CHARTER

ICPA Governance Charter

Mandate, structure, and accountabilities of the Commission

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International Commission for Professional Accreditation
Fremont, California, USA · www.i-cpa.org · info@i-cpa.org

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This Charter establishes the governance architecture of the International Commission for Professional Accreditation: its mandate, the bodies that constitute it, their respective powers, and the lines of accountability between them. The 2026 edition reflects a year of public consultation, peer review, and alignment with the International Standard for Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies (ISO/IEC 17011:2017) and the International Education Standards (IES) framework. It supersedes all prior editions and remains in force until the next biennial revision.

1. Mandate

The Commission exists to advance the global standard of professional accreditation in accountancy and adjacent disciplines by setting credible standards, accrediting bodies that meet them, and operating transparently in the public interest.

2. Governing bodies

The Commission is governed by four bodies operating under defined powers and term limits:

- **General Assembly** — supreme body; ratifies the Charter, elects the Council, approves audited accounts
- **Council** — 11 members serving four-year terms; sets strategy and policy
- **Standards Council** — issues, revises, and retires standards
- **Independent Review Panel** — adjudicates appeals; cannot be members of any other body

3. Public-interest representation

At least one third of Council seats are reserved for members nominated from outside the profession — drawn from regulators, investors, academia, and civil society. Public-interest members have full voting rights and equal access to information.

4. Transparency

The Commission publishes annually: a strategic report, audited accounts, a register of accredited bodies, anonymised summaries of appeal and complaint outcomes, and a record of Council decisions. Council meeting agendas are published in advance; minutes are published within thirty days of approval.

> *Confidentiality protects individual evaluations and proceedings; it does not protect the institution from accountability for its policies, procedures, and outcomes.*

5. Conflicts of interest

Every Council member, Standards Council member, IRP member, evaluator, and staff member maintains a current declaration of interests on the public register. Conflicts trigger recusal under rules published alongside this Charter.

6. Amendment

This Charter may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly on a proposal published at least sixty days in advance of the vote. Substantive amendments are subject to public consultation.

Approved by	President, ICPA General Assembly
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Contact	info@i-cpa.org · www.i-cpa.org