

Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements

Proposed Singapore Standard on Auditing (SSA) 700 (Revised): *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements* is based on Proposed International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 700 (Revised): *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements*, published by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) in July 2013, and used with the permission of IFAC.

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PROPOSED SINGAPORE STANDARD ON AUDITING 700 (REVISED) FORMING AN OPINION AND REPORTING ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Effective for audits of financial statements for periods beginning/ending on or after ~~15 December 2009~~ date)

CONTENTS [MARKED FROM EXTANT]

	Paragraph
Introduction	
Scope of this SSA	1-4
Effective Date	5
Objectives	6
Definitions	7-9
Requirements	
Forming an Opinion on the Financial Statements	10-15
Form of Opinion	16-19
Auditor's Report	20- 45 <u>48</u>
Supplementary Information Presented with the Financial Statements	46-47 <u>49-50</u>
Application and Other Explanatory Material	
Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Accounting Practices	A1-A3
Disclosure of the Effect of Material Transactions and Events on the Information Conveyed in the Financial Statements	A4
Description of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework	A5-A10
Form of Opinion	A11-A12
Auditor's Report	A13- A44 <u>A58</u>
Supplementary Information Presented with the Financial Statements	A45-A51 <u>A58-A65</u>
Appendix: Illustrations of <u>Independent</u> Auditor's Reports on Financial Statements	

* In developing proposed SSA 700 (Revised), certain requirements and application material in extant SSA 700 (beginning at paragraph 23) were moved. Where requirements and application material were moved, a reference to the relevant extant paragraph number(s) follows the revised text to each new paragraph as follows: [Extant paragraph A#]. Where new requirements and new application material were developed, those corresponding paragraphs numbers are underlined.

Proposed Singapore Standard on Auditing (SSA) 700 (Revised), "Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements" should be read in conjunction with SSA 200, "Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing."

Introduction

Scope of this SSA

1. This Singapore Standard on Auditing (SSA) deals with the auditor's responsibility to form an opinion on the financial statements. It also deals with the form and content of the auditor's report issued as a result of an audit of financial statements.
2. [Proposed SSA 701¹ deals with the auditor's responsibility to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report. Proposed SSA 705² \(Revised\) and proposed SSA 706³ \(Revised\) deal with how the form and content of the auditor's report are affected when the auditor expresses a modified opinion or includes an Emphasis of Matter paragraph or an Other Matter paragraph in the auditor's report. Other SSAs including proposed SSA 570 \(Revised\)⁴ contain reporting requirements that are applicable when issuing an auditor's report.](#)
3. This SSA is written in the context of a complete set of general purpose financial statements. SSA 800⁵ deals with special considerations when financial statements are prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework. SSA 805⁶ deals with special considerations relevant to an audit of a single financial statement or of a specific element, account or item of a financial statement.
4. ~~This SSA promotes consistency in the auditor's report. The requirements of this SSA are aimed at addressing an appropriate balance between the need for consistency and comparability in auditor reporting globally and the need to increase the value of auditor reporting by making the information provided in the auditor's report more relevant to users. This SSA promotes consistency in the auditor's report, but recognizes the need for flexibility to accommodate particular circumstances of individual jurisdictions.~~ Consistency in the auditor's report, when the audit has been conducted in accordance with SSAs, promotes credibility in the global marketplace by making more readily identifiable those audits that have been conducted in accordance with globally recognized standards. It also helps to promote the user's understanding and to identify unusual circumstances when they occur.

Effective Date

5. This SSA is effective for audits of financial statements for periods [\[beginning/ending on or after 15 December 2009date\]](#).

Objectives

6. The objectives of the auditor are:

¹ [Proposed SSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*](#)

² [Proposed SSA 705 \(Revised\), *Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report*](#)

³ [Proposed SSA 706 \(Revised\), *Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report*](#)

⁴ [Proposed SSA 570 \(Revised\), *Going Concern*](#)

⁵ SSA 800, *Special Considerations—Audits of Financial Statements Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks*

⁶ SSA 805, *Special Considerations—Audits of Single Financial Statements and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement*

- (a) To form an opinion on the financial statements based on an evaluation of the conclusions drawn from the audit evidence obtained; and
- (b) To express clearly that opinion through a written report ~~that also describes the basis for that opinion.~~

Definitions

7. For purposes of the SSAs, the following terms have the meanings attributed below:

- (a) General purpose financial statements – Financial statements prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework.
- (b) General purpose framework – A financial reporting framework designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users. The financial reporting framework may be a fair presentation framework or a compliance framework.

The term “fair presentation framework” is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the requirements of the framework and:

- (i) Acknowledges explicitly or implicitly that, to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements, it may be necessary for management to provide disclosures beyond those specifically required by the framework; or
- (ii) Acknowledges explicitly that it may be necessary for management to depart from a requirement of the framework to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements. Such departures are expected to be necessary only in extremely rare circumstances.

The term “compliance framework” is used to refer to a financial reporting framework that requires compliance with the requirements of the framework, but does not contain the acknowledgements in (i) or (ii) above.⁷

- (c) Unmodified opinion – The opinion expressed by the auditor when the auditor concludes that the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.⁸
8. Reference to “financial statements” in this SSA means “a complete set of general purpose financial statements, including the related notes.” The related notes ordinarily comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. The requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework determine the form and content of the financial statements, and what constitutes a complete set of financial statements.
9. Reference to “Singapore Financial Reporting Standards” in this SSA means the Singapore Financial Reporting Standards issued by the Accounting Standards Council, and reference to “~~Statutory Board Financial Reporting Standards~~~~International Public Sector Accounting Standards~~” means the ~~International Public Sector Accounting Standards~~~~Statutory Board Financial Reporting Standards~~ issued by the ~~International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board~~~~Accountant-General~~.

Requirements

Forming an Opinion on the Financial Statements

⁷ SSA 200, *Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing*, paragraph 13(a).

⁸ Paragraphs 35-36 deal with the phrases used to express this opinion in the case of a fair presentation framework and a compliance framework respectively.

10. The auditor shall form an opinion on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.^{9, 10}
11. In order to form that opinion, the auditor shall conclude as to whether the auditor has obtained reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. That conclusion shall take into account:
 - (a) The auditor's conclusion, in accordance with SSA 330, whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained;¹¹
 - (b) The auditor's conclusion, in accordance with SSA 450, whether uncorrected misstatements are material, individually or in aggregate;¹² and
 - (c) The evaluations required by paragraphs 12-15.
12. The auditor shall evaluate whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework. This evaluation shall include consideration of the qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, including indicators of possible bias in management's judgments. (Ref: Para. A1-A3)
13. In particular, the auditor shall evaluate whether, in view of the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework:
 - (a) The financial statements adequately disclose the significant accounting policies selected and applied;
 - (b) The accounting policies selected and applied are consistent with the applicable financial reporting framework and are appropriate;
 - (c) The accounting estimates made by management are reasonable;
 - (d) The information presented in the financial statements is relevant, reliable, comparable and understandable;
 - (e) The financial statements provide adequate disclosures to enable the intended users to understand the effect of material transactions and events on the information conveyed in the financial statements; and (Ref: Para. A4)
 - (f) The terminology used in the financial statements, including the title of each financial statement, is appropriate.
14. When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the evaluation required by paragraphs 12-13 shall also include whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation. The auditor's evaluation as to whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation shall include consideration of:
 - (a) The overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements; and
 - (b) Whether the financial statements, including the related notes, represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

⁹ SSA 200, paragraph 11.

¹⁰ Paragraphs 35-36 deal with the phrases used to express this opinion in the case of a fair presentation framework and a compliance framework respectively.

¹¹ SSA 330, *The Auditor's Responses to Assessed Risks*, paragraph 26.

¹² SSA 450, *Evaluation of Misstatements Identified during the Audit*, paragraph 11.

15. The auditor shall evaluate whether the financial statements adequately refer to or describe the applicable financial reporting framework. (Ref: Para. A5-A10)

Form of Opinion

16. The auditor shall express an unmodified opinion when the auditor concludes that the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
17. If the auditor:
- (a) concludes that, based on the audit evidence obtained, the financial statements as a whole are not free from material misstatement; or
 - (b) is unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to conclude that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement,

the auditor shall modify the opinion in the auditor's report in accordance with [proposed SSA 705 \(Revised\)](#).

