

April 23, 2026

Paris, France

International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators (IFIAR) marks 20 years at its 2026 Plenary Meeting

IFIAR marked 20 years since its formation at the 2026 IFIAR Plenary Meeting, which was hosted by France (H2A¹) on April 21-23, 2026. Representatives from 50 IFIAR Member jurisdictions met in Paris to participate in discussions focusing on key developments and emerging trends in the audit market, whilst also looking ahead to the next five years in approving IFIAR's 2026-2031 Strategic Plan.

"It was inspiring to gather in Paris with colleagues from across the globe who share a common commitment: To serve the public interest, including investors, by enhancing audit oversight globally with the aim of achieving sustained audit quality" said Kevin Prendergast, IFIAR Chair. "As we commemorate IFIAR's 20-year milestone in 2026, it is remarkable to reflect on how far we have come – two decades of progress, collaboration, and meaningful advances in audit oversight around the world. And yet, there is so much more ahead.

This year's Plenary once again demonstrated the value of bringing independent audit regulators together in one forum. By exchanging practical insights, emerging perspectives, and lessons learned, our Members collectively reinforce the quality of audit oversight within each of our jurisdictions. We recognise that not only are we stronger together, but that the problems and challenges we face are only ultimately solved through dialogue. This Plenary is testament to that principle. I'm excited to see IFIAR grow and develop over the next 20 years, as we continue working side by side to enhance audit oversight across the international landscape."

The Plenary meeting served as a platform for Members, IFIAR Observers, and key stakeholders to examine pressing issues shaping the audit market and the work of audit regulators.

- The Plenary symposium kicked off with a keynote session which addressed the growing significance of artificial intelligence (AI). The presentation highlighted the importance of understanding and engaging with AI as it becomes increasingly embedded in the work of audit firms, audit regulators, and all stakeholders in the financial reporting ecosystem.
- The Plenary meeting also offered IFIAR Members the opportunity to discuss three important topics in breakout sessions. These sessions focused on the use of technology by audit networks; alternative forms of investments in audit firms; and developments in sustainability assurance.

¹ La Haute Autorité de l'audit

- In other Plenary sessions, the PIOB² Chair and Secretary General provided Members with an overview of the PIOB's responsibilities in the standard setting system, and an update on the ongoing developments in this area. The IAASB³ Chair and IESBA⁴ Chair discussed their respective Boards' standard setting activities with the theme of 'Standard-Setting in the wake of the Monitoring Group Reforms', covering how the reforms to the governance and board structures will shape the Boards' priorities, processes, and engagement with stakeholders. IFIAR's IOSWG⁵ Advisory Group members offered insights during a panel session into key aspects of engagement between auditors and stakeholders.
- The global CEOs of each of the GPPC⁶ networks were once again invited to brief Members on audit quality, with a particular focus on the actions their networks are taking to strengthen both audit quality and broader professional quality through improvements in structure, processes, and culture. Additional topics covered in Q&A with the membership included alternative forms of investments (e.g. private equity), artificial intelligence, sustainability assurance and audit quality indicators.

Working Groups (WGs) and Task Forces (TFs)

Members engaged with the leads of IFIAR's WGs and TFs to review their accomplishments over the past year and planned initiatives for the year ahead. IFIAR's WGs and TFs are Member driven and serve a key role in IFIAR achieving its mission. IFIAR's WGs and TFs are focused on practical deliverables from their work in the following areas: audit quality; inspections; enforcement; standard setting; engagement with investors and other stakeholders; use of technology; sustainability assurance and alternative forms of investment in audit firms.

About IFIAR

Established in 2006, IFIAR comprises independent audit regulators from 56 jurisdictions representing Africa, North America, South America, Asia, Oceania, and Europe. Our mission is to serve the public interest, including investors, by enhancing audit oversight globally. IFIAR provides a platform for dialogue and information-sharing regarding audit quality matters and regulatory practices around the world; and promotes collaboration in regulatory activity. IFIAR's official observer organizations are the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, the European Commission, the Financial Stability Board, the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, the International Organization of Securities Commissions, the Public Interest Oversight Board and the World Bank. For more information about IFIAR, visit www.ifiar.org or contact the IFIAR Secretariat at secretariat@ifiar.org.

² Public Interest Oversight Board

³ International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board

⁴ International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants

⁵ Investor and Other Stakeholder Working Group

⁶ Each of the GPPC networks is comprised of a group of legally separate firms operating locally in countries or regions around the world. The GPPC networks participate in the Global Public Policy Committee (GPPC), represented by the following entities: BDO International Limited, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited, Ernst & Young Global Limited, Grant Thornton International Limited, KPMG International Limited, and PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited.