Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 16 November 2023

For GSSB approval

Date	20 November 2023
Meeting	14 December 2023
Description	This document presents the summary of the GSSB virtual meeting held on 16 November 2023.

Contents

1 Participants

2 Present:

Name	Constituency
Carol Adams	Chair
Jeff Robertson	Vice-Chair
Peter Colley	Labor
Chulendra De Silva	Mediating institution
Giulia Genuardi	Business enterprise
Vincent Kong	Business enterprise
Corli le Roux	Mediating institution
Joseph Martin	Business enterprise
Anna Nefedova	Mediating institution
Deborah Ng	Investment Institution
Jennifer Princing	Business enterprise
Kim Schumacher	Civil society organization
Gangaa Charan Sharma	Business enterprise
Galya Tsonkova	Business enterprise

3 Apologies:

Name	Constituency
Loredana Carta	Labor

4 In attendance from GRI:

Name	Position
Bastian Buck	Chief of Standards
Harold Pauwels	Director Standards
Margherita Barbieri	Manager Standards
Gillian Balaban	Sr. Coordinator Governance Relations

5 List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full name
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board
SD	Standards Division
WG	Working group
TC	Technical committee

Decisions and action items

The GSSB resolved to approve the following:

GSSB Decision	Item number
2023.31	01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 17-18 October 2023
2023.32	02 – GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change – Climate Change Exposure draft
2023.33	03 – GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change – Energy Exposure draft

Session 1: Welcome

The Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) Chair Carol Adams (henceforth the Chair) welcomed the GSSB. The Chair presented an overview of the meeting agenda. A quorum was established, and the above item was presented to the GSSB for approval.

Session 2: Update Standards Division

Chief of Standards, Bastian Buck, provided a brief update as follows:

- Staffing efforts are progressing, with vacant positions steadily closing.
- The budget process is ongoing. An update will be provided in December, with the approval of the addendum to the 2024 work program planned for January.
- The GSSB is encouraged to share ideas to maximize the impact of the public consultation on Climate Standards and the launch of Mining and Biodiversity Standards. If GSSB members want involvement, please connect with GRI colleagues or the Marketing & Communications department to support these efforts.

Session 3: GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change – Exposure draft

Harold Pauwels, Director Standards, presented the exposure draft of the Topic Standards Project for Climate Change for GSSB approval.

- The project aimed to align with best practices, including the Paris Agreement, and incorporate stakeholder expectations for the reporting landscape.

28	•	This effort resulted in a climate change draft and an energy draft. Climate change contains 10
29		disclosures (6 new), and energy contains 5 disclosures (1 new). Both address climate-related
30		impacts beyond reporting on GHG emissions and energy consumption.
31	•	SD provided an overview of project changes, including climate adaptation, just transition,
32		GHG removals, and energy management.
33	•	SD noted that the TC identified no fatal flaws.

34 The GSSB asked several questions about the exposure draft prior to approval. The following points
35 list GSSB questions and comments:

36	•	How can more guidance be included for organizations to show their roadmap for achieving
37		targets in their transition plans? SD responded that the standard asked for reporting on their
38		actions and expectations, but the roadmap was seen as too detailed at this stage. It can be
39		incorporated after the PCP.
40	•	What is the requirement to constantly monitor carbon credits' positive and negative impacts?
41		SD noted that other organizations have extensive methodologies, but the disclosure also
42		identifies the process. The project found that sometimes organizations must engage suppliers
43		to identify quality criteria, which is becoming a greater expectation.
44	•	A GSSB member noted the importance of transparency from a disclosure perspective
45		regarding carbon credits, while another member said that carbon credits should not be
46		transactional and that organizations should be responsible for their own.
47	•	A GSSB member noted that from a reporting perspective, it is difficult for organizations in the
48		developing world to acquire information on their Scope 3 emissions, including categories. SD
49		responded that the standard aligns with the GHG Protocol, but if there is a need for more
50		guidance for different parts of the world, this can be pursued as part of the project.
51	•	Is there an accountability mechanism for carbon credits and offsets, particularly if they are
52		traded away or disappeared? SD responded that the aim is to increase transparency on
53		carbon credits, including reporting on quality criteria and their impacts. The next step will
54		potentially arise in the PCP about more accountability on additionality or cancelations.
55	•	A GSSB member supported the addition of CC-6 to the exposure draft.

56 The GSSB approves the following:

GSSB Decision	Item number
2023.32	02 – GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change – Climate Change Exposure draft
2023.33	03 – GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change – Energy Exposure draft

57 The PCP will run from 21 November 2023 to 29 February 2024. There will be several global webinars,
58 and GRI will have an active presence at COP28. There will also be several regional events to solicit
59 feedback from stakeholders. The draft will be submitted to the GSSB for final approval in Q3 2024.

Session 4: Standard development project priorities in 2024

62 Harold Pauwels, Director Standards, provided an update on the priority projects for 2024. The
63 following points are for consideration:

64 • Next year, the SD will work on five Sector Standards: Mining, Financial Services (Banking,
65 Capital Markets, and Insurance), and Textiles and Apparel. The ability to commence projects
66 depends on further recruitment.
67 • The Topic Standard project addressing Indigenous People and local communities will likely
68 begin in 2025, based on project proposal approval in 2024.
69 • Regulators and other standard setters increasingly seek to engage with GRI to align around
70 impact reporting, which may affect the SD's available resources in 2024.
71 • The 2024 work program will be presented for approval at the next GSSB meeting in
72 December.

73 In response to comments and questions from the GSSB, the SD clarified the following point:

74 • GRI offers organizations a solution to prevent greenwashing with its principles of quality
75 reporting, the emphasis on disclosing the most significant impacts, and assurance
76 expectations. In addition, GRI's input into policy development helps counter greenwashing by
77 enhancing transparency requirements. A blog post about this topic will be drafted by a
78 member of the GSSB and reviewed by GRI.

Session 5: Close of public meeting

80 No other business was raised, and the Chair closed the public meeting at 08.00 Central European
81 Time (CET).