18. If financial statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of a fair presentation framework do not achieve fair presentation, the auditor shall discuss the matter with management and, depending on the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework and how the matter is resolved, shall determine whether it is necessary to modify the opinion in the auditor's report in accordance with [proposed SSA 705 \(Revised\)](#). (Ref: Para. A11)
19. When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a compliance framework, the auditor is not required to evaluate whether the financial statements achieve fair presentation. However, if in extremely rare circumstances the auditor concludes that such financial statements are misleading, the auditor shall discuss the matter with management and, depending on how it is resolved, shall determine whether, and how, to communicate it in the auditor's report. (Ref: Para. A12)

Auditor's Report

20. The auditor's report shall be in writing. (Ref: Para. A13-A14)

Auditor's Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing

Title

21. The auditor's report shall have a title that clearly indicates that it is the report of an independent auditor. (Ref: Para. A15)

Addressee

22. The auditor's report shall be addressed as ~~required by appropriate, based on~~ the circumstances of the engagement. (Ref: Para. A16)

Auditor's Opinion

23. The auditor's report shall include a section with the heading "Opinion." [\(Ref: Para. A17\)](#) ~~[Moved from para. 34 of extant]~~
24. When expressing an unmodified opinion on financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the auditor's opinion shall, unless otherwise required by law or regulation, use one of the following phrases, which are regarded as being equivalent:

- (a) ~~In our opinion, t~~In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, ~~...[...]~~ in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]; or
 - (b) ~~In our opinion. Thethe~~ accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of ~~...[...]~~ in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]. (Ref: Para. ~~A27-A33~~A18-A25) [~~Moved from para. 35 of extant~~]
25. When expressing an unmodified opinion on financial statements prepared in accordance with a compliance framework, the auditor's opinion shall be that the accompanying financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with [the applicable financial reporting framework]. (Ref: Para. ~~A27, A29-A33~~ A22-A25) [~~Moved from para. 36 of extant~~]
26. If the reference to the applicable financial reporting framework in the auditor's opinion is not to Singapore Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs) issued by the Accounting Standards Council, ~~International Public Sector Accounting Standards issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board~~ or Statutory Board Financial Reporting Standards issued by the Accountant-General~~national public sector accounting standards~~, the auditor's opinion shall identify the jurisdiction of origin of the framework. [~~Moved from para. 37 of extant~~]

Introductory Paragraph

27. The ~~introductory paragraph in the~~ auditor's report shall:
- (a) Identify the entity whose financial statements have been audited;
 - (b) State that the financial statements have been audited;
 - (c) Identify the title of each statement ~~that comprises~~ comprising the financial statements;
 - (d) Refer to the notes, including the summary of significant accounting policies ~~and other explanatory information~~; and
 - (e) Specify the date of, or period covered by each financial statement comprising the financial statements. (Ref: Para. A26-A27) [~~Moved from para. 23 of extant~~]

Basis for Opinion

28. The auditor's report shall include a section with the heading "Basis for Opinion" that:
- (a) sStates that the audit was conducted in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing; (Ref: Para. A28) [~~Moved 1st sentence of para. 30 of extant~~]
 - (b) Refers to the section of the auditor's report that describes the auditor's responsibilities under the SSAs;
 - (c) ~~The auditor's report shall also explain that those standards require that the auditor comply with ethical requirements and that the auditor plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.~~Includes a statement that the auditor is independent of the entity within the meaning of the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities and has fulfilled the auditor's other ethical responsibilities under those ethical requirements. If the independence and other responsibilities are established by different sources, then the second part of the statement shall also specify the source of the other relevant ethical requirements; and (Ref: Para. ~~A25-A26~~29) [~~Moved 2nd sentence of para. 30 of extant, see also para. 37~~]
 - (d) ~~The auditor's report shall~~ sStates whether the auditor believes that the audit evidence the auditor has obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the auditor's opinion. [~~Moved para. 33 of extant~~]

Going Concern

29. The auditor shall report in accordance with proposed SSA 570 (Revised).

Key Audit Matters

30. For audits of complete sets of general purpose financial statements of a listed entity, the auditor shall communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report in accordance with proposed SSA 701. When the auditor of a complete set of general purpose financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity is required by law or regulation to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report or otherwise decides to do so, the auditor shall apply proposed SSA 701. (Ref: Para. A30-A31)

Other Information

31. The auditor shall report in accordance with proposed SSA 720 (Revised).¹³

Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

32. The auditor's report shall include a section with a heading "Management's [or other appropriate term] Responsibility for the Financial Statements", using the appropriate term to describe those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. This heading The auditor's report need not refer specifically to "management," but shall use the term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction. In some jurisdictions, the appropriate reference may be to those charged with governance. (Ref: Para. A3432) [Merged para. 25 of extant and last two sentences in para. 24 of extant]

33. This section of the auditor's report shall describes the respective responsibilities of those in the organization that are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.; (Ref: Para. A2033-A2335)

(a) The auditor's report shall describe management's responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements. The description shall include an explanation that management is responsible for ~~the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework,~~ and for such internal control as they determine ~~is~~ necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and. [Moved 1st sentence of para. 24 and para. 26 of extant]

(b) Oversight of the financial reporting process, where those responsible for oversight are different from those in (a).

34. Where the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the explanation description of management's responsibility responsibilities for the financial statements in the auditor's report shall refer to "the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements" or "the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view," as appropriate in the circumstances. [Moved from para. 27 of extant]

Auditor's Responsibilityies for the Audit of the Financial Statements

35. The auditor's report shall include a section with the heading "Auditor's Responsibilityies for the Audit of the Financial Statements." [Moved from para. 28 of extant]

36. The auditor's report shall state that the responsibility of the auditor is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on the audit.;

¹³ Exposure Draft, Proposed SSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information in Documents Containing or Accompanying Audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's Report Thereon*

(a) The objectives of the audit are to:

(i) Obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
[Moved from 2nd part of 2nd sentence in paras. 29-30 of extant]

(ii) Issue an auditor's report that includes an opinion. (Ref: Para. A3635)

(b) Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists; and

(c) Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

~~31. The auditor's report shall describe an audit by stating that:~~

~~(a) An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements;~~

~~(b) The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. In circumstances when the auditor also has a responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements, the auditor shall omit the phrase that the auditor's consideration of internal control is not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control; and~~

~~(c) An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as the overall presentation of the financial statements.~~

~~32. Where the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the description of the audit in the auditor's report shall refer to "the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements" or "the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view," as appropriate in the circumstances.~~

~~37. The auditor's report shall further: (Ref: Para. A37)~~

(a) State that, as part of an audit in accordance with SSAs, the auditor exercises professional judgment and maintains professional skepticism throughout the planning and performance of the audit; and

(b) Describe an audit by stating that the auditor's responsibilities are: [Replaces paras. 31-32 of extant]

(i) To identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the auditor's opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- (ii) To obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. In circumstances when the auditor also has a responsibility to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements, the auditor shall omit the phrase that the auditor's consideration of internal control is not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
 - (iii) To evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
 - (iv) When the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, to evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- (c) In circumstances where SSA 600¹⁴ applies, further describe an audit by stating that the auditor's responsibilities in a group audit are:
- (i) To obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities and business activities within the group to express an opinion on the group financial statements;
 - (ii) For the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit; and
 - (iii) To remain solely responsible for the auditor's opinion.

38. The auditor's report shall also state that the auditor is required to:

- (a) Communicate with [those charged with governance] regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that the auditor identifies during the audit; and
- (b) For audits of financial statements of listed entities, provide [those charged with governance] with a statement that the auditor has complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on the auditor's independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Location of the description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

39. The description of the auditor's responsibilities required by paragraphs 37-38 shall be included within the body of the auditor's report or in an Appendix to the auditor's report. When the auditor's responsibilities are included in an Appendix, the body of the auditor's report shall make reference to the location of that Appendix. (Ref: Para. A38-A39)

40. Law or regulation may expressly permit the auditor to refer to a website of an appropriate authority that contains a description of the auditor's responsibilities. When:

- (a) That description is not inconsistent with the requirements set out in paragraphs 37-38; and
- (b) The auditor decides to refer to that website rather than include the description of the auditor's responsibilities in the auditor's report;

¹⁴ SSA 600, *Special Considerations-Audits of Group Financial Statements (including the Work of Component Auditors)*

the auditor shall include a reference in the auditor's report to clearly indicate where this description is located. (Ref: Para. A38, A40-A41)

Other Reporting Responsibilities

41. If the auditor addresses other reporting responsibilities in the auditor's report on the financial statements that are in addition to the auditor's responsibilities under the SSAs, ~~to report on the financial statements,~~ these other reporting responsibilities shall be clearly differentiated from reporting required by the SSAs addressed in a separate section in the auditor's report that shall be sub-titled "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements," or otherwise as appropriate to the content of the section. (Ref: Para. ~~A34-A35~~A42-A44) [~~Moved from paras. 38-39 of extant~~]

~~39. If the auditor's report contains a separate section on other reporting responsibilities, the headings, statements and explanations referred to in paragraphs 23-37 shall be under the sub-title "Report on the Financial Statements." The "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" shall follow the "Report on the Financial Statements." (Ref: Para. A36)~~

Name of the Engagement Partner

42. The name of the engagement partner's shall be included in the auditor's report for audits of financial statements of listed entities unless, in rare circumstances, such disclosure is reasonably expected to lead to a significant security threat to the individual. (Ref: Para. A45)

Signature of the Auditor

43. The auditor's report shall be signed. (Ref: Para. ~~A46-A47~~A37) [~~Moved from para. 40 of extant~~]

Auditor's Address

44. The auditor's report shall name the location in the jurisdiction where the auditor practices. [~~Moved from para. 42 of extant~~]

Date of the Auditor's Report

45. The auditor's report shall be dated no earlier than the date on which the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the auditor's opinion on the financial statements, including evidence that: (Ref: Para. ~~A38-A41~~ A48-A51)

- (a) All the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared; and
- (b) Those with the recognized authority have asserted that they have taken responsibility for those financial statements. [~~Moved from para. 41 of extant~~]

Auditor's Report Prescribed by Law or Regulation

46. If the auditor is required by law or regulation of a specific jurisdiction to use a specific layout or wording of the auditor's report, the auditor's report shall refer to Singapore Standards on Auditing only if the auditor's report includes, at a minimum, each of the following elements: (Ref: Para. ~~A42~~ A52-A56) [~~Moved from para. 43 of extant~~]

- (a) A title.
- (b) An addressee, as required by the circumstances of the engagement.
- (~~cf~~) An opinion paragraph ~~An Opinion section~~ containing an expression of opinion on the financial statements and a reference to the applicable financial reporting framework used to prepare the financial statements (including identifying the jurisdiction of origin of the financial reporting framework that is not Singapore Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs), ~~International Public Sector Accounting Standards~~ or Statutory

Board Financial Reporting Standards~~national public sector accounting standards~~, see paragraph 2637).

