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GSSB summary of the virtual meeting held on 15 September 2022

Approved by the GSSB on 18 October 2022

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2 Participants

3 Present:

Name	Constituency
Judy Kuszewski	Chair
Robyn Leeson	Vice-Chair
Peter Colley	Labor
Giulia Genuardi	Business enterprise
Evan Harvey	Investment institution
Vincent Kong (joined late)	Business enterprise
Anna Nefedova	Mediating institution
Corli le Roux	Mediating institution
Gangaa Charan Sharma	Business enterprise
Kim Schumacher	Civil society organization
Kenton Swift	Civil society organization
Michel Washer	Business enterprise

4 Apologies:

Name	Constituency
Loredana Carta	Labor
Joseph Martin	Business enterprise
Jennifer Princing	Business enterprise

5 In attendance from GRI:

Name	Position
Bastian Buck	Chief of Standards
Harold Pauwels	Director Standards
Mia d'Adhemar	Head Sector Program
Gillian Balaban	Sr. Coordinator Governance Relations

6 List of abbreviations

GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board
SD	Standards Division
WG	Working group
TC	Technical committee
PCP	Public comment period

7 **Decisions and action items**

8 **Decisions**

9 The GSSB resolved to approve the following:

10 **GSSB Decision 2022.16** Item 01 – [Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 7 July 2022](#)

11 **GSSB Decision 2022.17** Item 02 – [GRI Topic Standard Project for Labor - Proposed members for](#)
12 [the technical committee](#)

13 **GSSB Decision 2022.18** Item 03 – [GRI Topic Standards Project for Labor - Terms of Reference](#)

14 **Session 1: Welcome**

15 The Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) Vice-Chair Robyn Leeson (henceforth the Vice-
16 Chair) welcomed the GSSB. The Vice-Chair presented an overview of the meeting agenda. A quorum
17 was unavailable at this point; approval of the following items moved to the end of Session 3:

18 Item 01 – [Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 7 July 2022](#)

19 Item 02 – [GRI Topic Standard Project for Labor - Proposed members for the technical committee](#)

20 Item 03 – [GRI Topic Standards Project for Labor - Terms of Reference](#)

21 **Session 2: Standards Division update**

22 Chief of Standards, Bastian Buck, provided the following update on the work of the Standards
23 Division:

- 24 • An overview of the main activities of the Sector Program: Oil and Gas / Coal / Agriculture,
25 Aquaculture, and Fishing – completed pilot projects in the public domain, all available in English
26 on the GRI website and now working on translation; Mining – content development is underway;
27 Food and Beverages / Textiles and Apparel – currently in a holding pattern, ramping capacity on
28 the staffing side; Banks / Insurance / Asset Management – draft project proposal preparation is
29 underway.
- 30 • Sector Standard Project for Mining status update – exposure draft to be finalized by the end of the
31 year; public comment activities planned for Q1 2023.
- 32 • An overview of Topic Standard revisions, both ongoing and upcoming. Ongoing revisions in 2022
33 of the following standards: 304 Biodiversity; 202 Market Presence; 401 Employment; 402
34 Labor/Management Relations; 404 Training and Education; 405 Diversity and Equal Opportunity;
35 407 Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining; 408 Child Labor; 409 Forced and

- 36 Compulsory Labor; 414 Supplier Social Assessment. Upcoming revisions in 2022 are: 302
37 Energy; 305 Emissions; XXX Climate change; 201 Economic Performance.
- 38 • GRI Topic Standard Project for Biodiversity status update: 4th TC meeting held 14 June 2022; 5th
39 TC meeting 12 September 2022; final TC meeting (fatal flaw check) to be held 25 October 2022;
40 The revision work is scheduled for GSSB approval of the Exposure draft 17 November 2022. A
41 launch event for the exposure draft will be for the week of COP 15 Montreal in December. Public
42 exposure period from December 2022 – February 2023. In cooperation with GRI Regional hubs,
43 Global Q & A workshop sessions will be held as part of the PCP Jan/Feb 2023.
 - 44 • GRI Topic Standard Project for Labor status update: GSSB approved the project proposal on 7
45 July 2022; approval of nominated TC members scheduled for the present meeting; press release
46 scheduled for the week of 19 September 2022; a call for experts to the Advisory Group issued in
47 September; the 1st TC meeting takes place 22 September and the 2nd TC meeting 1 December.
 - 48 • GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change status update: Climate topic is prioritized in
49 GSSB Work Program 2020-2022; Margherita Barbieri joined GRI as of 1 September 2022 and will
50 lead the project; the preliminary stage consists of stakeholder engagement and network building,
51 and input from the research team; draft project proposal to be submitted for GSSB approval in the
52 December meeting. There are ongoing discussions on how the GRI project can be aligned
53 with the climate work of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) and EFRAG.

54 **Session 3: Update Labor-related**

55 **Standards**

56 Director Standards, Harold Pauwels, provided the following update on the Labor-related Standards:

- 57 • The project proposal was approved in July by the GSSB. An invitation was sent to the GRI Board
58 and Stakeholder Council to comment on the proposal – no comments were received. The final
59 approval of the unchanged project proposal is reserved for this meeting.
- 60 • The TC comprises two representatives nominated by the International Labour Organization (ILO),
61 two representatives of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the Global Unions
62 Federations (GUFs), and two employer representatives from the International Organization of
63 Employers (IOE).
- 64 • A call for experts to be appointed to the Advisory Group (AG) to support the TC in the content
65 development process will be launched with specific provisions during the week of 19 September.

