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Global practices for sustainability reporting and assurance over that information—including the prevalence of assurance, level of assurance, and standard and practitioner used—varies widely by jurisdiction, [according to a new study](#) from the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and the AICPA & CIMA (representing the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants).

The new study is a groundbreaking review that provides a comprehensive global picture of the current status of sustainability reporting and related assurance. The study further contextualizes this analysis with data on how and where

sustainability-related information is reported, and how this relates to assurance

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reporting sustainability information be required? If so, should assurance be required, and by whom? With this new data in hand, IFAC is initiating evidence-based conversations with our member organizations and other global stakeholders to advance the global debate and help plot the way forward in the public interest,” said IFAC CEO Kevin Dancy. “We will continue our commitment to this space as the reporting and assurance landscape evolves.”

“Companies that publish sustainability information that is subject to assurance by professional accountants have an opportunity to bring trust and reliability to their sustainability information. Engaging a licensed professional accountant who possesses the right combination of professional skills, qualifications, experience and is subject to independence, ethical and monitoring requirements can result in truly meaningful assurance and transparency,” said Susan S. Coffey, CPA, CGMA, CEO of Public Accounting at the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants. “As it stands, only around half of the companies reviewed in this study publish sustainability information that is subject to any assurance.”

The full study is available on the [IFAC website](#). For more information on AICPA & CIMA sustainability resources for the accountancy profession, please visit:

Accounting

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