- (~~d~~e) An ~~introductory paragraph that identifies~~ identification of the entity's financial statements that have been audited.
- (~~e~~) A statement that the auditor is independent of the entity within the meaning of the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities and has fulfilled the auditor's other responsibilities under those ethical requirements. If the independence and other ethical responsibilities are established by different sources, then the second part of the statement shall also specify the source of the other relevant ethical requirements.
- (~~f~~) A section that addresses the reporting requirements in proposed SSA 570 (Revised) relating to going concern.
- (~~g~~) Where applicable, a section that includes the information required by proposed SSA 701, or additional information about the audit that is prescribed by law or regulation and that is not inconsistent with the reporting requirements in that SSA.¹⁵ In circumstances where law or regulation either requires or permits the auditor or those charged with governance to prepare a separate report including a description of such information, this section either includes a description of key audit matters, or refers to such a description in a report issued by those charged with governance, or in an supplementary report of the auditor. (Ref: Para. A53-A55)
- (~~h~~) A section that addresses the reporting requirements in proposed SSA 720 (Revised).
- (~~id~~) A description of the responsibilityies of ~~management (or other appropriate term, see paragraph 24)~~ those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- (~~je~~) ~~A description of the auditor's responsibility to express an opinion on the financial statements and the scope of the audit, that includes:~~
- ~~A reference to Singapore Standards on Auditing and the law or regulation; and~~ • A a description of the auditor's responsibilities for an audit of the financial statements in a manner that is not inconsistent with paragraphs 36-38~~accordance with those standards;~~
- (~~k~~) For audits of financial statements of listed entities, the name of the engagement partner unless, in rare circumstances, such disclosure is reasonably expected to lead to a significant security threat to the individual.
- (~~lg~~) The auditor's signature.
- (~~mi~~) The auditor's address.
- (~~nh~~) The date of the auditor's report.

Auditor's Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with Both Auditing Standards of a Specific Jurisdiction and Singapore Standards on Auditing

47. An auditor may be required to conduct an audit in accordance with the auditing standards of a specific jurisdiction (the "national auditing standards"), but may additionally have complied with the SSAs in the conduct of the audit. If this is the case, the auditor's report may refer to Singapore Standards on Auditing in addition to the national auditing standards, but the auditor shall do so only if: (Ref: Para. A43-A44A57-A58) [Moved from para. 44 of extant]

¹⁵ Proposed SSA 701, paragraph 9-11.

- (a) There is no conflict between the requirements in the national auditing standards and those in SSAs that would lead the auditor (i) to form a different opinion, or (ii) not to include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph that, in the particular circumstances, is required by SSAs; and
- (b) The auditor's report includes, at a minimum, each of the elements set out in paragraph ~~4346~~(a)-(in) above when the auditor uses the layout or wording specified by the national auditing standards. However, Rreference to "law or regulation" in paragraph ~~43(e)~~46(j) shall be read as reference to the national auditing standards. The auditor's report shall thereby identify such national auditing standards.

4845. When the auditor's report refers to both the national auditing standards and Singapore Standards on Auditing, the auditor's report shall identify the jurisdiction of origin of the national auditing standards. [Moved from para. 45 of extant]

Supplementary Information Presented with the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. A45-A51A59-A65)

49. If supplementary information that is not required by the applicable financial reporting framework is presented with the audited financial statements, the auditor shall evaluate whether, in the auditor's professional judgment, such supplementary information is clearly differentiated from the audited financial statements. If such supplementary information is not clearly differentiated from the audited financial statements, the auditor shall ask management to change how the unaudited supplementary information is presented. If management refuses to do so, the auditor shall explain in the auditor's report that such supplementary information has not been audited. ~~S~~supplementary information ~~that is not required by the applicable financial reporting framework but~~ is nevertheless an integral part of the ~~financial statements because it cannot be clearly differentiated from the audited~~ financial statements due to either its nature ~~and~~ or how it is presented. Where it is an integral part of the financial statements, the supplementary information shall be covered by the auditor's opinion. [Moved from paras. 46-47 of extant]

50. If supplementary information that is not required by the applicable financial reporting framework is not considered an integral part of the audited financial statements, the auditor shall evaluate whether such supplementary information is presented in a way that sufficiently and clearly differentiates it from the audited financial statements. If this is not the case, then the auditor shall ask management to change how the unaudited supplementary information is presented. If management refuses to do so, the auditor shall identify the unaudited supplementary information and explain in the auditor's report that such supplementary information has not been audited. [Moved from paras. 46-47 of extant]

Application and Other Explanatory Material

Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Accounting Practices (Ref: Para. 12)

- A1. Management makes a number of judgments about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- A2. Proposed SSA 260 (Revised) contains a discussion of the qualitative aspects of accounting practices.¹⁶ In considering the qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting practices, the auditor may become aware of possible bias in management's judgments. The auditor may conclude that the cumulative effect of a lack of neutrality, together with the effect of uncorrected misstatements, causes the financial statements as a whole to be materially misstated. Indicators of a lack of neutrality that may affect the auditor's evaluation of whether the financial statements as a whole are materially misstated include the following:

¹⁶ Proposed SSA 260 (Revised), *Communication with Those Charged with Governance*, Appendix 2.

- The selective correction of misstatements brought to management’s attention during the audit (for example, correcting misstatements with the effect of increasing reported earnings, but not correcting misstatements that have the effect of decreasing reported earnings).
 - Possible management bias in the making of accounting estimates.
- A3. SSA 540 addresses possible management bias in making accounting estimates.¹⁷ Indicators of possible management bias do not constitute misstatements for purposes of drawing conclusions on the reasonableness of individual accounting estimates. They may, however, affect the auditor’s evaluation of whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement.

Disclosure of the Effect of Material Transactions and Events on the Information Conveyed in the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 13(e))

- A4. It is common for financial statements prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework to present an entity’s financial position, financial performance and cash flows. In such circumstances, the auditor evaluates whether the financial statements provide adequate disclosures to enable the intended users to understand the effect of material transactions and events on the entity’s financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

Description of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework (Ref: Para. 15)

- A5. As explained in SSA 200, the preparation of the financial statements by management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance requires the inclusion of an adequate description of the applicable financial reporting framework in the financial statements.¹⁸ That description is important because it advises users of the financial statements of the framework on which the financial statements are based.
- A6. A description that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with a particular applicable financial reporting framework is appropriate only if the financial statements comply with all the requirements of that framework that are effective during the period covered by the financial statements.
- A7. A description of the applicable financial reporting framework that contains imprecise qualifying or limiting language (for example, “the financial statements are in substantial compliance with Singapore Financial Reporting Standards”) is not an adequate description of that framework as it may mislead users of the financial statements.

Reference to More than One Financial Reporting Framework

- A8. In some cases, the financial statements may represent that they are prepared in accordance with two financial reporting frameworks (for example, the national framework and Singapore Financial Reporting Standards). This may be because management is required, or has chosen, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with both frameworks, in which case both are applicable financial reporting frameworks. Such description is appropriate only if the financial statements comply with each of the frameworks individually. To be regarded as being prepared in accordance with both frameworks, the financial statements need to comply with both frameworks simultaneously and without any need for reconciling statements. In practice, simultaneous compliance is unlikely unless the jurisdiction has adopted the other framework (for example, Singapore Financial Reporting Standards) as its own national framework, or has eliminated all barriers to compliance with it.

¹⁷ SSA 540, *Auditing Accounting Estimates, Including Fair Value Accounting Estimate, and Related Disclosures*, paragraph 21.

¹⁸ SSA 200, paragraphs A2-A3.

- A9. Financial statements that are prepared in accordance with one financial reporting framework and that contain a note or supplementary statement reconciling the results to those that would be shown under another framework, are not prepared in accordance with that other framework. This is because the financial statements do not include all the information in the manner required by that other framework.
- A10. The financial statements may, however, be prepared in accordance with one applicable financial reporting framework and, in addition, describe in the notes to the financial statements the extent to which the financial statements comply with another framework (for example, financial statements prepared in accordance with the national framework that also describe the extent to which they comply with Singapore Financial Reporting Standards). Such description is supplementary financial information and, as discussed in paragraph ~~47~~ [49](#), is considered an integral part of the financial statements and, accordingly, is covered by the auditor's opinion.

Form of Opinion (Ref: Para. 18-19)

- A11. There may be cases where the financial statements, although prepared in accordance with the requirements of a fair presentation framework, do not achieve fair presentation. Where this is the case, it may be possible for management to include additional disclosures in the financial statements beyond those specifically required by the framework or, in extremely rare circumstances, to depart from a requirement in the framework in order to achieve fair presentation of the financial statements.
- A12. It will be extremely rare for the auditor to consider financial statements that are prepared in accordance with a compliance framework to be misleading if, in accordance with SSA 210, the auditor determined that the framework is acceptable.¹⁹

Auditor's Report (Ref: Para. 20)

- A13. A written report encompasses reports issued in hard copy ~~format~~ and those using an electronic medium.
- A14. The Appendix contains illustrations of auditors' reports on financial statements, incorporating the elements set forth in paragraphs 21-~~4245~~ [4245](#).

Auditor's Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing

Title (Ref: Para. 21)

- A15. A title indicating the report is the report of an independent auditor, for example, "Independent Auditor's Report," ~~affirms that the auditor has met all of the relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and, therefore,~~ distinguishes the independent auditor's report from reports issued by others.

Addressee (Ref: Para. 22)

- A16. Law, ~~or~~ regulation ~~often specifies or the terms of the engagement may specify~~ to whom the auditor's report is to be addressed in that particular jurisdiction. The auditor's report is normally addressed to those for whom the report is prepared, often either to the shareholders or to those charged with governance of the entity whose financial statements are being audited.

Auditor's Opinion (Ref: Para. ~~2335-2737~~ [2335-2737](#))

¹⁹ SSA 210, *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements*, paragraph 6(a).

Placement of the opinion section

A17. The placement of the Opinion section at the beginning of the auditor's report (as illustrated in the Appendix) makes it more prominent to users of the financial statements.

"Present fairly, in all material respects" or "give a true and fair view"

A18. The phrases "present fairly, in all material respects," and "give a true and fair view" are regarded as being equivalent. Whether the phrase "present fairly, in all material respects," or the phrase "give a true and fair view" is used in any particular jurisdiction is determined by the law or regulation governing the audit of financial statements in that jurisdiction, or by generally accepted practice in that jurisdiction. Where law or regulation requires the use of different wording, this does not affect the requirement in paragraph 14 of this SSA for the auditor to evaluate the fair presentation of financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework. [Moved from para. A28 of extant]

A19. When the auditor expresses an unmodified opinion, it is not appropriate to use phrases such as "with the foregoing explanation" or "subject to" in relation to the opinion as these suggest a conditional opinion or a weakening or modification of opinion.

Description of information that the financial statements and the matters they present

A20. The auditor's opinion covers the complete set of financial statements as defined by the applicable financial reporting framework. For example, in the case of many general purpose frameworks, the financial statements include: a balance sheet, an income statement, a statement of changes in equity, a cash flow statement, and related notes, which ordinarily comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. In some jurisdictions additional information might also be considered to be an integral part of the financial statements. [Revised para. A19 of extant]

A21. In the case of financial statements prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework, the auditor's opinion states that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, or give a true and fair view of, the information-matters that the financial statements are designed to present. ~~For example, in the case of many general purpose frameworks, financial statements prepared in accordance with Singapore Financial Reporting Standards, these matters are~~ the financial position of the entity as at the end of the period and the entity's financial performance and cash flows for the period then ended. [Moved from para. A29 of extant]

Description of the applicable financial reporting framework and how it may affect the auditor's opinion

A22. The identification of the applicable financial reporting framework in the auditor's opinion is intended to advise users of the auditor's report of the context in which the auditor's opinion is expressed; it is not intended to limit the evaluation required in paragraph 14. The applicable financial reporting framework is identified in such terms as:

"... in accordance with Singapore Financial Reporting Standards" or

"... in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Jurisdiction X ..." [Moved from para. A30 of extant]

A23. When the applicable financial reporting framework encompasses financial reporting standards and legal or regulatory requirements, the framework is identified in such terms as "... in accordance with Singapore Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of Singapore Companies Act/Jurisdiction X Corporations Act." SSA 210 deals with circumstances where there are conflicts between the financial reporting standards and the legislative or regulatory requirements.²⁰ [Moved from para. A31 of extant]

²⁰ SSA 210, paragraph 18.

A24. As indicated in paragraph A8, the financial statements may be prepared in accordance with two financial reporting frameworks, which are therefore both applicable financial reporting frameworks. Accordingly, each framework is considered separately when forming the auditor's opinion on the financial statements, and the auditor's opinion in accordance with paragraphs ~~35-36~~[24-25](#) refers to both frameworks as follows:

- (a) If the financial statements comply with each of the frameworks individually, two opinions are expressed: that is, that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with one of the applicable financial reporting frameworks (for example, Singapore Financial Reporting Standards) and an opinion that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the other applicable financial reporting framework (for example, International Financial Reporting Standards). These opinions may be expressed separately or in a single sentence (for example, the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with Singapore Financial Reporting Standards and International Financial Reporting Standards).
- (b) If the financial statements comply with one of the frameworks but fail to comply with the other framework, an unmodified opinion can be given that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the one framework (for example, the national framework) but a modified opinion given with regard to the other framework (for example, Singapore Financial Reporting Standards) in accordance with [proposed SSA 705 \(Revised\)](#). ~~[Moved from para. A32 of extant]~~

A25. As indicated in paragraph A10, the financial statements may represent compliance with the applicable financial reporting framework and, in addition, disclose the extent of compliance with another financial reporting framework. ~~As explained in paragraph A46, s~~Such supplementary information is covered by the auditor's opinion ~~if~~as it cannot be clearly differentiated from the financial statements ~~(see paragraphs 49-50 and related application material in paragraphs A59-A65)~~. Accordingly,

- (a) If the disclosure as to the compliance with the other framework is misleading, a modified opinion is expressed in accordance with [proposed SSA 705 \(Revised\)](#).
- (b) If the disclosure is not misleading, but the auditor judges it to be of such importance that it is fundamental to the users' understanding of the financial statements, an Emphasis of Matter paragraph is added in accordance with [proposed SSA 706 \(Revised\)](#), drawing attention to the disclosure. ~~[Moved from para. A33 of extant]~~

~~Introductory Paragraph (Ref: Para. 23)~~[Reference to the financial statements that have been audited](#)

A26. The ~~introductory paragraph-auditor's report~~ states, for example, that the auditor has audited the ~~accompanying~~ financial statements of the entity, which comprise [state the title of each financial statement comprising the complete set of financial statements required by the applicable financial reporting framework, specifying the date or period covered by each financial statement] and ~~the notes to the financial statements, including a~~ summary of significant accounting policies ~~and other explanatory information~~. ~~[Moved from para. A17 of extant]~~

A27. When the auditor is aware that the audited financial statements will be included in a document that contains other information, such as an annual report, the auditor may consider, if the form of presentation allows, identifying the page numbers on which the audited financial statements are presented. This helps users to identify the financial statements to which the auditor's report relates. ~~[Moved from para. A18 of extant]~~

[Basis for Opinion \(Ref: Para. 28\)](#)

A28. The reference to the standards used conveys to the users of the auditor's report that the audit has been conducted in accordance with established standards. ~~[Moved from para. A25 of extant]~~

A29. In accordance with SSA 200, indicates that the auditor does shall not represent compliance with SSAs in the auditor's report unless the auditor has complied with the requirements of SSA 200 and all other SSAs relevant to the audit. This includes complying with relevant ethical requirements, including those pertaining to independence, relating to financial statement audit engagements.²¹ Although independence requirements in a group audit situation may be complex, SSA 600²² establishes requirements for auditors in performing work on the financial information of a component for a group audit, including those situations where the component auditor does not meet the independence requirements that are relevant to the group audit. However, the SSAs do not establish specific independence or ethical requirements for auditors, or component auditors, and thus do not extend, or otherwise override the independence requirements of the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities (ACRA Code) or other ethical requirements to which the group engagement team is subject, nor do the SSAs require that the component auditor in all cases be subject to the same specific independence rules applicable to the group engagement team. [Moved from para. A26 of extant]

Key Audit Matters (Ref: Para. 30)

A30. SSA 210 requires the auditor to agree the terms of the audit engagement with management and those charged with governance, as appropriate, and notes that the roles of management and those charged with governance in agreeing the terms of the audit engagement for the entity depend on the governance arrangements of the entity and relevant law or regulation.²³ When agreeing the terms of engagement, if the auditor of an entity other than a listed entity intends to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report, SSA 210 requires the auditor to acknowledge this in the terms of the audit engagement in order to inform management and those charged with governance of the auditor's intent.²⁴

Considerations specific to public sector entities

A31. Public sector entities may be significant due to size, complexity, or public interest aspects and may have a wide range of stakeholders. In such cases, an auditor of such an entity may be required by law or regulation, or otherwise intend to communicate key audit matters in the auditor's report.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. 26 32-34)

A32. SSA 200 explains the premise, relating to the responsibilities of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, on which an audit in accordance with SSAs is conducted.²⁵ Management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance accept responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, including where relevant their fair presentation. Management also accepts responsibility for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The description of management's responsibilities in the auditor's report includes reference to both responsibilities as it helps to explain to users the premise on which an audit is conducted. Proposed SSA 260 (Revised) uses the term those charged with governance to describe the person(s) or organization(s) with responsibility for overseeing the entity, and provides a discussion about the diversity of governance structures across jurisdictions and by entity. [Moved from para. A20 of extant]

A33. There may be circumstances when it is appropriate for the auditor to add to the descriptions of management's responsibility in paragraph 26 the responsibilities of management and those charged with governance in paragraph 33 to reflect additional responsibilities that are relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in the context of the particular jurisdiction or the

²¹ SSA 200, paragraphs 14 and 20.

