conceptually correct for an entity to present all non-owner changes in equity (ie all income and expenses recognised in a period) in a single statement because there are no clear principles or common characteristics that can be used to separate income and expenses into two statements.
- BC52 However, in the Board's discussions with interested parties, it was clear that many were strongly opposed to the concept of a single statement. They argued that there would be undue focus on the bottom line of the single statement. In addition, many argued that it was premature for the Board to conclude that presentation of income and expense in a single statement was an improvement in financial reporting without also addressing the other aspects of presentation and display, namely deciding what categories and line items should be presented in a statement of recognised income and expense.
- BC53 In the light of these views, although it preferred a single statement, the Board decided that an entity should have the choice of presenting all income and expenses recognised in a period in one statement or in two statements. An entity is prohibited from presenting components of income and expense (ie non-owner changes in equity) in the statement of changes in equity.
- BC54 Many respondents disagreed with the Board's preference and thought that a decision at this stage would be premature. In their view the decision about a single-statement or two-statement approach should be subject to further consideration. They urged the Board to address other aspects of presentation and display, namely deciding which categories and line items should be presented in a 'statement of comprehensive income'. The Board reaffirmed its reasons for preferring a single-statement approach and agreed to address other aspects of display and presentation in the next stage of the project.
- BC54A In *Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income* published in May 2010 the Board proposed to eliminate the option to present all items of income and expense recognised in a period in two statements, thereby requiring presentation in a continuous statement displaying two sections: *profit or loss* and *other comprehensive income*. The Board also proposed to require items of OCI to be classified into items that might be reclassified (recycled) to profit or loss in subsequent periods and items that would not be reclassified subsequently.
- BC54B In its deliberations on financial instruments and pensions the Board discussed the increasing importance of consistent presentation of items of OCI. Both projects will increase the number of items presented in OCI, particularly items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss. Therefore the Board thought it important that all income and expenses that are components of the total non-owner changes in equity should be presented transparently.
- BC54C The Board has no plans to eliminate profit or loss as a measure of performance. Profit or loss will be presented separately and will remain the required starting point for the calculation of earnings per share.
- BC54D The Board had previously received responses to similar proposals for a single statement of comprehensive income. In October 2008 the Board and the FASB jointly published a discussion paper, *Preliminary Views on Financial Statement Presentation*. In that paper, the boards proposed eliminating the alternative presentation formats for comprehensive income and to require an entity to present comprehensive income and its components in a single statement. The boards asked for views on that proposal. The responses were split on whether an entity should present comprehensive income and its components in a single statement or in two separate statements. In general, respondents supporting a single statement of comprehensive income said that it would lead to greater transparency, consistency and comparability. Furthermore, the process of calculating financial ratios would be made easier.
- BC54E Respondents disagreeing with the proposal for a single statement of comprehensive income urged the boards to defer any changes to the guidance on the statement of comprehensive income until the boards had completed a project to revise the guidance on what items should be presented in OCI. Those respondents also said that a single statement would undermine the importance of profit or loss by making it a subtotal and that presenting total comprehensive income as the last number in the statement would confuse users. They also feared that requiring all items of income and expense to be presented in a single statement was the first step by the boards towards eliminating the notion of profit or loss. In addition, they argued that the items that are presented in OCI are different from items presented in profit or loss. Therefore they preferred either to keep the presentation of profit or loss separate from the presentation of OCI or to allow management to choose to present them either in a single statement or in two statements.

- BC54F In the responses to the exposure draft of May 2010 many of the respondents objected to the proposals to remove the option to present all items of income and expense in two statements. The arguments used by those objecting were much the same as those received on the discussion paper. However, many respondents, regardless of their views on the proposed amendments, said that the Board should establish a conceptual basis for what should be presented in OCI. Those opposed to a continuous statement cited OCI's lack of a conceptual definition and therefore believed that OCI should not be presented in close proximity to profit or loss because this would confuse users. However, users generally said that the lack of a conceptual framework made it difficult to distinguish the underlying economics of items reported in profit or loss (net income) from items reported in other comprehensive income. Although users also asked for a conceptual framework for OCI, most supported the notion of a single statement of comprehensive income.
- BC54G Another issue on which many respondents commented was the reclassification (recycling) of OCI items. Those respondents said that in addition to addressing the conceptual basis for the split between profit or loss and OCI the Board should set principles for which OCI items should be reclassified (recycled) to profit or loss and when they should be reclassified. The Board acknowledges that it has not set out a conceptual basis for how it determines whether an item should be presented in OCI or in profit or loss. It also agrees that it has not set out principles to determine whether items should be reclassified to profit or loss. Those matters were not within the scope of this project, which focused on presentation, and therefore the Board has not addressed them at this time. However, the Board is consulting on its future agenda, which could lead to those matters becoming part of the work programme.
- BC54H In the light of the response the Board confirmed in June 2011 the requirement for items of OCI to be classified into items that will not be reclassified (recycled) to profit or loss in subsequent periods and items that might be reclassified.
- BC54I The Board also decided not to mandate the presentation of profit or loss in a continuous statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income but to maintain an option to present two statements. The Board did this in the light of the negative response to its proposal for a continuous statement and the resistance to this change signified by a majority of respondents.
- BC54J The FASB also proposed in its exposure draft to mandate a continuous statement of comprehensive income but decided in the light of the responses not to go as far as mandating a single statement and instead to allow the two-statement option. Nevertheless, the changes made by the FASB are a significant improvement for US GAAP, which previously allowed an option to present OCI items in stockholders' equity or in the notes to the financial statements.
- BC54K In 2013 the IFRS Interpretations Committee reported to the Board that there was uncertainty about the requirements in paragraph 82A of IAS 1 for presenting an entity's share of items of other comprehensive income of associates and joint ventures accounted for using the equity method. The Board agreed that paragraph 82A allowed for diverse interpretations, and therefore decided to amend IAS 1 as follows:
- (a) to clarify that paragraph 82A requires entities to present the share of other comprehensive income of associates and joint ventures accounted for using the equity method, separated into the share of items that:
 - (i) will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss; and
 - (ii) will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss when specific conditions are met.
 - (b) to amend the Guidance on Implementing IAS 1 to reflect the clarification of paragraph 82A.
- The Board noted that whether an amount is reclassified to profit or loss is determined by the nature of the underlying item. It also noted that the timing of reclassification is usually determined by the actions of the investee. It may however also be triggered by the investor, which would be the case on the disposal of the investee by the investor.
- BC54L The feedback received on the March 2014 Exposure Draft included requests for the Board to clarify whether the investor's share of the other comprehensive income of its associate or joint venture should be presented net or gross of tax and the applicability of the guidance in paragraphs 90–91 of IAS 1 in this regard. The Board noted that an investor's share of other comprehensive income of associates or joint ventures is after tax and non-controlling interests of the associate or joint venture, as illustrated in the Guidance on Implementing IAS 1. It also noted that the disclosure requirements in paragraphs 90–91 do not apply to the tax of the associate or joint venture that is already reflected in the investor's share of other comprehensive income of the associate or joint venture. However, the Board noted that if the investor itself is liable for tax in respect of its share of other comprehensive income of the associate or joint venture, then paragraphs 90–91 would apply to this tax. Therefore, the Board decided not to add additional guidance to IAS 1 on this topic.

