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Item 03 – GRI Topic Standards Project for Human Rights – Proposed member for technical committee

For GSSB approval

Date	1 September 2020
Meeting	15 September 2020
Project	GRI Topic Standards Project for Human Rights
Description	This paper proposes a new member for the GRI Technical Committee on Human Rights Disclosure, for GSSB approval.

This document has been prepared by the GRI Standards Division. It is provided as a convenience to observers at meetings of the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB), to assist them in following the Board's discussion. It does not represent an official position of the GSSB. Board positions are set out in the GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards. The GSSB is the independent standard setting body of GRI. For more information visit www.globalreporting.org.

Background

In 2017, the GSSB approved the membership of the [Technical Committee on Human Rights Disclosure](#).

Since then, technical committee member Peter Hall has left the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and taken up a new position as Senior Manager – Human Rights & Sustainability Compliance at Johnson & Johnson.

While Peter Hall will continue to participate in the Human Rights Technical Committee, the Standards Division proposes the addition of new representative from the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) to the Human Rights Technical Committee. This will ensure continuity in perspective and will increase business representation within the committee, thus addressing previous GSSB concerns regarding limited business constituency representation within the committee.

The upcoming work of the committee will focus on reviewing and responding to significant comments raised during the public comment period held from 11 June to 9 September 2020, on the proposed human rights-related revisions to the Universal Standards.

This paper details the proposed replacement from the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) to join the Human Rights Technical Committee, for GSSB approval.

Proposed member for the Human Rights Technical Committee

The Standards Division proposes Matthias Thorns, Deputy Secretary-General at the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), for the Human Rights Technical Committee. Matthias Thorns meets the selection criteria outlined in the [terms of reference](#) for this committee. His bio is presented below for GSSB consideration.

Candidate: Matthias Thorns

Job title:

Deputy Secretary-General

Bio:

As Deputy Secretary-General, Matthias Thorns has part in the overall responsibility for the management of the IOE Secretariat in its work to support the global business community in its representation vis-a-vis the UN institutions, as well as G20, G7, and other international initiatives.

Organization:

International Organisation of Employers (IOE)

Matthias's career began as Adviser for Social Affairs in the European Business Federation UNICE (now BusinessEurope). He then moved to the Confederation of German Employers as Adviser and later as Deputy Director of the International and European Affairs Department, looking after European and International Social Policy, CSR and Human Rights, as well as OECD Employment, Labour and Social Affairs matters.

Constituency:

Business

Region:

Switzerland (Europe)

After leaving the Confederation of German Employers in 2012, Matthias joined the IOE as Senior Adviser, leading the work on Human Rights, G20 and G7, Global Supply Chains, as well as SMEs.

In 2017 Matthias joined the Workplace Rights team of The Coca-Cola Company as Human Rights and Workplace Rights Manager, where he was, among other things, responsible for planning, coordinating, and drafting of the first stand-alone Human Rights Report of The Coca-Cola Company, the Human Rights training for bottling partners, as well as the roll-out of the revised human rights policy of The Coca-Cola Company across regions.

In 2018 he was appointed IOE Director of Stakeholder Engagement and a year later IOE Deputy Secretary-General. In these positions, Matthias oversees the IOE work related to G20 and G7, Human Rights, Agenda 2030, Migration, and programs under the EU Framework Agreement. He also has a particular responsibility for the IOE company networks: the Global Industrial Relations Network, the Global Occupational Safety and Health Network, as well as the Corporate Partner Initiative.

Matthias is Member of the Governance Committee of the Centre for Sports and Human Rights, Member of the UN Global Compact Expert Network, Co-Chair of the ILO Child Labour Platform, and Member of the Global Coordination Group Alliance 8.7.

Matthias holds a Master of Arts in European Studies from the University of Hannover and a Magister Artium in History and Philosophy from the University of Hannover.

Matthias was a participant in the CGF “Future Leaders Programme” in 2018, and in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) of the U.S. Department of State in July 2012.