²² SSA 600, paragraphs 19-20.

²³ SSA 210, *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements*, paragraphs 9 and A21

²⁴ SSA 210, paragraphs 10(e) and A23a

²⁵ SSA 200, paragraph 13(j).

nature of the entity. [Moved from para. A21 of extant]

- A34. Paragraph 3326 is consistent with the form in which the responsibilities are agreed in the engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement, as required by SSA 210.²⁶ SSA 210 provides some flexibility by explaining that, if law⁺ or regulation prescribes the responsibilities of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance in relation to financial reporting, the auditor may determine that the law or regulation includes responsibilities that, in the auditor's judgment, are equivalent in effect to those set out in SSA 210. For such responsibilities that are equivalent, the auditor may use the wording of the law or regulation to describe them in the engagement letter or other suitable form of written agreement. In such cases, this wording may also be used in the auditor's report to describe ~~management's the~~ responsibilities as required by paragraph 3326. In other circumstances, including where the auditor decides not to use the wording of law or regulation as incorporated in the engagement letter; the wording of paragraph 3326 is used. Where not prohibited, the auditor may elect to refer to a more detailed description of these responsibilities by including a reference to where such information may be obtained (for example, in the annual report of the entity or a website of an appropriate authority). [Moved from para. A22 of extant]

⁺ Singapore law prescribes that management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the provisions of the Singapore Companies Act, Chapter 50 and Singapore Financial Reporting Standards.*

This responsibility includes:

Devising and maintaining a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide a reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorised use or disposition; and transactions are properly authorised and that they are recorded as necessary to permit the preparation of true and fair profit and loss accounts and balance sheets and to maintain accountability of assets.**

* Or in the case of an entity other than a company, in accordance with the applicable legal and financial reporting standards.

** The sub-paragraph is applicable to public companies and their subsidiaries: see Section 199(2A) of the Singapore Companies Act, Chapter 50.

- A35. In some jurisdictions, law or regulation prescribing management's responsibilities may specifically refer to a responsibility for the adequacy of accounting books and records, or accounting system. As books, records and systems are an integral part of internal control (as defined in Proposed SSA 315 (Revised)²⁷), the descriptions in SSA 210 and in paragraph 3326 do not make specific reference to them. [Moved from para. A23 of extant]

Auditor's Responsibilities ies for the Audit of the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. ~~29-30~~ 35-40)

- A36. The auditor's report ~~states that the auditor's responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on the audit in order explains that the objective of an audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement~~ to contrast it to management's responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements. [Moved from para. A24 of extant]

Relocation of the description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (Ref: Para. 39-40)

- A37. The description of the auditor's responsibilities as required by paragraphs 37(b) and (c) of this SSA may be tailored to reflect the specific nature of the entity (for example, when the

²⁶ SSA 210, paragraph 6(b)(i)-(ii).

²⁷ SSA 315, *Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement through Understanding the Entity and Its Environment*, paragraph 4(c)

auditor's report addresses consolidated financial statements).

A38 Relocating certain information to an Appendix to the auditor's report, or a website of an appropriate authority, may be a useful way of streamlining the content of the auditor's report. However, because the description of the auditor's responsibilities contains information that is necessary to inform users' expectations of an audit conducted in accordance with SSAs, reference is to be made to where such information can be accessed.

A39. For example, paragraph 39 permits the auditor to relocate the statements required by paragraphs 37-38 describing the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements to an Appendix to the auditor's report, provided that appropriate reference is made within the body of the auditor's report to the location of the Appendix. The following is an illustration of how such a reference to an Appendix could be made in the auditor's report:

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further discussion of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in Appendix X of this auditor's report, which is located at [indicate page number or other reference to location].

A40. The auditor may only refer to the description of the auditor's responsibilities located on a website of an appropriate authority if the requirements of paragraph 40 are met. The information included on the website may describe the auditor's work or the audit process in accordance with SSAs more broadly, but cannot be inconsistent with the description required by paragraphs 37-38 of this SSA.

A41. An appropriate authority could be a national auditing standard setter, regulator, or an audit oversight body. Such organizations are well-placed to ensure the accuracy, completeness and continued availability of the standardized information. It would not be appropriate for the auditor to maintain such a website. The following is an illustration of how such a reference to a website could be made in the auditor's report:

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements that is part of this auditor's report is located [Organization's] website at: [website link].

Other Reporting Responsibilities (Ref: Para. 38-39 41)

A42. In some jurisdictions, the auditor may have additional responsibilities to report on other matters that are supplementary to the auditor's responsibility-responsibilities under the SSAs to report on the financial statements. For example, the auditor may be asked to report certain

matters if they come to the auditor's attention during the course of the audit of the financial statements. Alternatively, the auditor may be asked to perform and report on additional specified procedures, or to express an opinion on specific matters, such as the adequacy of accounting books and records, [internal control over financial reporting or other information](#). Auditing standards in the specific jurisdiction often provide guidance on the auditor's responsibilities with respect to specific additional reporting responsibilities in that jurisdiction. [Moved from para. A34 of extant]

A43. In some cases, the relevant law or regulation may require or permit the auditor to report on these other responsibilities within the auditor's report on the financial statements. In other cases, the auditor may be required or permitted to report on them in a separate report. [Moved from para. A35 of extant]

A44. ~~These Distinguishing~~ other reporting responsibilities ~~are addressed in a separate section of the auditor's report in order to clearly distinguish them from the auditor's responsibility responsibilities~~ under the SSAs ~~to report on the financial statements. Where relevant, this section may be done in different ways, for example:~~

- ~~By including a separate section in the auditor's report with a contain sub-heading(s) that describe(s) "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements," oOr otherwise as appropriate to the content of the section. In such cases, the auditor may consider it necessary to include a heading "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements."~~
- ~~In the same section where reporting on the matter in accordance with SSAs is presented, with wording in the auditor's report that clearly distinguishes between reporting required by the SSAs and other reporting responsibility paragraph(s) required by law or regulation.~~ [Moved from para. A36 of extant]

[Name of the Engagement Partner \(Ref: Para. 42\)](#)

A45. [Law or regulation may require that the name of the engagement partner responsible for audits of financial statements of entities other than listed entities be included in the auditor's report.](#)

[Signature of the Auditor \(Ref: Para. 4043\)](#)

A46. The auditor's signature is either in the name of the audit firm, the personal name of the auditor or both, as appropriate for the particular jurisdiction. In addition to the auditor's signature, in certain jurisdictions, the auditor may be required to declare in the auditor's report the auditor's professional accountancy designation or the fact that the auditor or firm, as appropriate, has been recognized by the appropriate licensing authority in that jurisdiction. [Moved from para. A37 of extant]

A47. [In some cases, law or regulation may allow for the use of electronic signatures in the auditor's report.](#)

[Date of the Auditor's Report \(Ref: Para. 41 45\)](#)

A48. The date of the auditor's report informs the user of the auditor's report that the auditor has considered the effect of events and transactions of which the auditor became aware and that occurred up to that date. The auditor's responsibility for events and transactions after the date of the auditor's report is addressed in SSA 560.²⁸ [Moved from para. A38 of extant]

A49. Since the auditor's opinion is provided on the financial statements and the financial statements are the responsibility of management, the auditor is not in a position to conclude that sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained until evidence is obtained that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared and management has accepted responsibility for them. [Moved from para. A39 of

²⁸ SSA 560, *Subsequent Events*, paragraphs 10-17

extant]

- A50. In some jurisdictions, the law or regulation identifies the individuals or bodies (for example, the directors) that are responsible for concluding that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared, and specifies the necessary approval process. In such cases, evidence is obtained of that approval before dating the report on the financial statements. In other jurisdictions, however, the approval process is not prescribed in law or regulation. In such cases, the procedures the entity follows in preparing and finalizing its financial statements in view of its management and governance structures are considered in order to identify the individuals or body with the authority to conclude that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared. In some cases, law or regulation identifies the point in the financial statement reporting process at which the audit is expected to be complete. [Moved from para. A40 of extant]
- A51. In some jurisdictions, final approval of the financial statements by shareholders is required before the financial statements are issued publicly. In these jurisdictions, final approval by shareholders is not necessary for the auditor to conclude that sufficient appropriate audit evidence has been obtained. The date of approval of the financial statements for purposes of SSAs is the earlier date on which those with the recognized authority determine that all the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared and that those with the recognized authority have asserted that they have taken responsibility for them. [Moved from para. A41 of extant]

Auditor's Report Prescribed by Law or Regulation (Ref: Para. [43 46](#))

