



# GRI Independent Appointments Committee (IAC)

*Annual Report 2015-2016*

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## List of abbreviations

DPOC	Due Process Oversight Committee	IAC	Independent Appointments Committee
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative	ILO	International Labour Organization
GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board	UN	United Nations

# Introduction

The Independent Appointments Committee (IAC) was created as an independent committee under the auspices of GRI and has primary responsibility for appointing qualified, competent, disinterested persons of independent mind, to the GRI Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) and the GRI Due Process Oversight Committee (DPOC).

Following appointment by the Extended GRI Nominating Committee<sup>1</sup>, the inaugural IAC was established by 1 September 2015. The current members of the IAC are:

- Denise Esdon, Chair of the IAC
- Åse Bäckström, Managing Director of the Global Child Forum
- Prof. Mahendra Chouhan, Author, board advisor and management educator
- Mr. Victor Hugo Ricco, UN Official, Senior Specialist Workers' Activities at the Bureau of Workers' Activities of the ILO

The term of one IAC member (Mia Horn af Rantzien) ended in August 2016.

Shortly after the appointment, the IAC, a cohesive group of committed people leveraging the principle of 'collective wisdom', took on the important task of appointing members to the newly established GSSB and DPOC.

*“Since the inaugural IAC was appointed in 2015, they have successfully appointed highly qualified members to the DPOC and GSSB and thus played a fundamental role in ensuring an effective implementation of GRI’s new governance structure” (Eric Hespeneide, Vice-Chairman of the GRI Board of Directors).*

More information about the IAC can be found on the [GRI website](#).

## Meeting activities

Since its inception, the IAC has held nine virtual meetings and one in-person meeting in Amsterdam on the 17-18 of May 2016 as well as 11 interview sessions. The nature and timing of the IAC’s meetings are summarized in the enclosed Appendix I.

## Summary of IAC’s activities

### *DPOC Appointments*

The primary responsibility of the DPOC is to ensure that the standard-setting activities of the GSSB are conducted in accordance with its due process, in order to increase public and stakeholder confidence that the standards are properly responsive to the public interest.

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<sup>1</sup> The Extended GRI Nomination Committee consist of three GRI Board members (including the Board Chair), three Stakeholder Council members (including the Chair of the Stakeholder Council), and two external individuals.

The inaugural DPOC had five vacancies for members to start in April 2016 and sit on the DPOC for a term of three years. Suitable candidates include senior individuals from international organizations, governments and regulatory bodies, with a sound understanding of standard-setting processes, and a willingness to serve the public interest in an independent and unbiased manner.

An open call for nominations was held from 4 November 2015 to 3 January 2016. At its 1 March virtual meeting, the IAC appointed the following members to the DPOC:

- Riva Krut (Chair), Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer, Praxair Inc.
- Professor Godwell Nhamo, Chief Researcher and Chair, Exxaro Chair in Business and Climate Change in the Institute for Corporate Citizenship, University of South Africa (Unisa)
- Stanley Keith Rogers, Principal Consultant, AVTEQ Consulting Services

A second open call for nominations was held to fill the remaining two vacancies. On 9 June, the IAC appointed the following member to the DPOC:

- Sanjib K Bezbaroa, Executive Vice President Corporate Environment, Health & Safety, ITC Ltd.

A third open call for nominations was held from 29 August to 28 October 2016 to fill the remaining vacancy. The IAC also reached out to a number of organizations involved with standard setting activities to solicit nominations to the DPOC. On 21 December 2016 the IAC appointed the following member to the DPOC:

- Volker Höntsch, Group Health, Safety and Sustainability Manager, UBM EMEA

## *GSSB Appointments*

Established as an independent operating entity under the auspices of GRI, the GSSB is formed of members with a broad range of expertise and experience, and who have the sole responsibility of setting globally accepted standards for sustainability reporting. The GSSB works in the public interest and according to the vision and mission of GRI.

The appointment process takes into account the candidates' experience, the constituency they represent, as well as gender and geographic diversity. Balanced representation may not always be achieved over one appointment cycle and the IAC is committed to address this in future appointments, to the best of its ability.

In September 2015, the IAC appointed the following members to the GSSB for a three-year term:

- Jürgen Buxbaum, European Secretary, Coordinator of the public administration sector and the work on multinational enterprises, Public Services International (PSI)
- Daniel Ingram, Head of Responsible Investment for BT Pension Scheme (BTPS)

Those appointments brought the GSSB membership to full complement (15 members).

The IAC held an open call for nominations to the GSSB from 29 August to 27 November 2016 for five membership positions on the GSSB, as well as for the Chair position, for a three-year term commencing 1 January 2017.

The open call for nominations focused on candidates from Business, Investment Institutions and Civil Society, as the GSSB needed additional members from these constituencies to meet the membership representation balance under the GSSB's Terms of Reference. However, all nominations received from all constituencies have been duly considered by the IAC in making the GSSB's appointments.

From late November 2016 to mid-January 2017 the IAC reviewed the received nominations and conducted interviews. In January 2017, the IAC made the following appointments to the GSSB:

GSSB Chair:

- Judy Kuszewski, Chief Executive, Sancroft International

GSSB members:

- Atilla Demir Yerlikaya, Group Corporate Affairs & Sustainability Director, Coca-Cola İçecek (CCI)
- Evan Harvey, Director of Corporate Responsibility, Nasdaq
- Julia Wilson, Director, Global Responsibility and Sustainability, Nielsen
- Kenton Swift, Professor of Accounting, University of Montana
- Michel Washer, Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer, Solvay
- Robyn Leeson, Principal, STR Consulting

In consultation with the GSSB Chair, the IAC also appointed Robyn Leeson as Vice-Chair of the GSSB. These appointments brought the GSSB to full complement. A full list of current GSSB members can be found [here](#).

## *IAC agenda 2017*

In 2017, the IAC's activities will mainly be focused on appointments to the GSSB with start date 2018.

Published on behalf of the IAC,



Denise Esdon, IAC Chair

# Appendix I: IAC meetings and interview sessions

Date	Type	GSSB appointment process	GSSB Interviews	DPOC appointment process	DPOC Interviews	Administrative matters	GSSB Independence Policy
18-Sep-15	Virtual	*					
2-Oct-15	Virtual		*				
9-Oct-15	Virtual	*		*			
13-Nov-15	Virtual			*			*
16-Feb-16	Virtual			*		*	
22-Feb-16	Virtual				*		
23-Feb-16	Virtual				*		
1-Mar-16	Virtual			*		*	*
17-18 May 2016	In-person	*		*		*	*
26-May-16	Virtual				*		
10-Aug-16	Virtual	*		*		*	
10-Nov-16	Virtual	*		*		*	*
17-Nov-16	Virtual				*		
21-Nov-16	Virtual				*		
2-Dec-16	Virtual	*		*			
12-Dec-16	Virtual		*				
21-Dec-16	Virtual		*				
5-Jan-17	Virtual		*				
9-Jan-17	Virtual		*				
11-Jan-17	Virtual		*				
16-Jan-17	Virtual	*				*	