Results of operating activities

- BC55 IAS 1 omits the requirement in the 1997 version to disclose the results of operating activities as a line item in the income statement. ‘Operating activities’ are not defined in IAS 1, and the Board decided not to require disclosure of an undefined item.
- BC56 The Board recognises that an entity may elect to disclose the results of operating activities, or a similar line item, even though this term is not defined. In such cases, the Board notes that the entity should ensure that the amount disclosed is representative of activities that would normally be regarded as ‘operating’. In the Board’s view, it would be misleading and would impair the comparability of financial statements if items of an operating nature were excluded from the results of operating activities, even if that had been industry practice. For example, it would be inappropriate to exclude items clearly related to operations (such as inventory write-downs and restructuring and relocation expenses) because they occur irregularly or infrequently or are unusual in amount. Similarly, it would be inappropriate to exclude items on the grounds that they do not involve cash flows, such as depreciation and amortisation expenses.

Subtotal for profit or loss (paragraph 82)

- BC57 As revised, IAS 1 requires a subtotal for profit or loss in the statement of comprehensive income. If an entity chooses to present comprehensive income by using two statements, it should begin the second statement with profit or loss—the bottom line of the first statement (the ‘income statement’)—and display the components of other comprehensive income immediately after that. The Board concluded that this is the best way to achieve the objective of equal prominence (see paragraph BC22) for the presentation of income and expenses. An entity that chooses to display comprehensive income in one statement should include profit or loss as a subtotal within that statement.
- BC58 The Board acknowledged that the items included in profit or loss do not possess any unique characteristics that allow them to be distinguished from items that are included in other comprehensive income. However, the Board and its predecessor have required some items to be recognised outside profit or loss. The Board will deliberate in the next stage of the project how items of income and expense should be presented in the statement of comprehensive income.

Information to be presented in the profit or loss section or the statement of profit or loss (paragraphs 85–85B)

- BC58A In December 2014 the Board issued *Disclosure Initiative* (Amendments to IAS 1). Those amendments included amendments to paragraph 85 of IAS 1 and the addition of paragraph 85A. These amendments are consistent with similar amendments to the requirements for the statement of financial position and therefore the Basis for Conclusions for these amendments has been included in the section dealing with that statement (see paragraphs BC38A–BC38G).
- BC58B In addition to those amendments, the Board decided to require entities to present line items in the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income that reconcile any subtotals presented in accordance with paragraphs 85–85A of IAS 1 with those that are required in IFRS for the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. Consequently, it added paragraph 85B to IAS 1. The purpose of this requirement is to help users of financial statements understand the relationship between the subtotals presented in accordance with paragraph 85 and the specific totals and subtotals required in IFRS to address concerns that that relationship would not be clear. The Board noted that such a requirement is already implicit in existing IFRS requirements. IFRS requires entities to present aggregated information as line items when such presentation provides material information. Consequently, because all recognised items of income and expense must be included in the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income totals, any intervening line items and subtotals necessarily reconcile. However, the Board decided to make the requirement more explicit for the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income to help users of financial statements understand the relationship between subtotals and totals presented in the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

Minority interest (paragraph 83)¹¹

- BC59 IAS 1 requires the ‘profit or loss attributable to minority interest’ and ‘profit or loss attributable to owners of the parent’ each to be presented in the income statement in accordance with paragraph 83. These amounts are to be presented as allocations of profit or loss, not as items of income or expense. A similar requirement has been added for the statement of changes in equity, in paragraph 106(a). These changes are consistent with IAS 27 *Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements*, which requires that in a consolidated balance sheet (now called ‘statement of financial position’), minority interest is presented within equity because it does not meet the definition of a liability in the *Framework*.

Extraordinary items (paragraph 87)

- BC60 IAS 8 *Net Profit or Loss for the Period, Fundamental Errors and Changes in Accounting Policies* (issued in 1993) required extraordinary items to be disclosed in the income statement separately from the profit or loss from ordinary activities. That standard defined ‘extraordinary items’ as ‘income or expenses that arise from events or transactions that are clearly distinct from the ordinary activities of the enterprise and therefore are not expected to recur frequently or regularly’.
- BC61 In 2002, the Board decided to eliminate the concept of extraordinary items from IAS 8 and to prohibit the presentation of items of income and expense as ‘extraordinary items’ in the income statement and the notes. Therefore, in accordance with IAS 1, no items of income and expense are to be presented as arising from outside the entity’s ordinary activities.
- BC62 Some respondents to the exposure draft of 2002 argued that extraordinary items should be presented in a separate component of the income statement because they are clearly distinct from all of the other items of income and expense, and because such presentation highlights to users of financial statements the items of income and expense to which the least attention should be given when predicting an entity’s future performance.
- BC63 The Board decided that items treated as extraordinary result from the normal business risks faced by an entity and do not warrant presentation in a separate component of the income statement. The nature or function of a transaction or other event, rather than its frequency, should determine its presentation within the income statement. Items currently classified as ‘extraordinary’ are only a subset of the items of income and expense that may warrant disclosure to assist users in predicting an entity’s future performance.
- BC64 Eliminating the category of extraordinary items eliminates the need for arbitrary segregation of the effects of related external events—some recurring and others not—on the profit or loss of an entity for a period. For example, arbitrary allocations would have been necessary to estimate the financial effect of an earthquake on an entity’s profit or loss if it occurs during a major cyclical downturn in economic activity. In addition, paragraph 97 of IAS 1 requires disclosure of the nature and amount of material items of income and expense.

Other comprehensive income—related tax effects (paragraphs 90 and 91)

- BC65 The exposure draft of 2006 proposed to allow components of ‘other recognised income and expense’ (now ‘other comprehensive income’) to be presented before tax effects (‘gross presentation’) or after their related tax effects (‘net presentation’). The ‘gross presentation’ facilitated the traceability of other comprehensive income items to profit or loss, because items of profit or loss are generally displayed before tax. The ‘net presentation’ facilitated the identification of other comprehensive income items in the equity section of the statement of financial position. A majority of respondents supported allowing both approaches. The Board reaffirmed its conclusion that components of other comprehensive income could be displayed either (a) net of related tax effects or (b) before related tax effects.
- BC66 Regardless of whether a pre- tax or post- tax display was used, the exposure draft proposed to require disclosure of the amount of income tax expense or benefit allocated separately to individual components of other comprehensive income, in line with SFAS 130. Many respondents agreed in principle with this disclosure, because they agreed that it helped to improve the clarity and transparency of such information, particularly when components of other comprehensive income are taxed at rates different from those applied to profit or loss.

¹¹ In January 2008 the IASB issued an amended IAS 27 *Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements*, which amended ‘minority interest’ to ‘non- controlling interests’. The consolidation requirements in IAS 27 were superseded by IFRS 10 *Consolidated Financial Statements* issued in May 2011. The term ‘non- controlling interests’ and the requirements for non- controlling interests were not changed.

- BC67 However, most respondents expressed concern about having to trace the tax effect for each one of the components of other comprehensive income. Several observed that the tax allocation process is arbitrary (eg it may involve the application of subjectively determined tax rates) and some pointed out that this information is not readily available for some industries (eg the insurance sector), where components of other comprehensive income are multiple and tax allocation involves a high degree of subjectivity. Others commented that they did not understand why tax should be attributed to components of comprehensive income line by line, when this is not a requirement for items in profit or loss.
- BC68 The Board decided to maintain the disclosure of income tax expense or benefit allocated to each component of other comprehensive income. Users of financial statements often requested further information on tax amounts relating to components of other comprehensive income, because tax rates often differed from those applied to profit or loss. The Board also observed that an entity should have such tax information available and that a disclosure requirement would therefore not involve additional cost for preparers of financial statements.
- BC68A In its exposure draft *Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income* published in May 2010 the Board proposed requiring that income tax on items presented in OCI should be allocated between items that will not be subsequently reclassified to profit or loss and those that might be reclassified, if the items in OCI are presented before tax. Most respondents agreed with this proposal as this would be in line with the existing options in IAS 1 regarding presentation of income tax on OCI items. Therefore the Board confirmed the proposal in June 2011.

Reclassification adjustments (paragraphs 92–96)

- BC69 In the exposure draft of 2006, the Board proposed that an entity should separately present reclassification adjustments. These adjustments are the amounts reclassified to profit or loss in the current period that were previously recognised in other comprehensive income. The Board decided that adjustments necessary to avoid double-counting items in total comprehensive income when those items are reclassified to profit or loss in accordance with IFRSs. The Board's view was that separate presentation of reclassification adjustments is essential to inform users of those amounts that are included as income and expenses in different periods—as income or expenses in other comprehensive income in previous periods and as income or expenses in profit or loss in the current period. Without such information, users may find it difficult to assess the effect of reclassifications on profit or loss and to calculate the overall gain or loss associated with available-for-sale financial assets,¹² cash flow hedges and on translation or disposal of foreign operations.
- BC70 Most respondents agreed with the Board's decision and believe that the disclosure of reclassification adjustments is important to understanding how components recognised in profit or loss are related to other items recognised in equity in two different periods. However, some respondents suggested that the Board should use the term 'recycling', rather than 'reclassification' as the former term is more common. The Board concluded that both terms are similar in meaning, but decided to use the term 'reclassification adjustment' to converge with the terminology used in SFAS 130.
- BC71 The exposure draft proposed to allow the presentation of reclassification adjustments in the statement of recognised income and expense (now 'statement of comprehensive income') or in the notes. Most respondents supported this approach.
- BC72 Some respondents noted some inconsistencies in the definition of 'reclassification adjustments' in the exposure draft (now paragraphs 7 and 93 of IAS 1). Respondents suggested that the Board should expand the definition in paragraph 7 to include gains and losses recognised in current periods in addition to those recognised in earlier periods, to make the definition consistent with paragraph 93. They commented that, without clarification, there could be differences between interim and annual reporting, for reclassifications of items that arise in one interim period and reverse out in a different interim period within the same annual period.
- BC73 The Board decided to align the definition of reclassification adjustments with SFAS 130 and include an additional reference to 'current periods' in paragraph 7.

¹² IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments* eliminated the category of available-for-sale financial assets. This paragraph refers to matters relevant when IAS 1 was issued.

Statement of changes in equity

Effects of retrospective application or retrospective restatement (paragraph 106(b))

- BC74 Some respondents to the exposure draft of 2006 asked the Board to clarify whether the effects of retrospective application or retrospective restatement, as defined in IAS 8, should be regarded as non-owner changes in equity. The Board noted that IAS 1 specifies that these effects are included in the statement of changes in equity. However, the Board decided to clarify that the effects of retrospective application or retrospective restatement are not changes in equity in the period, but provide a reconciliation between the previous period's closing balance and the opening balance in the statement of changes in equity.