- A52. SSA 200 explains that the auditor may be required to comply with legal or regulatory requirements in addition to SSAs.²⁹ Where this is the case, the auditor may be obliged to use a layout or wording in the auditor's report that differs from that described in [paragraphs 20-45 of](#) this SSA. As explained in paragraph 4, consistency in the auditor's report, when the audit has been conducted in accordance with SSAs, promotes credibility in the global marketplace by making more readily identifiable those audits that have been conducted in accordance with globally recognized standards. When the differences between the legal or regulatory requirements and SSAs relate only to the layout and wording of the auditor's report and, at a minimum, each of the elements identified in paragraph [4346\(a\)-\(in\)](#) are included in the auditor's report, the auditor's report may refer to Singapore Standards on Auditing. Accordingly, in such circumstances the auditor is considered to have complied with the requirements of SSAs, even when the layout and wording used in the auditor's report are specified by legal or regulatory reporting requirements. Where specific requirements in a particular jurisdiction do not conflict with SSAs, adoption of the layout and wording, [including the use of the titles of section headings](#), used in this SSA assists users of the auditor's report [in more readily to recognize recognizing](#) the auditor's report as a report [on of](#) an audit conducted in accordance with SSAs. (SSA 210 deals with circumstances where law or regulation prescribes the layout or wording of the auditor's report in terms that are significantly different from the requirements of SSAs.) [Moved from para. A42 of extant]

[A53. Law or regulation may require the auditor to provide additional information about the audit that was performed, which may include information that is consistent with the objectives of proposed SSA 701, or may prescribe the nature and extent of communication about such matters. Alternatively, law or regulation may require those charged with governance \(for example, an entity's Board of Directors or Audit Committee\) to issue a report including a description of certain matters communicated to them by the auditor in connection with their oversight responsibilities. The auditor may then be required to report by exception when the report of those charged with governance does not appropriately address matters communicated by the auditor to those charged with governance, and to remedy such a deficiency by communicating the matter in the auditor's report.](#)

[A54. The SSAs do not override law or regulation that governs and audit of financial statements.](#)

²⁹ SSA 200, paragraph A55.

When proposed SSA 701 is applicable, reference can only be made to SSAs in the auditor's report if, in applying the law or regulation, the section required by paragraph 46(g) of this SSA is not inconsistent with the reporting requirements in proposed SSA 701. In such circumstances, the auditor may need to tailor certain aspects of the communication of key audit matters in the auditor's report required by proposed SSA 701, for example by:

- Modifying the heading "Key Audit Matters", if law or regulation prescribes a specific heading;
- Explaining why the information required by law or regulation is being provided in the auditor's report, for example by making a reference to the relevant law or regulation and describing how that information relates to the key audit matters;
- Where applicable, including a cross-reference in the auditor's report to a description of the matter included in the report of those charged with governance; or
- Where law or regulation prescribes the nature and extent of the description, supplementing the prescribed information to achieve an overall description of each key audit matter that is consistent with the requirement of paragraph 10 of proposed SSA 701.

A55. SSA 210 deals with circumstances where law or regulation of the relevant jurisdiction prescribes the layout or wording of the auditor's report in terms that are significantly different from the requirements of SSAs. ~~SSA 210 explains that, in some cases, law or regulation of the relevant jurisdiction prescribes the wording of the auditor's report~~ (which in particular includes the auditor's opinion) ~~in terms that are significantly different from the requirements of SSAs~~. In these circumstances, SSA 210 requires the auditor to evaluate:

- (a) Whether users might misunderstand the assurance obtained from the audit of the financial statements and, if so,
- (b) Whether additional explanation in the auditor's report can mitigate possible misunderstanding.

If the auditor concludes that additional explanation in the auditor's report cannot mitigate possible misunderstanding, SSA 210 requires the auditor not to accept the audit engagement, unless required by law or regulation to do so. In accordance with SSA 210, an audit conducted in accordance with such law or regulation does not comply with SSAs. Accordingly, the auditor does not include any reference in the auditor's report to the audit having been conducted in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing.³⁰ [Moved and merged last sentence of para. A42 of extant with para A27 of extant]

Considerations specific to public sector entities

A56. Auditors of public sector entities may also have the ability according to law or regulation to report publicly on certain matters, either in the auditor's report or in a supplementary report, which may include information that is consistent with the objectives of proposed SSA 701. In such circumstances, the auditor may need to tailor certain aspects of the communication of key audit matters in the auditor's report required by proposed SSA 701 or include a reference in the auditor's report to a description of the matter in the supplementary report.

Auditor's Report for Audits Conducted in Accordance with Both Auditing Standards of a Specific Jurisdiction and Singapore Standards on Auditing (Ref: Para. ~~44~~ 47)

A57. The auditor may refer in the auditor's report to the audit having been conducted in accordance with both Singapore Standards on Auditing as well as the national auditing standards when, in addition to complying with the relevant national auditing standards, the

³⁰ SSA 210, paragraph 21.

auditor complies with each of the SSAs relevant to the audit.³¹ [Moved from para. A43 of extant]

- A58. A reference to both Singapore Standards on Auditing and the national auditing standards is not appropriate if there is a conflict between the requirements in SSAs and those in the national auditing standards that would lead the auditor to form a different opinion or not to include an Emphasis of Matter paragraph that, in the particular circumstances, is required by SSAs. ~~For example, some national auditing standards prohibit the auditor from including an Emphasis of Matter paragraph to highlight a going concern problem, whereas SSA 570 requires the auditor to add an Emphasis of Matter paragraph in such circumstances.~~ In such a case, the auditor's report refers only to the auditing standards (either Singapore Standards on Auditing or the national auditing standards) in accordance with which the auditor's report has been prepared. [Moved from para. A44 of extant]

Supplementary Information Presented with the Financial Statements (Ref: Para. ~~46-4749-50~~)

- A59. In some circumstances, the entity may be required by law, regulation or standards, or may voluntarily choose, to present together with the financial statements supplementary information that is not required by the applicable financial reporting framework. For example, supplementary information might be presented to enhance a user's understanding of the applicable financial reporting framework or to provide further explanation of specific financial statement items. Such information is normally presented in either supplementary schedules or as additional notes. [Moved from para. A45 of extant]

- A60. ~~Paragraph 49 of this SSA explains that T~~the auditor's opinion covers supplementary information that ~~is an integral part of the financial statements cannot be clearly differentiated from the financial statements~~ because of its nature and how it is presented. ~~This evaluation is a matter of professional judgment. For example, this would be the case To illustrate:~~

- ~~When the notes to the financial statements include an explanation or the reconciliation of the extent to which the financial statements comply with another financial reporting framework, the auditor may consider this to be supplementary information that cannot be clearly differentiated from the financial statements.~~ The auditor's opinion would also cover notes or supplementary schedules that are cross-referenced from the financial statements.
- ~~When an additional profit and loss account that discloses specific items of expenditure is disclosed as a separate schedule included as an Appendix to the financial statements, the auditor may consider this to be supplementary information that can be clearly differentiated from the financial statements.~~ [Moved from para. A46 of extant]

- A61. Supplementary information that is covered by the auditor's opinion does not need to be specifically referred to in the ~~introductory paragraph of the~~ auditor's report when the reference to the notes in the description of the statements that comprise the financial statements in the ~~introductory paragraph auditor's report~~ is sufficient. [Moved from para. A47 of extant]

- A62. Law or regulation may not require that the supplementary information be audited, and management may decide not to ask the auditor to include the supplementary information within the scope of the audit of the financial statements. [Moved from para. A48 of extant]

- A63. The auditor's evaluation whether unaudited supplementary information is presented in a manner that could be construed as being covered by the auditor's opinion includes, for example, where that information is presented in relation to the financial statements and any audited supplementary information, and whether it is clearly labeled as "unaudited." [Moved from para. A49 of extant]

³¹ SSA 200, paragraph A56.

A64. Management could change the presentation of unaudited supplementary information that could be construed as being covered by the auditor's opinion, for example, by:

- Removing any cross references from the financial statements to unaudited supplementary schedules or unaudited notes so that the demarcation between the audited and unaudited information is sufficiently clear.
- Placing the unaudited supplementary information outside of the financial statements or, if that is not possible in the circumstances, at a minimum ~~place~~^{placing} the unaudited notes together at the end of the required notes to the financial statements and clearly ~~label~~^{labeling} them as unaudited. Unaudited notes that are intermingled with the audited notes can be misinterpreted as being audited. [Moved from para. A50 of extant]

A65. The fact that supplementary information is unaudited does not relieve the auditor of the responsibility to read that information to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. The auditor's responsibilities with respect to unaudited supplementary information are consistent with those described in ~~proposed~~ SSA 720 ~~(Revised)~~.[^] [Moved from para. A51 of extant]

[^] [Conforming amendments to this paragraph were proposed in the Exposure Draft of proposed SSA 720 \(Revised\). Feedback from that consultation would be considered in determining whether this change continues to be appropriate when finalising both proposed SSA 700 \(Revised\) and proposed SSA 720 \(Revised\).](#)

Appendix

(Ref: Para. A14)

Illustrations of Independent Auditor's Reports on Financial Statements

- Illustration 1: An auditor's report on financial statements of a listed entity prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework ~~designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users (for example, Singapore Financial Reporting Standards).~~
- Illustration 23: An auditor's report on consolidated financial statements ~~prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users (for example, Singapore Financial Reporting Standards)~~a listed entity prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework
- Illustration 3: An auditor's report on financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity prepared in accordance with a fair presentation framework (where reference is made to material that is located on a website of an appropriate authority)
- Illustration 42: An auditor's report on financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity prepared in accordance with a general purpose compliance framework ~~designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users.~~

Illustration 1 :- Auditor's Report on Financial Statements of a Listed Entity Prepared in Accordance with a Fair Presentation Framework

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following cCircumstances include the following are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit conducted in accordance with SSA 600.
- The financial statements are prepared for a general purpose by management of the entity in accordance with Singapore Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in SSA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., "clean") opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with proposed SSA 701.
- No material uncertainties relating to going concern have been identified in accordance with proposed SSA 570.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

Paragraph references below are to the relevant requirements in this SSA.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (para. 21)

[To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee] (para. 22)

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements³²

Opinion (paras. 23-27)

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements are properly drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Singapore Companies Act, Chapter 50 (the Act) and Singapore Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs) so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of ABC Company (the Company) as at _____(date) and the results, changes in equity and cash flows of the Company for the year ended on that date.

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of ABC the Company (the "Company"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for Opinion (para. 28)

We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing (SSAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company within the meaning of the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities and have fulfilled our other

³² The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

responsibilities under those ethical requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key Audit Matters (para. 30 and paras. 9-11 of proposed SSA 701)

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements. Key audit matters are selected from the matters communicated with [those charged with governance], but are not intended to represent all matters that were discussed with them. Our audit procedures relating to these matters were designed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole. Our opinion on the financial statements is not modified with respect to any of the key audit matters described below, and we do not express an opinion on these individual matters.

The two specific topics and content presented below are purely for illustrative purposes. This section would be tailored to the facts and circumstances of the individual audit engagement and the entity. Accordingly, the examples have been intentionally drafted in a manner that illustrates that Key Audit Matters will vary in terms of the number and selection of topics addressed and the nature in which they may be described, and are intended to be consistent with the disclosures in the entity's financial statements.

Valuation of Financial Instruments

The Company's disclosures about its structured financial instruments are included in Note 5. The Company's investments in structured financial instruments represent [x%] of the total amount of its financial instruments. Because the valuation of the Company's structured financial instruments is not based on quoted prices in active markets, there is significant measurement uncertainty involved in this valuation. As a result, the valuation of these instruments was significant to our audit. The Company has determined it is necessary to use an entity-developed model to value these instruments, due to their unique structure and terms. We challenged management's rationale for using an entity-developed model, and discussed this with [those charged with governance], and we concluded the use of such a model was appropriate. Our audit procedures also included, among others, testing management's controls related to the development and calibration of the model and confirming that management had determined it was not necessary to make any adjustments to the output of the model to reflect the assumptions that marketplace participants would use in similar circumstances.

Revenue Recognition Relating to Long-Term Contracts

The terms and conditions of the Company's long-term contracts in its [name of segment] affect the revenue that the Company recognizes in a period, and the revenue from such contracts represents a material amount of the Company's total revenue. The process to measure the amount of revenue to recognize in the [name of industry], including the determination of the appropriate timing of recognition, involves significant management judgment. We identified revenue recognition of long-term contracts as a significant risk requiring special audit consideration. This is because side agreements may exist that effectively amend the original contracts, and such side agreements may be inadvertently unrecorded or deliberately concealed and therefore present a risk of material misstatement due to fraud. In addition to testing the controls the Company has put in place over its process to enter into and record long-term contracts and other audit procedures, we considered it necessary to confirm the terms of these contracts directly with customers and testing journal entries made by management related to revenue recognition. Based on the audit procedures performed, we did not find evidence of the existence of side agreements. The Company's disclosures about revenue recognition are included in the summary of significant accounting policies in Note 1, as well as Note 4.

Going Concern (para. 29 and paras. 19–25 of proposed SSA 570 (Revised))

The Company's financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting. The use of this basis of accounting is appropriate unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. As part of our audit of the financial statements, we have concluded that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the Company's financial statements is appropriate.

Management has not identified a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, and accordingly none is disclosed in the financial statements.

Based on our audit of the financial statements, we also have not identified such a material uncertainty. However, neither management nor the auditor can guarantee the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Other Information (para. 31)

[The illustrative wording for this section is subject to the finalization of proposed SSA 720 (Revised). The content of this section may include, among other matters: (a) a description of the auditor's responsibilities with respect to other information; (b) identification of the document(s) available at the date of the auditor's report that contain the other information to which the auditor's responsibilities apply; (c) a statement addressing the outcome of the auditor's work on the other information; and (d) a statement that the auditor has not audited or reviewed the other information and, accordingly, does not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on it.]

Responsibilities of [Management's³³ and Those Charged with Governance or other appropriate terms] Responsibility for the Financial Statements (paras. 32-34)

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the provisions of ~~the Singapore Companies Act, Chapter 50~~ (the "Act") and ~~Singapore Financial Reporting Standards~~FRSs, and for devising and maintaining a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide a reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorised use or disposition; and transactions are properly authorised and that they are recorded as necessary to permit the preparation of true and fair profit and loss accounts and balance sheets and to maintain accountability of assets. [Those charged with governance] are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilityies for the Audit of the Financial Statements (paras. 35-40)

~~Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.~~

~~An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.~~

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report (see paragraph 39 of this SSA). When law or regulation expressly permits, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report (see paragraph 40 of this SSA).

As part of an audit in accordance with SSAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the planning and performance of the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and

³³ Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.³⁴
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and event in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We are required to communicate with [those charged with governance] regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We are also required to provide [those charged with governance] with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements (para. 41)

In our opinion, the accounting and other records required by the Act to be kept by the Company have been properly kept in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

[The form and content of this section of the auditor's report will vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities prescribed by local law or regulation.]

The engagement partner responsible for the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name]. (para. 42)

_____ (Firm) (para. 43)

Public Accountants and
Chartered Accountants
Singapore (para. 44)

_____ (Date) (para. 45)

³⁴ This sentence would be modified, as appropriate, in circumstances when the auditor also has a responsibility to issue an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements.

Illustration 2 3:- Auditor's Report for Consolidated Financial Statements of a Listed Entity Prepared in Accordance with a Fair Presentation Framework

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following cCircumstances include the following are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of consolidated financial statements of a listed entity prepared for a general purpose by management of the parent in accordance with Singapore Financial Reporting Standards using a fair presentation framework. The audit is a group audit of an entity with subsidiaries conducted in accordance with SSA 600.
- The consolidated financial statements are prepared for a general purpose by management of the entity in accordance with FRSs.
- The terms of the group audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the consolidated financial statements in SSA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., "clean") opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with SSA 701.
- No material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern has been identified in accordance with proposed SSA 570 (Revised).
- In addition to the audit of the consolidated group financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements³⁵

Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements of the ABC Company (the Company) and its subsidiaries (the Group) and the statement of financial position of the Company are properly drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Singapore Companies Act, Chapter 50 (the Act) and Singapore Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs) so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and of the Company as at _____ (date) and the results, changes in equity and cash flows of the Group for the year ended on that date.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of ABC Company (the "Company") and its subsidiaries (the "Group"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position of the Group and the statement of financial position of the Company as at 31 December 20X1, and the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows of the Group for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for Opinion

³⁵ The sub-title "Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements" is unnecessary in circumstances when the second sub-title "Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements" is not applicable.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing (SSAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group within the meaning of the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities and have fulfilled our other responsibilities under those ethical requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements. Key audit matters are selected from the matters communicated with *[those charged with governance]*, but are not intended to represent all matters that were discussed with them. Our audit procedures relating to these matters were designed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole. Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements is not modified with respect to any of the key audit matters described below, and we do not express an opinion on these individual matters.

The four specific topics and content presented below are purely for illustrative purposes. This section would be tailored to the facts and circumstances of the individual audit engagement and the entity. Accordingly, the examples have been intentionally drafted in a manner that illustrates that Key Audit Matters will vary in terms of the number and selection of topics addressed and the nature in which they may be described, and are intended to be consistent with the disclosures in the entity's consolidated financial statements

Goodwill

Under FRSSs, the Group is required to annually test the amount of goodwill for impairment. This annual impairment test was significant to our audit because the assessment process is complex and highly judgmental and is based on assumptions that are affected by expected future market or economic conditions, particularly those in *[Countries X and Y]*. As a result, our audit procedures included, among others, using a valuation expert to assist us in evaluating the assumptions and methodologies used by the Group, in particular those relating to the forecasted revenue growth and profit margins for *[name of business lines]*. We also focused on the adequacy of the Group's disclosures about those assumptions to which the outcome of the impairment test is most sensitive, that is, those that have the most significant effect on the determination of the recoverable amount of goodwill. The Group's disclosures about goodwill are included in Note 3, which specifically explains that small changes in the key assumptions used could give rise to an impairment of the goodwill balance in the future.

