



**International Public Sector Accounting Standard 37**  
***Joint Arrangements***

**IPSASB Basis for Conclusions – as per 2017 IPSASB Handbook**

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## Basis for Conclusions

*This Basis for Conclusions accompanies, but is not part of, IPSAS 37.*

### Objective

- BC1. This Basis for Conclusions summarizes the IPSASB's considerations in reaching the conclusions in IPSAS 37. As this Standard is based on IFRS 11, *Joint Arrangements* (issued in 2011, including amendments up to December 31, 2014), issued by the IASB, the Basis for Conclusions outlines only those areas where IPSAS 37 departs from the main requirements of IFRS 11.

### Overview

- BC2. In 2012 the IPSASB commenced work on a project to update those IPSASs that dealt with accounting for interests in controlled entities, associates and joint ventures. In October 2013 the IPSASB issued Exposure Drafts (EDs) 48 to 52 which were collectively referred to as *Interests in Other Entities*. ED 51, *Joint Arrangements*, was based on IFRS 11, *Joint Arrangements*, having regard to the relevant public sector modifications in IPSAS 8, *Interests in Joint Ventures*. In January 2015 the IPSASB issued five new IPSASs, including IPSAS 37. These new IPSASs supersede IPSAS 6, *Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements*, IPSAS 7, *Investments in Associates* and IPSAS 8.

### Classification of Joint Arrangements

- BC3. IPSAS 37 classifies joint arrangements as joint ventures or joint operations based on whether an entity has (i) rights to assets and obligations for liabilities, or (ii) rights to net assets. This differs from IPSAS 8 which referred to three types of arrangements, being jointly controlled entities, jointly controlled operations and jointly controlled assets. The IPSASB agreed that the classification of joint arrangements in IPSAS 37 should be consistent with IFRS 11.

### Elimination of Accounting Option

- BC4. IPSAS 37 requires that a joint venturer account for its interest in a joint venture using the equity method. Previously IPSAS 8 permitted jointly controlled entities to be accounted for using either the equity method or proportionate consolidation. The IPSASB acknowledged the IASB's rationale for removing proportionate consolidation as a method for accounting for interests in joint ventures and agreed that the accounting treatments permitted by IPSAS 37 should be consistent with IFRS 11.
- BC5. The IASB's reasons for removing proportionate consolidation as a method for accounting for interests in joint ventures included the following:
- (a) The equity method is the most appropriate method to account for joint ventures because it is a method that accounts for an entity's interest in the net assets of an investee.
  - (b) The approach in IFRS 11 is consistent with the IASB's view of what constitutes the economic substance of an entity's interests in joint arrangements.
  - (c) IFRS 11 will require consistent accounting for arrangements with similar rights.
  - (d) The IASB did not consider that the elimination of proportionate consolidation would cause a loss of information for users of financial statements (having regard to the disclosure requirements in IFRS 12, *Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities*).
- BC6. The IPSASB took the view there were no public sector differences that warranted a different approach to that taken by the IASB.

### Acquisition of an Interest in a Joint Operation

- BC7. At the time that IPSAS 37 was being developed, the IASB sought feedback on proposals to amend IFRS 11 by adding new guidance on how to account for the acquisition of an interest in a joint operation that constitutes a business, as defined in IFRS 3, *Business Combinations*. The IASB issued *Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations* (Amendments to IFRS 11) in May 2014. The IPSASB agreed not to incorporate such guidance in IPSAS 37 on the grounds that it would be more appropriate to consider such guidance in the context of drafting standards-level requirements for public sector combinations.

- BC8. At the time the IPSASB developed IPSAS 40, *Public Sector Combinations*, it reconsidered whether to include guidance on how to account for the acquisition of an interest in a joint operation that constitutes an operation. The IPSASB reviewed the guidance issued by the IASB in *Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations* (Amendments to IFRS 11) and did not identify a public sector reason to depart from that guidance. Consequently, the IPSASB agreed to include this guidance (amended to fit the terminology and definitions in IPSAS 40) in IPSAS 37.

**Revision of IPSAS 37 as a result of the IPSASB's *The Applicability of IPSASs*, issued in April 2016**

- BC9. The IPSASB issued *The Applicability of IPSASs* in April 2016. This pronouncement amends references in all IPSASs as follows:
- (a) Removes the standard paragraphs about the applicability of IPSASs to “public sector entities other than GBEs” from the scope section of each Standard;
  - (b) Replaces the term “GBE” with the term “commercial public sector entities”, where appropriate; and
  - (c) Amends paragraph 10 of the *Preface to International Public Sector Accounting Standards* by providing a positive description of public sector entities for which IPSASs are designed.

The reasons for these changes are set out in the Basis for Conclusions to IPSAS 1.