Reconciliation for each component of other comprehensive income (paragraphs 106(d)(ii) and 106A)

- BC74A Paragraph 106(d) requires an entity to provide a reconciliation of changes in each component of equity. In *Improvements to IFRSs* issued in May 2010, the Board clarified that entities may present the required reconciliations for each component of other comprehensive income either in the statement of changes in equity or in the notes to the financial statements.

Presentation of dividends (paragraph 107)

- BC75 The Board reaffirmed its conclusion to require the presentation of dividends in the statement of changes in equity or in the notes, because dividends are distributions to owners in their capacity as owners and the statement of changes in equity presents all owner changes in equity. The Board concluded that an entity should not present dividends in the statement of comprehensive income because that statement presents non-owner changes in equity.

Statement of cash flows

IAS 7 Cash Flow Statements (paragraph 111)

- BC76 The Board considered whether the operating section of an indirect method statement of cash flows should begin with total comprehensive income instead of profit or loss as is required by IAS 7 *Cash Flow Statements*. When components of other comprehensive income are non-cash items, they would become reconciling items in arriving at cash flows from operating activities and would add items to the statement of cash flows without adding information content. The Board concluded that an amendment to IAS 7 is not required; however, as mentioned in paragraph BC14 the Board decided to relabel this financial statement as 'statement of cash flows'.

Notes

Structure (paragraphs 112–116)

- BC76A The Board is aware that some had interpreted paragraph 114 of IAS 1 as requiring a specific order for the notes. Paragraph 114 stated that 'an entity normally presents notes in the [following] order' and then listed a particular order for the notes. Some think that the use of 'normally' makes it difficult for an entity to vary the order of the notes from the one that is listed in paragraph 114; for example, by disclosing the notes in order of importance or disclosing related information together in sections.
- BC76B Investors' feedback indicates that some investors prefer an entity to vary the order of the notes from the one that is listed in paragraph 114 of IAS 1. Other investors would prefer entities to use that order because they think it will increase comparability between periods and across entities.
- BC76C The Board considered the use of the word normally in paragraph 114 of IAS 1 and concluded that it was not intended that entities be required to disclose their notes in that order. Instead, it thinks that the order listed was intended to provide an example of how an entity could order the notes and that the term normal was not meant to imply that alternative ordering of the notes is 'abnormal'. The Board therefore amended

IAS 1 to clarify that the order listed in paragraph 114 is an example of how an entity could order or group its notes in a systematic manner. The Board also made amendments to clarify that significant accounting policies do not need to be disclosed in one note, but instead can be included with related information in other notes.

BC76D The Board also noted the requirement in paragraph 113 of IAS 1 for entities to, as far as practicable, present the notes in a systematic manner. In the Board's view, this means that there must be a system or reason behind the ordering and grouping of the notes. For example, notes could be ordered by importance to the entity, in the order line items are presented in the financial statements or a combination of both. The Board amended paragraph 113 to clarify that an entity should consider the effect on the understandability and comparability of its financial statements when determining the order of the notes. The Board acknowledged that there is a trade-off between understandability and comparability; for example, ordering notes to increase understandability could mean that comparability, including consistency, between entities and periods is reduced. In particular, the Board acknowledged that consistency in the order of the notes for a specific entity from period to period is important. The Board noted that it would generally be helpful for users of financial statements if the ordering of notes by an entity is consistent and noted that it does not expect the order of an entity's notes to change frequently. A change in the order of the notes previously determined to be an optimal mix of understandability and comparability should generally result from a specific event or transaction, such as a change in business. The Board also noted that the existing requirements in paragraph 45 of IAS 1 for consistency of presentation still apply.

BC76E The Board also observed that electronic versions of financial statements can make it easier to search for, locate and compare information within the financial statements, between periods and between entities.

Disclosure of accounting policies (paragraphs 117–121)

BC76F Paragraph 117 of IAS 1 requires significant accounting policies to be disclosed and gives guidance, along with paragraphs 118–124 of IAS 1, about what a significant accounting policy could be. That guidance includes, as examples of significant accounting policies, the income taxes accounting policy and the foreign currency accounting policy.

BC76G Some suggested that it is not helpful to provide the income taxes accounting policy as an example of a policy that users of financial statements would expect to be disclosed. Being liable to income taxes is typical for many entities and it was not clear, from the example, what aspect of the entity's operations would make a user of financial statements expect an accounting policy on income taxes to be disclosed. Consequently, the example does not illustrate why an accounting policy on income taxes is significant. The Board also thought that the foreign currency accounting policy example in paragraph 120 of IAS 1 was unhelpful for the same reasons and therefore deleted the income taxes and foreign currency examples.

BC76H–BC76AB *[These paragraphs refer to amendments that are not yet effective, and are therefore not included in this edition.]*

Disclosure of the judgements that management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies (paragraphs 122–124)

BC77 The revised IAS 1 requires disclosure of the judgements, apart from those involving estimations, that management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements (see paragraph 122). An example of these judgements is how management determines whether financial assets are held-to-maturity investments.¹³ The Board decided that disclosure of the most important of these judgements would enable users of financial statements to understand better how the accounting policies are applied and to make comparisons between entities regarding the basis on which managements make these judgements.

BC78 Comments received on the exposure draft of 2002 indicated that the purpose of the proposed disclosure was unclear. Accordingly, the Board amended the disclosure explicitly to exclude judgements involving estimations (which are the subject of the disclosure in paragraph 125) and added another four examples of the types of judgements disclosed (see paragraphs 123 and 124).

¹³ IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments* eliminated the category of held-to-maturity financial assets. This paragraph refers to matters relevant when IAS 1 was issued.