Valuation of Financial Instruments

The Group's disclosures about its structured financial instruments are included in Note 5. The Group's Investments in structured financial instruments represent *[x%]* of the total amount of its financial instruments. Because the valuation of the Group's structured financial instruments is not based on quoted prices in active markets, there is significant measurement uncertainty involved in this valuation. As a result, the valuation of these instruments was significant to our audit. The Group has determined it is necessary to use an entity-developed model to value these instruments, due to their unique structure and terms. We challenged management's rationale for using an entity-developed model, and discussed this with *[those charged with governance]*, and we concluded the use of such a model was appropriate. Our audit procedures also included, among others, testing management's controls related to the development and calibration of the model and confirming that management had determined it was not necessary to make any adjustments to the output of the model to reflect the assumptions that marketplace participants would use in similar circumstances.

Acquisition of XYZ Business

As described in Note 2, in December 20X1, the Group completed the acquisition of XYZ Business. XYZ Business was a division of a large private company. As of 31 December 20X1, the Group has completed the initial acquisition accounting on a preliminary basis. The Group will finalize the initial acquisition accounting during 20X2, and the amounts recorded as of 31 December 20X1 could change. We focused on this transaction because it is material to the consolidated financial statements

as a whole and the fact that values had not previously been assigned to the division as a standalone operation. In addition, determining the assumptions that underlie the initial acquisition accounting and the useful lives associated with the acquired intangible assets involves significant management judgment given the nature of the [name of industry].

Revenue Recognition Relating to Long-Term Contracts

The terms and conditions of the Group's long-term contracts in its [name of segment] affect the revenue that the Group recognizes in a period, and the revenue from such contracts represents a material amount of the Group's total revenue. The process to measure the amount of revenue to recognize in the [name of industry], including the determination of the appropriate timing of recognition, involves significant management judgment. We identified revenue recognition of long-term contracts as a significant risk requiring special audit consideration. This is because side agreements may exist that effectively amend the original contracts, and such side agreements may be inadvertently unrecorded or deliberately concealed and therefore present a risk of material misstatement due to fraud. In addition to testing the controls the Group has put in place over its process to enter into and record long-term contracts and other audit procedures, we considered it necessary to confirm the terms of these contracts directly with customers and testing journal entries made by management related to revenue recognition. Based on the audit procedures performed, we did not find evidence of the existence of side agreements. The Group's disclosures about revenue recognition are included in the summary of significant accounting policies in Note 1, as well as Note 4.

Going Concern

The consolidated financial statements of the Group have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting. The use of this basis of accounting is appropriate unless management either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. As part of our audit of the consolidated financial statements, we have concluded that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the Group's consolidated financial statements is appropriate. Management has not identified a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, and accordingly none is disclosed in the consolidated financial statements of the Group. Based on our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the Group, we also have not identified such a material uncertainty. However, neither management nor the auditor can guarantee the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

Other Information

[The illustrative wording for this section is subject to the finalization of proposed SSA 720 (Revised). The content of this section may include, among other matters: (a) a description of the auditor's responsibilities with respect to other information; (b) identification of the document(s) available at the date of the auditor's report that contain the other information to which the auditor's responsibilities apply; (c) a statement addressing the outcome of the auditor's work on the other information; and (d) a statement that the auditor has not audited or reviewed the other information and, accordingly, does not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on it.]

Responsibilities of [Management's³⁶ and Those Charged with Governance or other appropriate terms] Responsibility for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the provisions of ~~the Singapore Companies Act, Chapter 50 (the "Act")~~ and ~~Singapore Financial Reporting Standards~~FRSs, and for devising and maintaining a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide a reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorised use or disposition; and transactions are properly authorised and that they are recorded as necessary to permit the preparation of true and fair profit and loss accounts and balance sheets and to maintain accountability of assets. [Those charged with governance] are responsible for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

³⁶ Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion. The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

The shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report (see paragraph 39 of this SSA). When law or regulation expressly permits, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report (see paragraph 40 of this SSA).

As part of an audit in accordance with SSAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the planning and performance of the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.³⁷
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities and business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements.

³⁷ This sentence would be modified, as appropriate, in circumstances when the auditor also has a responsibility to issue an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the consolidated financial statements.

We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We are required to communicate with [those charged with governance] regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We are also required to provide [those charged with governance] with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opinion, the accounting and other records required by the Act to be kept by the Company and by those subsidiaries incorporated in Singapore of which we are the auditors have been properly kept in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

[The form and content of this section of the auditor's report will/would vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities prescribed by local law or regulation.]

The engagement partner responsible for the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name].

_____ (Firm)

Public Accountants and
Chartered Accountants
Singapore

_____ (Date)

Illustration 3 - Auditor's Report on Financial Statements of an Entity Other than a Listed Entity Prepared in Accordance with a Fair Presentation Framework

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity using a fair presentation framework. The audit is not a group audit conducted in accordance with SSA 600.
- The financial statements are prepared for a general purpose by management of the entity in accordance with FRSs.
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in SSA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., "clean") opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- No material uncertainties relating to going concern have been identified in accordance with proposed SSA 570 (Revised).
- The auditor is not required, and otherwise has not decided, to include key audit matters in accordance with proposed SSA 701.
- No other information is included with audited financial statements (i.e., proposed SSA 720 (Revised) does not apply).
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under local law.
- The auditor elects to refer to the description of the auditor's responsibility included on a website of an appropriate authority.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of ABC Company [or Other Appropriate Addressee]

Opinion

-
In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements are properly drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Singapore Companies Act, Chapter 50 (the Act) and Singapore Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs) so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of ABC Company (the Company) as at _____ (date) and the results, changes in equity and cash flows of the Company for the year ended on that date.

-
We have audited the financial statements of the Company, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 20X1, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing (SSAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company within the meaning of the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities* and have fulfilled our other responsibilities under those ethical requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Going Concern

The Company's financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting. The use of this basis of accounting is appropriate unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. As part of our audit of the financial statements, we have concluded that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the Company's financial statements is appropriate.

Management has not identified a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, and accordingly none is disclosed in the financial statements. Based on our audit of the financial statements, we also have not identified such a material uncertainty. However, neither management nor the auditor can guarantee the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Responsibilities of [Management³⁸ and Those Charged with Governance or other appropriate terms] for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the provisions of the Act and FRSs, and for devising and maintaining a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide a reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorised use or disposition; and transactions are properly authorised and that they are recorded as necessary to permit the preparation of true and fair profit and loss accounts and balance sheets and to maintain accountability of assets. [Those charged with governance] are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements that is part of this auditor's report is located at [Organization's] website at: [website link].

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opinion, the accounting and other records required by the Act to be kept by the Company have been properly kept in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

[The form and content of this section of the auditor's report would vary depending on the nature of the auditor's other reporting responsibilities prescribed by local law or regulation.]

(Firm)
Public Accountants and
Chartered Accountants
Singapore

(Date)

³⁸ Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

Illustration 4 2:- Auditor's Report on Financial Statements of an Entity Other than a Listed Entity Prepared in Accordance with a General Purpose Compliance Framework

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following cCircumstances are assumed include the following:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of an entity other than a listed entity required by law or regulation. The audit is not a group audit conducted in accordance with SSA 600.
- The financial statements are prepared for a general purpose by management of the entity in accordance with the Financial Reporting Framework (XYZ Law) of Jurisdiction X (that is, a financial reporting framework, encompassing law or regulation, designed to meet the common financial information needs of a wide range of users, but which is not a fair presentation framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of management's responsibility for the financial statements in SSA 210.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., "clean") opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- No material uncertainty relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern has been identified in accordance with proposed SSA 570 (Revised).
- The auditor is not required, and otherwise has not decided, to include key audit matters in accordance with proposed SSA 701.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

[Appropriate Addressee]

Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements of ABC Company (the Company)~~for the year ended 31 December 20X1~~ are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with XYZ Law of Jurisdiction X.

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of ABC the Company, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 20X1, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies ~~and other explanatory information~~.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing (SSAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company within the meaning of [indicate relevant ethical requirements or applicable law or regulation] and have fulfilled our other responsibilities under those relevant ethical requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Going Concern

[Reporting in accordance with proposed SSA 570 (Revised) – see illustration 1]

Other Information

[The illustrative wording for this section is subject to the finalization of proposed SSA 720 (Revised). The content of this section may include, among other matters: (a) a description of the auditor's responsibilities with respect to other information; (b) identification of the document(s) available at the date of the auditor's report that contain the other information to which the auditor's responsibilities apply; (c) a statement addressing the outcome of the auditor's work on the other information; and (d) a statement that the auditor has not audited or reviewed the other information and, accordingly, does not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on it.]

Responsibilities of [Management's³⁹ and Those Charged with Governance or other appropriate terms] Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with XYZ Law of Jurisdiction X, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. [Those charged with governance] are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

~~Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.~~

~~An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the presentation of the financial statements.~~

~~The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.~~

~~The shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report (see paragraph 39 of this SSA). When law or regulation expressly permits, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report (see paragraph 40 of this SSA).~~

~~As part of an audit in accordance with SSAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the planning and performance of the audit. We also:~~

- ~~• Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.~~

³⁹ Or other term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.⁴⁰
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

We are required to communicate with [those charged with governance] regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We are also required to provide [those charged with governance] with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

⁴⁰ This sentence would be modified, as appropriate, in circumstances when the auditor also has a responsibility to issue an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in conjunction with the audit of the financial statements.

_____ (Firm)
Public Accountants and
Chartered Accountants
Singapore
_____ (Date)