

## Media Release

### Patchwork financial regulation is a \$780 billion drag on the economy

**New York/Paris, April 11 2018** – Fragmentation in global financial regulation costs more than USD \$780 billion annually, according to a survey released today by IFAC (International Federation of Accountants) and *Business at OECD* (BIAC).

The survey, [\*Regulatory Divergence: Costs, Risks, Impacts: An International Financial Sector Study\*](#), examines the cost of regulatory divergence by taking the pulse of more than 250 regulatory and compliance leaders from major global financial institutions. The results quantify the massive impact of fragmented regulation: material economic costs, financial system risk, and barriers to economic growth.

Regulatory divergence, which refers to inconsistencies in regulation between different jurisdictions, costs financial institutions between 5 to 10% of annual revenue turnover, according to the survey findings. Over half (51%) of respondents said resources have been directed away from risk management due to the costs associated with diverging regulation.

The \$780 billion price tag is conservatively inferred by the findings, with smaller institutions (annual turnover less than \$100 million) twice as likely as their larger counterparts to experience very material costs.

“There is clear evidence that reforms implemented since the last financial crisis have resulted in fragmentation that consumes valuable resources, including those that could otherwise be focused on de-escalating the risk of the next crisis,” said **Fayezul Choudhury**, CEO of IFAC. “In particular, the competitive disadvantage for small and medium sized institutions should serve as a wakeup call for policy makers.”

The costs of regulatory divergence are felt most strongly in the capital markets sector, with 92% of respondents indicating material or very material costs, followed by banking (76%) and professional services (66%).

“The impact of fragmented regulation on growth is troubling, as non-tariff barriers to trade and investment stop businesses from expanding internationally, which undermines job and wealth creation,” said **Bernhard Welschke**, *Business at OECD* (BIAC) Secretary General.

“The survey highlights the need for increased international regulatory co-operation to reduce the regulatory divergences which are costly on business. Pioneering OECD work in this area helps countries improve the way they cooperate on regulatory matters across borders to achieve their public policy objectives and reduce unnecessary costs for business

and citizens,” said **Marcos Bonturi**, Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD)’s Director for Public Governance.

Business at OECD (BIAC) and IFAC recommend enhancing international cooperation among regulators, increasing overall alignment in regulation, and ensuring transparency in international rule-setting to mend the fractures caused by regulatory fragmentation.

**Media Contacts:**

**Genna De Rose**

IFAC Communications

IFAC

[geenaderose@ifac.org](mailto:geenaderose@ifac.org)

+1-646-277-9390

**Ali Karami-Ruiz**

Director, Policy, Communications,  
and International Affairs

Business at OECD (BIAC)

[karamiruiz@biac.org](mailto:karamiruiz@biac.org)

+33 (0)142 300 960

**About Business at OECD:**

*Business at OECD (BIAC) speaks for business at the OECD. Established in 1962, we stand for policies that enable businesses of all sizes to contribute to growth, economic development, and prosperity. Through BIAC, national business and employers federations and their members provide expertise to the OECD and governments for competitive economies, better business, and better lives.*

**About IFAC:**

*IFAC is the global organization for the accountancy profession dedicated to serving the public interest by strengthening the profession and contributing to the development of strong international economies. IFAC is comprised of over 175 members and associates in more than 130 countries and jurisdictions, representing almost 3 million accountants in public practice, education, government service, industry, and commerce.*