Disclosure of major sources of estimation uncertainty (paragraphs 125–133)

- BC79 IAS 1 requires disclosure of the assumptions concerning the future, and other major sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. For those assets and liabilities, the proposed disclosures include details of:
- (a) their nature; and
 - (b) their carrying amount as at the end of the reporting period (see paragraph 125).
- BC80 Determining the carrying amounts of some assets and liabilities requires estimation of the effects of uncertain future events on those assets and liabilities at the end of the reporting period. For example, in the absence of recently observed market prices used to measure the following assets and liabilities, future-oriented estimates are necessary to measure the recoverable amount of classes of property, plant and equipment, the effect of technological obsolescence of inventories, provisions subject to the future outcome of litigation in progress, and long-term employee benefit liabilities such as pension obligations. These estimates involve assumptions about items such as the risk adjustment to cash flows or discount rates used, future changes in salaries and future changes in prices affecting other costs. No matter how diligently an entity estimates the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities subject to significant estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, the reporting of point estimates in the statement of financial position cannot provide information about the estimation uncertainties involved in measuring those assets and liabilities and the implications of those uncertainties for the period's profit or loss.
- BC81 The *Framework* states that 'The economic decisions that are made by users of financial statements require an evaluation of the ability of an entity to generate cash and cash equivalents and of the timing and certainty of their generation.' The Board decided that disclosure of information about assumptions and other major sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period enhances the relevance, reliability and understandability of the information reported in financial statements. These assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty relate to estimates that require management's most difficult, subjective or complex judgements. Therefore, disclosure in accordance with paragraph 125 of the revised IAS 1 would be made in respect of relatively few assets or liabilities (or classes of them).
- BC82 The exposure draft of 2002 proposed the disclosure of some 'sources of measurement uncertainty'. In the light of comments received that the purpose of this disclosure was unclear, the Board decided:
- (a) to amend the subject of that disclosure to 'sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period'; and
 - (b) to clarify in the revised Standard that the disclosure does not apply to assets and liabilities measured at fair value based on recently observed market prices (see paragraph 128 of IAS 1).
- BC83 When assets and liabilities are measured at fair value on the basis of recently observed market prices, future changes in carrying amounts would not result from using estimates to measure the assets and liabilities at the end of the reporting period. Using observed market prices to measure assets or liabilities obviates the need for estimates at the end of the reporting period. The market prices properly reflect the fair values at the end of the reporting period, even though future market prices could be different. The objective of fair value measurement is to reflect fair value at the measurement date, not to predict a future value.¹⁴
- BC84 IAS 1 does not prescribe the particular form or detail of the disclosures. Circumstances differ from entity to entity, and the nature of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period has many facets. IAS 1 limits the scope of the disclosures to items that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. The longer the future period to which the disclosures relate, the greater the range of items that would qualify for disclosure, and the less specific are the disclosures that could be made about particular assets or liabilities. A period longer than the next financial year might obscure the most relevant information with other disclosures.

Disclosures about capital (paragraphs 134 and 135)

- BC85 In July 2004 the Board published an exposure draft—ED 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures*. As part of that project, the Board considered whether it should require disclosures about capital.
- BC86 The level of an entity's capital and how it manages capital are important factors for users to consider in assessing the risk profile of an entity and its ability to withstand unexpected adverse events. The level of

¹⁴ IFRS 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, issued in May 2011, defines fair value and contains the requirements for measuring fair value.

capital might also affect the entity's ability to pay dividends. Consequently, ED 7 proposed disclosures about capital.

- BC87 In ED 7 the Board decided that it should not limit the requirements for disclosures about capital to entities that are subject to external capital requirements (eg regulatory capital requirements established by legislation or other regulation). The Board believes that information about capital is useful for all entities, as is evidenced by the fact that some entities set internal capital requirements and norms have been established for some industries. The Board noted that the capital disclosures are not intended to replace disclosures required by regulators. The Board also noted that the financial statements should not be regarded as a substitute for disclosures to regulators (which may not be available to all users) because the function of disclosures made to regulators may differ from the function of those to other users. Therefore, the Board decided that information about capital should be required of all entities because it is useful to users of general purpose financial statements. Accordingly, the Board did not distinguish between the requirements for regulated and non-regulated entities.
- BC88 Some respondents to ED 7 questioned the relevance of the capital disclosures in an IFRS dealing with disclosures relating to financial instruments. The Board noted that an entity's capital does not relate solely to financial instruments and, thus, capital disclosures have more general relevance. Accordingly, the Board included these disclosures in IAS 1, rather than IFRS 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures*, the IFRS resulting from ED 7.
- BC89 The Board also decided that an entity's decision to adopt the amendments to IAS 1 should be independent of the entity's decision to adopt IFRS 7. The Board noted that issuing a separate amendment facilitates separate adoption decisions.

Objectives, policies and processes for managing capital (paragraph 136)

- BC90 The Board decided that disclosure about capital should be placed in the context of a discussion of the entity's objectives, policies and processes for managing capital. This is because the Board believes that such a discussion both communicates important information about the entity's capital strategy and provides the context for other disclosures.
- BC91 The Board considered whether an entity can have a view of capital that differs from what IFRSs define as equity. The Board noted that, although for the purposes of this disclosure capital would often equate with equity as defined in IFRSs, it might also include or exclude some components. The Board also noted that this disclosure is intended to give entities the opportunity to describe how they view the components of capital they manage, if this is different from what IFRSs define as equity.

Externally imposed capital requirements (paragraph 136)

- BC92 The Board considered whether it should require disclosure of any externally imposed capital requirements. Such a capital requirement could be:
- (a) an industry- wide requirement with which all entities in the industry must comply; or
 - (b) an entity- specific requirement imposed on a particular entity by its prudential supervisor or other regulator.
- BC93 The Board noted that some industries and countries have industry- wide capital requirements, and others do not. Thus, the Board concluded that it should not require disclosure of industry- wide requirements, or compliance with such requirements, because such disclosure would not lead to comparability between different entities or between similar entities in different countries.
- BC94 The Board concluded that disclosure of the existence and level of entity- specific capital requirements is important information for users, because it informs them about the risk assessment of the regulator. Such disclosure improves transparency and market discipline.
- BC95 However, the Board noted the following arguments against requiring disclosure of externally imposed entity- specific capital requirements.
- (a) Users of financial statements might rely primarily on the regulator's assessment of solvency risk without making their own risk assessment.
 - (b) The focus of a regulator's risk assessment is for those whose interests the regulations are intended to protect (eg depositors or policyholders). This emphasis is different from that of a shareholder. Thus, it could be misleading to suggest that the regulator's risk assessment could, or should, be a substitute for independent analysis by investors.

