



# Item 03 – GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change – Proposed members for Technical Committee For GSSB Approval

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| <b>Date</b>        | 2 May 2023   |
| <b>Meeting</b>     | 16 May 2023  |
| <b>Project</b>     | GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change  |
| <b>Description</b> | <p>The Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) has identified the GRI Climate Change-related Topic Standards review as a priority project. The proposal was approved in the GSSB meeting of February 2023.</p> <p>This paper presents the final nominated experts for the technical committee and its subgroups for approval by the GSSB. These nominated experts secure both the Labor constituency and the regional representation.</p> |

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# 1. Background

The GSSB approved the [project proposal for the GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change](#) following its meeting on 16 February 2023.

In line with the GSSB's [Due Process Protocol](#), the GSSB confirmed its intention to form a multi-stakeholder technical committee (TC) to provide technical advice for developing the revised Topic Standard.

This document presents the third and final group of nominated experts for the technical committee and its subgroups for approval by the GSSB. The first group of nominated experts was approved in the GSSB meeting of March and the second group of nominated experts was approved in the GSSB Meeting of April. All the nominated members have confirmed their availability and interest in participating in the technical committee and its subgroups.

## 2. Selection process and criteria

As per the due process protocol, technical committee members are appointed by the GSSB and should reflect a balance of multi-stakeholder constituencies.

With this third and final group of nominated experts the technical committee comprises 13 members seconded by 10 subgroup members all together responsible for revising GRI climate change-related Standards.

With the focus on climate change-related topics, different constituencies will have an equal voice in the technical committee. The technical committee is divided into subgroups to develop recommendations on specific topics as part of the standards development. For the subgroup work, technical committee members have seconded colleagues with specific expertise.

All stakeholder constituencies on which GSSB membership is based do have representation in the technical committee or its subgroups. According to the due process protocol, after approval of the final TC member nominations in the GSSB meeting of May, the climate change TC will now include experts from each constituency on which the membership of the GSSB is based: business enterprise, civil society, investment institutions, labor, and mediating institutions. In addition, geographical, gender, and cultural diversity is established. The members represent diverse, multi-stakeholder backgrounds and bring an excellent combination of relevant knowledge and experience in climate change related topics.

30 Furthermore, we ensured regional and topic-specific advice and expertise via an extensive peer  
31 network of experts to support the technical committee and the Standards Division during content  
32 development.

33 In line with the GSSB's [Due Process Protocol](#), the technical committee will report to the GSSB and  
34 seek guidance and advice whenever required to advance the revision project or when they cannot  
35 reach a consensus. When the technical committee is satisfied that it has a proposed (set) of draft  
36 Standard(s) that is ready for public consultation, the draft(s) will be presented to the GSSB for  
37 approval.

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### 3. Proposed technical committee composition

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Table 1. Proposed technical committee composition

| # | First name             | Name          | Organization  | Constituency  | Region | Extract of background and experience  |
|---|------------------------|---------------|---|---------------|--------|---|
| 1 | Azahara<br>(TC member) | Merino Martos | Confederación Sindical de Comisiones Obreras (CCOO) | Labor         | Europe | <p>Azahara Merino is currently technician at the Secretariat for Strategic Transitions and Territorial Development, head of Ecological Transition Area in the Confederación Sindical de Comisiones Obreras (CCOO). She is also a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal "Trabajadora". Previously, she was Environment Technician at the CCOO Confederal Secretariat for Environment and Mobility. As part of her work Azahara studies topics related to just transition, energy, climate change, circular economy and social economy. She is analyzing and preparing reports on the forementioned subjects; monitoring regulations and policies on issues related to these areas, at the national, European and international levels; conducting studies, reports, publications and articles; and prepare and delivery papers and presentations at national and European round tables, seminars and conferences.</p> <p>Azahara holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences in the University of Granada (Spain), with a Post-doctorate in Renewable Energies in the Laboratory of Low Temperature Materials (LMBT) of the "Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP)/IFGW-Instituto de Fisica Gleb Wataghin. Campinas-Sao Paulo (Brazil). Azahara has a degree in environmental sciences from the University of Granada. She worked at the Water Institute of the University of Granada and participated in several research projects in her area of expertise and published several articles in scientific journals.</p> |
| 2 | Zahra<br>(TC member)   | Omar          | Centre for Environmental Rights                     | Civil society | Africa | <p>Zahra Omar joined the Centre for Environmental Rights (CER) in 2017. Zahra completed her articles in the CER's Mining Programme and was admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa in 2019. Since then, Zahra has been working as an environmental justice attorney in the CER's Corporate Accountability &amp; Transparency Programme where she works to expose institutions of power and their decisions and policies in order to advance transparency and environmental &amp; climate justice. On behalf of the CER, Zahra plays a key role as a member of the Fair Finance Coalition of Southern Africa, a civil society coalition working towards ensuring that public finance institutions invest in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.</p> <p>Zahra holds an LLB from the University of Cape Town and is currently reading for her LLM in Human Rights Law where her dissertation focuses on the constitutional obligations of financial</p>   |

