

# AGENDA PAPER

| Action Required  | X For Information Only             |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Subject:         | International and other activities |
| Date of Meeting: | 9 February 2012                    |
| Item Number:     | 14                                 |

### Purpose:

To provide a quarterly update to the Board on:

• IESBA activities and International Exposure Drafts

### **IESBA**

### Meetings

There have been no Board meetings of the IESBA held with the next meeting scheduled for 20-22 February 2012 in Dublin, Ireland.

### **International Exposure Drafts**

The International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants has issued an exposure draft *Proposed Changes to the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants Addressing Conflicts of Interest* that has a closing comment period of 31 March 2012.

The exposure draft seeks respondent's feedback on a number of specific issues including whether:

- respondents find the description and examples of conflicts of interest helpful;
- the reasonable and informed third party test is appropriate;
- the "reason to believe" threshold for network firms in evaluating conflicts of interest is appropriate;
- the guidance concerning safeguards to manage conflicts of interest and obtaining and documenting consent is appropriate;
- respondents agree with the conditions that need to be met before a professional accountant can proceed to accept or continue with an engagement where a conflict exists but consent cannot be obtained because it is a breach of confidentiality;
- respondents agree with the general requirement to identify, evaluate and manage conflicts of interest;
- the conforming changes proposed are useful, appropriate and adequate; and
- respondents agree with the impact analysis presented.

Technical staff will review the exposure draft and prepare a submission for the Board's consideration.

## Technical Submissions

IESBA recently issued an exposure draft *Proposed Changes to the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants Related to Provisions Addressing a Breach of a Requirement of the Code* that had a closing comment period of 23 January 2012. APESB prepared a submission for IESBA's consideration that has been attached for information purposes.

#### Material Presented:

Attachment 18(a) IESBA – ED Proposed Changes to the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants Addressing Conflicts of Interest

Attachment 18(b) APESB Submission to IESBA on Proposed Changes to the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants Related to Provisions Addressing a Breach of a Requirement of the Code

#### **Recommendation:**

- 1. That the report on International and other activities be noted
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- **Date:** 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2012