66
67
68

- 69 GSSB Vice-Chair, Robyn Leeson, presented the following items for approval:
- 70
- Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 7 July 2022
- 71
- GRI Topic Standard Project for Labor – Proposed members for the Technical Committee
- 72
- GRI Topic Standard Project for Labor – Project Proposal
- 73
- The GSSB approves all three items (see **GSSB Decision 2022.16**, **GSSB Decision 2022.17**, and
- 74 **GSSB Decision 2022.18**).

75 **Session 4: Update Work Program**

76 **2023-2025**

77 Director Standards, Harold Pauwels, provided the update for the new GSSB Work Program:

- 78 • The draft Work Program is being prepared for the GSSB meeting in October.
- 79 • Based on GSSB feedback, the draft Work Program will be amended and shared for approval
80 in November to submit for public consultation.
- 81 • At the end of November, a public consultation period will commence with Stakeholder Council and
82 GRI Board to provide feedback and comments and suggest new topics.
- 83 • The final Work Program will be submitted to the GSSB meeting in February 2023 for final
84 approval.
- 85 • The new Work Program will be based on internal and external stakeholder feedback to the GSSB,
86 GSSB public consultations, and Sector Program recommendations to the GSSB.
- 87 • The Work Program covers the GSSB list of priority projects for the next three years, which include
88 the review of existing Topic Standards, the development of new Topic Standards, the
89 development of new Sector Standards, a research program for both Sector and Topic Standards,
a revision process with linkages between Sector and Topic Standards and all translations.
- 90 • As part of the Work Program agreement with the GSSB, cooperation with key stakeholders like
91 the ISSB and EFRAG will be included.
- 92 • GSSB's strategic decision will set the pace to develop Sector Standards for at least 40 priority
93 sectors with a periodic review cycle and initiate new Topic Standards development.

94

95 Head Sector Program, Mia d'Adhemar, presented the Sector Standards work pipeline as follows:

- 96 • The basis for the Sector Standards Work Program will be the approved priority list.
- 97 • The work will be carried out sequentially, considering refinements to the scopes of sectors
98 and of Sector Standards already developed. Minor refinements to the scope of the sectors
99 listed will be incorporated into the prioritization list at key moments.

100 • It is estimated that four Sector Standards projects can be delivered simultaneously once the
101 sector team is fully resourced. In the near term, the three financial sectors planned to be
102 delivered as a single project will enable the simultaneous development of six Standards. The
103 organizational structure will be reconsidered towards the end of 2023 and the beginning of
104 2024 to identify opportunities to scale the team further to deliver more projects. Current
105 planning enables the commencement of all Group 1 sectors by the end of the current Work
106 Program.

107 Harold Pauwels provided the following points on the Topic Standards and Research work
108 pipeline:

- 109 • The Biodiversity project is ongoing. The Labor project will start based on the approval
110 during this meeting. The Climate Change project is in the draft proposal for approval in
111 December.
- 112 • Biodiversity will be published in 2023, and the balance of the projects will continue to later
113 publication.
- 114 • The aim is to have 31 Topic Standards under revision by the end of the 2023-2025 Work
115 Program.
- 116 • Research for Sector Standards continues. Research for Topic Standards development is
117 to be discussed in line with the Work Program. New topics requiring research include
118 Data Protection and Privacy, Public Policy, and Anti-competitive Behavior.
- 119 • The GSSB will identify priorities for developing new Topic Standards based
120 on stakeholder feedback from various sources.
- 121 • Stakeholder input presentations to the GSSB are being reviewed and analyzed. These
122 will be presented as input to the Work Program for further discussion in the October
123 meeting.

124 **Session 5: Presentation by IFC on**

125 **Transparency related to Land**

126 **Acquisition and Resettlement**

127 The Chair welcomed guest speaker Diana Baird, Global Social Lead at the International Finance
128 Corporation (IFC), to present the following points on land acquisition and resettlement as inputs to the
129 GSSB work program 2023-2025:

- 130 • IFC Performance Standard 5: Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement (PS5) is a key
131 reference in GRI 11 and GRI 12, and is expected to be in GRI 14.
- 132 • PS5 applies to cases where land is acquired through expropriation or compulsory legal
133 procedures, lands acquired through negotiations with owners where expropriation is possible, and
134 involuntary restrictions on land use or access to resources for local communities.
- 135 • Project design, the first key objective of PS5, includes exploring feasible alternative project
136 designs and considering impacts on the poor and vulnerable.
- 137 • PS5 also includes community engagement and grievance mechanisms as a part of its guidance,
138 with reference to decision-making processes, transparent disclosures, and additional provisions
139 for consultations with indigenous peoples.
- 140 • Community engagement guidelines follow PS1: Assessment and Management of Environmental
141 and Social Risks and Impacts.
- 142 • PS5's recommendations on resettlement and livelihood restoration planning include conducting a
143 census, developing a resettlement framework with room for expansion, and monitoring
144 implementation.
- 145 • IFC also outlined key aspects of displacement, compensation, and benefits, such as types
146 including landowners and land users, their economic dimensions, and the physical ramifications
147 of resettlement.
- 148 • Distinctions and special considerations are drawn between economically and physically displaced
149 persons.
- 150 • Private sector responsibilities under government-managed resettlement require active
151 collaboration among stakeholders, livelihood restoration planning, and additional measures to
152 target gaps, including cash compensation and evaluation of the process.
- 153 • Further information was provided about potential indicators, including the number of persons
154 displaced, the amount of land impacted, and the number of displaced persons with livelihoods
155 restored.

156 **Session 6: Any other business and**

157 **close of the meeting**

No other business was raised, and the Chair closed the public meeting at 15.42 Central European Time (CET).