- (c) The disclosure of entity- specific capital requirements imposed by a regulator might undermine that regulator's ability to impose such requirements. For example, the information could cause depositors to withdraw funds, a prospect that might discourage regulators from imposing requirements. Furthermore, an entity's regulatory dialogue would become public, which might not be appropriate in all circumstances.
 - (d) Because different regulators have different tools available, for example formal requirements and moral suasion, a requirement to disclose entity- specific capital requirements could not be framed in a way that would lead to the provision of information that is comparable across entities.
 - (e) Disclosure of capital requirements (and hence, regulatory judgements) could hamper clear communication to the entity of the regulator's assessment by creating incentives to use moral suasion and other informal mechanisms.
 - (f) Disclosure requirements should not focus on entity- specific capital requirements in isolation, but should focus on how entity- specific capital requirements affect how an entity manages and determines the adequacy of its capital resources.
 - (g) A requirement to disclose entity- specific capital requirements imposed by a regulator is not part of Pillar 3 of the Basel II Framework developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.
- BC96 Taking into account all of the above arguments, the Board decided not to require quantitative disclosure of externally imposed capital requirements. Rather, it decided to require disclosures about whether the entity complied with any externally imposed capital requirements during the period and, if not, the consequences of non- compliance. This retains confidentiality between regulators and the entity, but alerts users to breaches of capital requirements and their consequences.
- BC97 Some respondents to ED 7 did not agree that breaches of externally imposed capital requirements should be disclosed. They argued that disclosure about breaches of externally imposed capital requirements and the associated regulatory measures subsequently imposed could be disproportionately damaging to entities. The Board was not persuaded by these arguments because it believes that such concerns indicate that information about breaches of externally imposed capital requirements may often be material by its nature. The *Framework* states that 'Information is material if its omission or misstatement could influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.' Similarly, the Board decided not to provide an exemption for temporary non- compliance with regulatory requirements during the year. Information that an entity is sufficiently close to its limits to breach them, even on a temporary basis, is useful for users.

Internal capital targets

- BC98 The Board proposed in ED 7 that the requirement to disclose information about breaches of capital requirements should apply equally to breaches of internally imposed requirements, because it believed the information is also useful to a user of the financial statements.
- BC99 However, this proposal was criticised by respondents to ED 7 for the following reasons:
- (a) The information is subjective and, thus, not comparable between entities. In particular, different entities will set internal targets for different reasons, so a breach of a requirement might signify different things for different entities. In contrast, a breach of an external requirement has similar implications for all entities required to comply with similar requirements.
 - (b) Capital targets are not more important than other internally set financial targets, and to require disclosure only of capital targets would provide users with incomplete, and perhaps misleading, information.
 - (c) Internal targets are estimates that are subject to change by the entity. It is not appropriate to require the entity's performance against this benchmark to be disclosed.
 - (d) An internally set capital target can be manipulated by management. The disclosure requirement could cause management to set the target so that it would always be achieved, providing little useful information to users and potentially reducing the effectiveness of the entity's capital management.
- BC100 As a result, the Board decided not to require disclosure of the capital targets set by management, whether the entity has complied with those targets, or the consequences of any non- compliance. However, the Board confirmed its view that when an entity has policies and processes for managing capital, qualitative disclosures about these policies and processes are useful. The Board also concluded that these disclosures,

together with disclosure of the components of equity and their changes during the year (required by paragraphs 106–110), would give sufficient information about entities that are not regulated or subject to externally imposed capital requirements.

Puttable financial instruments and obligations arising on liquidation

- BC100A The Board decided to require disclosure of information about puttable instruments and instruments that impose on the entity an obligation to deliver to another party a pro rata share of the net assets of the entity only on liquidation that are reclassified in accordance with paragraphs 16E and 16F of IAS 32. This is because the Board concluded that this disclosure allows users of financial statements to understand the effects of any reclassifications.
- BC100B The Board also concluded that entities with puttable financial instruments classified as equity should be required to disclose additional information to allow users to assess any effect on the entity's liquidity arising from the ability of the holder to put the instruments to the issuer. Financial instruments classified as equity usually do not include any obligation for the entity to deliver a financial asset to another party. Therefore, the Board concluded that additional disclosures are needed in these circumstances. In particular, the Board concluded that entities should disclose the expected cash outflow on redemption or repurchase of those financial instruments that are classified as equity and information about how that amount was determined. That information allows liquidity risk associated with the put obligation and future cash flows to be evaluated.

Presentation of measures per share

- BC101 The exposure draft of 2006 did not propose to change the requirements of IAS 33 *Earnings per Share* on the presentation of basic and diluted earnings per share. A majority of respondents agreed with this decision. In their opinion, earnings per share should be the only measure per share permitted or required in the statement of comprehensive income and changing those requirements was beyond the scope of this stage of the financial statement presentation project.
- BC102 However, some respondents would like to see alternative measures per share whenever earnings per share is not viewed as the most relevant measure for financial analysts (ie credit rating agencies that focus on other measures). A few respondents proposed that an entity should also display an amount per share for total comprehensive income, because this was considered a useful measure. The Board did not support including alternative measures per share in the financial statements, until totals and subtotals, and principles for aggregating and disaggregating items, are addressed and discussed as part of the next stage of the financial statement presentation project.
- BC103 Some respondents also interpreted the current provisions in IAS 33 as allowing de facto a display of alternative measures in the income statement. In its deliberations, the Board was clear that paragraph 73 of IAS 33 did not leave room for confusion. However, it decided that the wording in paragraph 73 could be improved to clarify that alternative measures should be shown 'only in the notes'. This will be done when IAS 33 is revisited or as part of the annual improvements process.
- BC104 One respondent commented that the use of the word 'earnings' was inappropriate in the light of changes proposed in the exposure draft and that the measure should be denominated 'profit or loss per share', instead. The Board considered that this particular change in terminology was beyond the scope of IAS 1.