|   |                               |            |                                 |               |        |   |
|---|-------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|---------------|--------|---|
|   |                               |            |                                 |               |        | institutions in light of the just transition. Zahra is particularly interested in the link between human rights and climate and environmental justice. When she's not reading, Zahra enjoys painting, travelling and learning new languages.  |
| 3 | Leanne<br>(Sub-group member)  | Govindsamy | Centre for Environmental Rights | Civil society | Africa | <p>Leanne Govindsamy is a human rights lawyer working towards social and environmental justice. As head of the Corporate, Accountability and Transparency Programme at the Centre for Environmental Rights, she utilises legal advocacy and other tools to promote and protect constitutional rights and values through corporate accountability and transparency.”</p> <p>Centre for Environmental Rights, Programme Head: Corporate Accountability and Transparency</p> <p>Leanne holds an LLB from the Wits University and an LLM in International Human Rights Law summa cum laude from the University of Notre Dame. She served as a law clerk in the Constitutional Court to Justice Tholakele Madala and worked briefly at legal NGOs in India, which reinforced her commitment to the attainment of social justice and the protection of human rights through judicial and non-judicial mechanisms of accountability. She completed her articles at the law firm Cheadle Thompson and Haysom, where she continued to work as an associate before joining Corruption Watch as Head of Legal and Investigations in 2014. She has obtained an MA in Anthropology from Wits University.</p> <p>Leanne joined the Centre in October 2018 and manages its Corporate Accountability and Transparency programme.</p>  |
| 4 | Brandon<br>(Sub-group member) | Abdinor    | Centre for Environmental Rights | Civil society | Africa | <p>Brandon joined the CER as a Climate Advocacy Lawyer in 2021. In this role he engages with climate change related laws and policies with a view to helping ensure that these are effective and advance the needs of climate justice for all. The role includes liaising with a wide range of stakeholders to gather and share information and build consensus around legal advocacy in pursuit of an increasingly sound and just climate change response. Since March 2023, Brandon has been acting at the Head: pollution and Climate Change programme overseeing all activities.</p> <p>He obtained an LLB from University of the Witwatersrand and was admitted as an attorney in 1998 after serving articles at Routledges Incorporated in Johannesburg. He went on to fulfil various management and legal roles in the corporate sector before opening his own legal and consulting practice in 2018, focussing on dispute resolution and sustainability matters.</p> <p>Brandon became aware of the extent of the environmental crisis in the early 2000's, which led him to introduce climate change response and general sustainability initiatives into the organisations he was leading at the time. Some of these efforts culminated in a greening of a corporate head office, the formulation of energy efficient building standards for the construction</p> |

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|   |                            |        |           |                     |               | <p>industry, climate change awareness training and standing engagement on the Durban Climate Change Partnership.</p> <p>Most recently Brandon acted as first a board member, then consulting associate at Earthlife Africa, which saw him design and deliver legal rights training for grassroots communities, as well as provide legal support on various environmental campaigns.</p> <p>For fun, he enjoys yoga, the outdoors and reading about and engaging with how we can create a more generative world.</p>  |
| 5 | Katie<br>(Subgroup member) | Sierks | Microsoft | Business Enterprise | North America | <p>Katie Sierks is a Senior Program Manager on the Microsoft Carbon Removal Team. She procures high-quality carbon removals to ensure Microsoft achieves ambitious carbon neutrality and carbon negativity commitments. She aims to develop a high-quality, global voluntary carbon market by catalyzing market growth, transparency, and accessibility. Prior to Microsoft, Katie helped launch and scale Corteva's Carbon Initiative, enabling farmers to de-risk the adoption of new, soil-health building practices. She also worked in engineering, corporate sustainability, and supply chain management roles at Cargill and Walmart. Katie completed an MBA and Masters of Environmental Management at Yale University and a bachelors in Environmental Engineering and Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard College. She enjoys hiking in the Marin Headlands, cross-country skiing, pickleball, and soil science.</p> |

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