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Independent Limited Assurance Report to the Directors of Cisco Systems, Inc. over the statement as to progress made by Cisco Systems, Inc. for the period 1 August 2015 to 30 July 2022 to positively impact one billion people by 2025 through social impact grants and signature programs.

The Board of Directors of Cisco Systems, Inc. (“Cisco”) engaged us to obtain limited assurance on the number of people positively impacted through Cisco’s social impact grants and signature programs for the period 1 August 2015 to 30 July 2022 (together the “Subject Matter Information”) as defined below and marked with the symbol **(A)** in Cisco’s Purpose Report for the year ended 30 July 2022 (the “Report”).

Our assurance conclusion does not extend to information in respect of earlier periods or to any other information included in, or linked from, the Report.

Our limited assurance conclusion

Based on the procedures we have performed, as described under the ‘Summary of work performed as the basis for our assurance conclusion’ and the evidence we have obtained, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the Subject Matter Information marked with the symbol **(A)** in the Report has not been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Reporting Criteria of the Report and referenced in the ‘Subject Matter Information and Reporting Criteria’ section below.

Emphasis of matter

We draw attention to Section 2.4 on pages 8 and 9 of the Cisco Systems, Inc.’s Goal to Positively Impact 1B People by 2025: Reporting Criteria Document (the “Reporting Criteria”) which sets out management’s approach to reducing the management identified risk of double-counting individuals who may have been impacted by a specific grantee program and other potentially overlapping grantee programs operating in many of the same geographies as the specific grantee program (the “overlapping grantee programs”) – both within the same fiscal year and/or across multiple fiscal years as a result of not being able to access granular level data. To address the risk of double-counting within the same fiscal year, management has removed the total number of individuals positively impacted by the overlapping grantee programs for the period 1 August 2021 to 30 July 2022. In addition, to address the risk of double-counting individuals who may have been positively impacted by the overlapping grantee programs occurring across multiple prior fiscal years, management has also removed from the total number of positively impacted individuals the aggregate number of individuals removed from such total using a previous counting methodology which occurred in the prior periods of reporting, for the period from 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2021. Please note our conclusion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

Subject Matter Information and Reporting Criteria

The Subject Matter Information needs to be read and understood together with the Reporting Criteria, which Cisco is solely responsible for selecting and applying. The Subject Matter Information is set out below and the Reporting Criteria used for the reporting of the Subject Matter Information is available online at: https://www.cisco.com/c/m/en_us/about/csr/esg-hub/global/social-investment.html ⁱ

<i>Subject Matter Information</i>	
The number of people positively impacted through Cisco’s social impact grants and signature programs between FY16 and FY22	893 million

Inherent limitations

The absence of a significant body of established practice on which to draw to evaluate and measure non-financial information allows for different, but acceptable, evaluation and measurement techniques that can affect comparability between entities and over time.

Non-financial performance information is subject to more inherent limitations than financial information, given the characteristics of the underlying subject matter and the methods used for determining such information. The precision of different measurement techniques may also vary.

ⁱ The maintenance and integrity of Cisco’s website is the responsibility of the Directors; the work carried out by us does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, we accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the reported Subject Matter Information when presented on Cisco’s website.

Responsibilities of Cisco's management:

The management of Cisco are responsible for:

- determining appropriate reporting topics and selecting or establishing suitable criteria for measuring or evaluating the underlying subject matter;
- ensuring that those criteria are relevant and appropriate to Cisco and the intended users of the Report;
- the preparation of the Subject Matter Information in accordance with the Reporting Criteria including designing, implementing and maintaining systems, processes and internal controls over information relevant to the evaluation or measurement of the Subject Matter Information, which is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, against the Reporting Criteria; and
- producing the Report, including underlying information and a statement of Directors responsibility which provides accurate, balanced reflection of Cisco's performance in this area and discloses, with supporting rationale, matters relevant to the intended users of the Report.

Our responsibilities

We are responsible for:

- planning and performing the engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the Subject Matter Information is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- forming an independent conclusion, based on the procedures we have performed and the evidence we have obtained; and
- reporting our conclusion to the Directors of Cisco.

Professional standards applied

We performed a limited assurance engagement in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised) 'Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information' issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Our independence and quality control

We have complied with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales Code of Ethics, which includes independence and other requirements founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour, that are at least as demanding as the applicable provisions of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards).

We apply International Standard on Quality Control (UK) 1 and accordingly maintain a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Materiality

We are required to plan and perform our work to address the areas where we have identified that a material misstatement of the Subject Matter Information is likely to arise.

Based on our professional judgment, we determined materiality for the Subject Matter Information by applying a threshold of 5% to the movement between the current year and prior year reported positive impact data. This threshold means that a misstatement of 8,802,027 for social impact grants and 62,806 for signature programmes, either as an individual misstatement, or as an aggregate of smaller misstatements, would lead us to conclude that the reported positive impact figure had not been prepared in all material respects in accordance with the Reporting Criteria. For qualitative information, materiality considerations consider qualitative matters, including balance, understandability, and lack of bias.

Summary of work performed as the basis for our assurance conclusion

In carrying out our limited assurance engagement we:

- obtained an understanding of the key grants and programs in-scope for the engagement through inquiries with Cisco's management including the Cisco Foundation and Networking Academy's team;
- obtained an understanding of Cisco's data collection and reporting process, including the control environment, processes and systems relevant to the preparation of the Subject Matter Information;
- reviewed the reporting criteria and assessed the suitability of criteria for the evaluation and measurements of the reported reach data and positive impact;
- evaluated whether Cisco's methods for developing estimates (including adjustments made to address the risk of double counting individuals positively impacted) are appropriate and had been consistently applied but our procedures did not include testing the data on which the estimates are based or separately developing our own estimates against which to evaluate Cisco's estimates;
- performed limited substantive testing on a selective basis of the Subject Matter Information to check that underlying information had been appropriately evaluated or measured, recorded, collated and reported; including
 - reviewing impact reports for grantees and signature programs to check that the definition of positive impact aligned with the reporting criteria;

i The maintenance and integrity of Cisco's website is the responsibility of the Directors; the work carried out by us does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, we accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the reported Subject Matter Information when presented on Cisco's website.

- tracing input data for the grantees and signature programs to relevant third party dashboards, system reports or confirmations. Our scope did not extend to testing the completeness and accuracy of the information supplied to Cisco by those third parties; and
- considered the disclosure and presentation of the Subject Matter Information.

Our procedures did not include evaluating the suitability of design or operating effectiveness of control activities, testing the data on which the estimates are based or separately developing our own estimates against which to evaluate Cisco's estimates.

The procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for, a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed.

Other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Report other than the Subject Matter Information and our assurance report. The directors are responsible for the other information. As explained above, our assurance conclusion does not extend to the other information and, accordingly, we do not express any form of assurance thereon. In connection with our assurance of the Subject Matter Information, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the Subject Matter Information or our knowledge obtained during the assurance engagement, or otherwise appears to contain a material misstatement of fact. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement of fact, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the Subject Matter Information or a material misstatement of the other information, and to take appropriate actions in the circumstances.

Use of our report

Our report, including our conclusion, has been prepared solely for the Board of Directors of Cisco in accordance with the agreement between us dated 20 September 2022 (the "agreement") in order to assist the Directors in reporting Cisco's performance and activities. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility or liability to anyone other than the Board of Directors and Cisco for our work or this report except where terms are expressly agreed between us in writing.



PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants
London
5 May 2023