Transition and effective date

- BC105 The Board is committed to maintaining a 'stable platform' of substantially unchanged standards for annual periods beginning between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2008. In addition, some preparers will need time to make the system changes necessary to comply with the revisions to IAS 1. Therefore, the Board decided that the effective date of IAS 1 should be annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2009, with earlier application permitted.
- BC105A The exposure draft *Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income* published in May 2010 proposed changes to presentation of items of OCI. The Board finalised these changes in June 2011 and decided that the effective dates for these changes should be for annual periods beginning on or after 1 July 2012, with earlier application permitted. The Board did not think that a long transition period was needed as the changes to presentation are small and the presentation required by the amendments is already allowed under IAS 1.

- BC105B The Board had consulted on the effective date and transition requirements for this amendment in its *Request for Views on Effective Dates and Transition Requirements* in October 2010 and the responses to that document did not give the Board any reason to reconsider the effective date and the transition requirements.

Disclosure Initiative (Amendments to IAS 1)

- BC105C The Board decided that *Disclosure Initiative* (Amendments to IAS 1) should be applied for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016 with early application permitted.
- BC105D The Board noted that these amendments clarify existing requirements in IAS 1. They provide additional guidance to assist entities to apply judgement when meeting the presentation and disclosure requirements in IFRS. These amendments do not affect recognition and measurement. They should not result in the reassessment of the judgements about presentation and disclosure made in periods prior to the application of these amendments.
- BC105E Paragraph 38 of IAS 1 requires an entity to present comparative information for all amounts reported in the current period financial statements and for narrative or descriptive information ‘if it is relevant to understanding the current period’s financial statements’. If an entity alters the order of the notes or the information presented or disclosed compared to the previous year, it also adjusts the comparative information to align with the current period presentation and disclosure. For that reason, IAS 1 already provides relief from having to disclose comparative information that is not considered relevant in the current period and requires comparative information for new amounts presented or disclosed in the current period.
- BC105F The March 2014 Exposure Draft proposed that if an entity applies these amendments early that it should disclose that fact. However, the Board removed this requirement and stated in the transition provisions that an entity need not disclose the fact that it has applied these amendments (regardless of whether the amendments have been applied for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016 or if they have been applied early). This is because the Board considers that these amendments are clarifying amendments that do not directly affect an entity’s accounting policies or accounting estimates. Similarly, an entity does not need to disclose the information required by paragraphs 28–30 of IAS 8 in relation to these amendments. The Board noted that if an entity decides to change its accounting policies as a result of applying these amendments then it would be required to follow the existing requirements in IAS 8 in relation to those accounting policy changes.

Amended references to the Conceptual Framework

- BC105G Following the issue of the revised *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting* in 2018 (2018 *Conceptual Framework*), the Board issued *Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in IFRS Standards*. In IAS 1, that document replaced references in paragraphs 15, 19–20, 23–24, 28 and 89 to the *Framework* with references to the 2018 *Conceptual Framework*.
- BC105H The Board does not expect the replacement of the references to the *Framework* to have a significant effect on the application of the Standard for the following reasons:
- (a) In paragraph 15, replacing the reference to the *Framework* should not change the assessment of whether the financial statements present fairly the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of an entity. Paragraph 15 explains that the application of IFRS Standards, with additional disclosure when necessary, is presumed to result in financial statements that achieve fair presentation. Revisions of the *Conceptual Framework* will not automatically lead to changes in IFRS Standards. Hence, entities are expected to continue applying IFRS Standards in preparing their financial statements even in cases in which the requirements of a particular Standard depart from aspects of the *Conceptual Framework*.
 - (b) In paragraphs 19–20 and 23–24, replacing the reference to the *Framework* means referring to the revised description of the objective of financial statements in the 2018 *Conceptual Framework* instead of the description provided by the *Framework*. The objective did not change substantively—it is an adapted and updated version of the objective of financial statements from the *Framework* and paragraph 9 of IAS 1. Hence, applying the revised objective is not expected to lead to changes in the application of the requirements in paragraphs 19–20 and 23–24.
 - (c) In paragraph 28, replacing the reference to the *Framework* in the discussion of the accrual basis of accounting is not expected to result in any changes because no changes were made to the discussion of the accrual basis of accounting in the 2018 *Conceptual Framework*.

- (d) In paragraph 89, replacing the reference to the *Framework* means referring to the revised definitions of income and expenses in the 2018 *Conceptual Framework*. The Board concluded that this is unlikely to lead to changes in applying the requirements of IAS 1 because the definitions of income and expenses in the 2018 *Conceptual Framework* were updated only to align them with the revised definitions of an asset and a liability. Moreover, the main purpose of paragraph 89 is to indicate that particular items of income or expenses can be recognised outside profit or loss only if required by other IFRS Standards.
- BC105I IAS 1 referred to the *Framework* in paragraph 7 and quoted the description of users of financial statements from the *Framework*. To retain the requirements of this paragraph, the Board decided to embed that description in the Standard itself instead of updating the reference and the related quotation.
- BC105J In developing the 2018 *Conceptual Framework* the Board retained the term ‘faithful representation’ as a label for the qualitative characteristic previously called ‘reliability’ (see paragraphs BC2.22–BC2.31 of the Basis for Conclusions on the 2018 *Conceptual Framework*). In order to avoid possible unintended consequences, the Board decided against replacing the term ‘reliability’ with the term ‘faithful representation’ in the Standards at this time.

Differences from SFAS 130

- BC106 In developing IAS 1, the Board identified the following differences from SFAS 130:
- (a) **Reporting and display of comprehensive income** Paragraph 22 of SFAS 130 permits a choice of displaying comprehensive income and its components, in one or two statements of financial performance or in a statement of changes in equity. IAS 1 (as revised in 2007) does not permit display in a statement of changes in equity.
- (b) **Reporting other comprehensive income in the equity section of a statement of financial position** Paragraph 26 of SFAS 130 specifically states that the *total of other comprehensive income* is reported separately from retained earnings and additional paid-in capital in a statement of financial position at the end of the period. A descriptive title such as *accumulated other comprehensive income* is used for that component of equity. An entity discloses accumulated balances for each classification in that separate component of equity in a statement of financial position, in a statement of changes in equity, or in notes to the financial statements. IAS 1 (as revised in 2007) does not specifically require the display of a total of accumulated other comprehensive income in the statement of financial position.
- (c) **Display of the share of other comprehensive income items of associates and joint ventures accounted for using the equity method** Paragraph 82 of IAS 1 (as revised in 2007) requires the display in the statement of comprehensive income of the investor’s share of the investee’s other comprehensive income. Paragraph 122 of SFAS 130 does not specify how that information should be displayed. An investor is permitted to combine its proportionate share of other comprehensive income amounts with its own other comprehensive income items and display the aggregate of those amounts in an income statement type format or in a statement of changes in equity.

