



For immediate release

The Association of International Certified Professional Accountants launches guidance to help organisations achieve the United Nations' Sustainability Goals

New guide highlights the impact management accountants have on business sustainability

Johannesburg (30 May 2018) – Management accountants play a critical role in helping to drive trust, opportunity, prosperity and ultimately creating a sustainable future for businesses and people. A new guide published by the [Association of International Certified Professional Accountants](#) (the Association), the unified voice of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), provides guidance to help management accountants and their organisations achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These 17 goals and their 169 associated targets were created in an effort to address world issues including poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, environment and social justice.

The CGMA guide, "[The role of the accountant in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals](#)," details the business advantage of the SDGs and provides direction to help organisations achieve some of their social and socio-economic objectives. More specifically, the guide suggests that the skillsets, organisational role and ethical commitment of management accountants across the world place members of the accounting profession at the forefront of SDG planning and implementation. The areas accounting professionals can influence range widely, from developing new programmes of activity, to evidencing major successes, highlighting risk and proposing alternative courses of action.

CIMA Africa Regional VP Badi Promesse, FCMA, CGMA, said: "Today, businesses must go beyond making a profit and think how they serve all stakeholders. As the public increasingly demands transparency and accountability, reputation becomes a key factor. Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) holders possess the skills needed to position their businesses in this new age. Their unique skillset, which includes expertise in governance, risk management and control, business analysis and decision support, among other things, is critical to help organisations incorporate the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals into business strategy."

According to the guide, management accountants can help businesses achieve the SDG goals by:



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- encouraging businesses to improve innovation capabilities
- focusing on best practice in governance and stewardship
- driving the formation of strategic partnerships
- helping businesses to base their corporate reports on the six 'capitals' of integrated reporting: human, social and relationship, intellectual, natural, manufacturing and financial.

Additionally, the guide also provides examples of how organisations in different sectors and geographies are already meeting SDG requirements. It includes tools and methods which businesses can use to help manage reputational risk and respond to globalisation, digitisation and the impact of policy change.

One of the tools referenced in the guide is the [CGMA Business Model Framework](#). In addition to enhancing organisations' potential for creating long-term value, this tool can also help address the risks and opportunities involved in pursuing the SDGs. Analysing information and providing it to stakeholders as evidence of progress towards meeting the Goals can help organisations to realise trust in their stated values and intentions.

Further resources on the specifics of the 17 SDGs and how to assess and enhance engagement are also included.

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About the Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA)

CGMA is the most widely held management accounting designation in the world. It distinguishes more than 150,000 accounting and finance professionals who have advanced proficiency in finance, operations, strategy and management. In the U.S., the vast majority are also CPAs. The CGMA designation is underpinned by extensive global research to maintain the highest relevance with employers and develop competencies most in demand. CGMAs qualify through rigorous education, exam and experience requirements. They must commit to lifelong education and adhere to a stringent code of ethical conduct. Businesses, governments and nonprofits around the world trust CGMAs to guide critical decisions that drive strong performance.

About the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants

The Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (the Association) is the most influential body of professional accountants, combining the strengths of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) to power opportunity, trust and prosperity for people,



businesses and economies worldwide. It represents 650,000 members and students in public and management accounting and advocates for the public interest and business sustainability on current and emerging issues. With broad reach, rigor and resources, the Association advances the reputation, employability and quality of CPAs, CGMAs and accounting and finance professionals globally.

About the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), founded in 1919, is the world's leading and largest professional body of management accountants, with members and students operating in 176 countries, working at the heart of business. CIMA members and students work in industry, commerce, the public sector and not-for-profit organisations. CIMA works closely with employers and sponsors leading-edge research, constantly updating its qualification, professional experience requirements and continuing professional development to ensure it remains the employers' choice when recruiting financially-trained business leaders.