Appendix

Amendments to the Basis for Conclusions on other IFRSs

This appendix contains amendments to the Basis for Conclusions on other IFRSs that are necessary in order to ensure consistency with the revised IAS 1. Amended paragraphs are shown with the new text underlined and deleted text struck through.

* * * * *

The amendments contained in this appendix when this Standard was revised in 2007 have been incorporated into the relevant IFRSs published in this volume.

Dissenting opinions

Dissent of Mary E Barth, Anthony T Cope, Robert P Garnett and James J Leisenring from IAS 1 (as revised in September 2007)

- DO1 Professor Barth and Messrs Cope, Garnett and Leisenring voted against the issue of IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* in 2007. The reasons for their dissent are set out below.
- DO2 Those Board members agree with the requirement to report all items of income and expense separately from changes in net assets that arise from transactions with owners in their capacity as owners. Making that distinction clearly is a significant improvement in financial reporting.
- DO3 However, they believe that the decision to permit entities to divide the statement of comprehensive income into two separate statements is both conceptually unsound and unwise.
- DO4 As noted in paragraph BC51, the *Framework*¹⁵ does not define profit or loss, or net income. It also does not indicate what criteria should be used to distinguish between those items of recognised income and expense that should be included in profit or loss and those items that should not. In some cases, it is even possible for identical transactions to be reported inside or outside profit or loss. Indeed, in that same paragraph, the Board acknowledges these facts, and indicates that it had a preference for reporting all items of income and expense in a single statement, believing that a single statement is the conceptually correct approach. Those Board members believe that some items of income and expense that will potentially bypass the statement of profit and loss can be as significant to the assessment of an entity's performance as items that will be included. Until a conceptual distinction can be developed to determine whether any items should be reported in profit or loss or elsewhere, financial statements will lack neutrality and comparability unless all items are reported in a single statement. In such a statement, profit or loss can be shown as a subtotal, reflecting current conventions.
- DO5 In the light of those considerations, it is puzzling that most respondents to the exposure draft that proposed these amendments favoured permitting a two- statement approach, reasoning that it 'distinguishes between profit and loss and total comprehensive income' (paragraph BC50). Distinguishing between those items reported in profit or loss and those reported elsewhere is accomplished by the requirement for relevant subtotals to be included in a statement of comprehensive income. Respondents also stated that a two- statement approach gives primacy to the 'income statement'; that conflicts with the Board's requirement in paragraph 11 of IAS 1 to give equal prominence to all financial statements within a set of financial statements.
- DO6 Those Board members also believe that the amendments are flawed by offering entities a choice of presentation methods. The Board has expressed a desire to reduce alternatives in IFRSs. The *Preface to International Financial Reporting Standards*, in paragraph 13,¹⁶ states: 'the IASB intends not to permit choices in accounting treatment ... and will continue to reconsider ... those transactions and events for which IASs permit a choice of accounting treatment, with the objective of reducing the number of those choices.' The *Preface* extends this objective to both accounting and reporting. The same paragraph states: 'The IASB's objective is to require like transactions and events to be accounted for *and reported* in a like way and unlike transactions and events to be accounted for *and reported* differently' (emphasis added). By permitting a choice in this instance, the IASB has abandoned that principle.
- DO7 Finally, the four Board members believe that allowing a choice of presentation at this time will ingrain practice, and make achievement of the conceptually correct presentation more difficult as the long- term project on financial statement presentation proceeds.

¹⁵ The reference to the *Framework* is to the IASC's *Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements*, adopted by the Board in 2001 and in effect when the Standard was revised.

¹⁶ Amended to paragraph 11 when the *Preface to IFRS Standards* was revised and renamed in December 2018.

Dissent of Paul Pacter from *Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income* (Amendments to IAS 1)

- DO1 Mr Pacter voted against issuing the amendments to IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* set out in *Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income* in June 2011. Mr Pacter believes that the Board has missed a golden opportunity to align the performance statement with the Board's *Conceptual Framework*¹⁷ and, thereby, improve information for users of IFRS financial statements.
- DO2 Mr Pacter believes that ideally this project should have provided guidance, to the Board and to those who use IFRSs, on which items of income and expense (if any) should be presented as items of other comprehensive income (OCI) and which of those (if any) should subsequently be recycled through profit or loss. Mr Pacter acknowledges and accepts that this project has a more short-term goal – 'to improve the consistency and clarity of the presentation of items of OCI'. He believes that this project fails to deliver on that objective, for the following reasons:
- (a) Consistency is not achieved because the standard allows choice between presenting performance in a single performance statement or two performance statements. Users of financial statements—and the Board itself—have often said that accounting options are not helpful for understandability and comparability of financial statements.
 - (b) Clarity is not achieved because allowing two performance statements is inconsistent with the *Conceptual Framework*. The *Conceptual Framework* defines two types of items that measure an entity's performance—income and expenses. Mr Pacter believes that all items of income and expense should be presented in a single performance statement with appropriate subtotals (including profit or loss, if that can be defined) and supporting disclosures. This is consistent with reporting all assets and liabilities in a single statement of financial position, rather than multiple statements. Unfortunately, neither IAS 1 nor any other IFRS addresses criteria for which items are presented in OCI. And the recent history of which items are presented in OCI suggests that the decisions are based more on expediency than conceptual merit. In Mr Pacter's judgement, that is all the more reason to have all items of income and expense reported in a single performance statement.
- DO3 Mr Pacter believes that the Board should breathe new life into its former project on performance reporting as a matter of urgency.

¹⁷

References to the *Conceptual Framework* in this Dissent are to the *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting*, issued in 2010 and in effect when the Standard was amended.

