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Item 02 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 16 June 2022

For GSSB approval

Date	16 June 2022
Meeting	7 July 2022
Description	This document presents the summary of the GSSB virtual meeting held on 16 June 2022.

This document has been prepared by the GRI Standards Division and is made available to observers at meetings of the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB). 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.

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3 **Participants**

4 Present:

Name	Constituency
Judy Kuszewski	Chair
Robyn Leeson	Vice-Chair
Peter Colley	Labor
Giulia Genuardi	Business enterprise
Evan Harvey	Investment institution
Anna Nefedova (joined at 13.30)	Mediating institution
Jennifer Princing	Business enterprise
Gangaa Charan Sharma	Business enterprise
Kim Schumacher	Civil society organization
Michel Washer	Business enterprise

5 Apologies:

Name	Constituency
Loredana Carta	Labor
Vincent Kong	Business enterprise
Joseph Martin	Business enterprise
Corli le Roux	Mediating institution
Kenton Swift	Civil society organization

6 In attendance from GRI:

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

7 **List of abbreviations**

GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board
SD	Standards Division
TC	Technical committee
DPP	Due Process Protocol
DPAR	Due Process Adherence report
DPOC	Due Process Oversight Committee

8 **Decisions and action items**

9 **Decisions**

10 No quorum was achieved. The approval of the previous GSSB meeting summary is postponed to the
11 next meeting.

12 **Session 1: Welcome**

13 The Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) Chair Judy Kuszewski (henceforth the Chair)
14 welcomed the GSSB. The Chair presented an overview of the meeting agenda.

15 **Session 2: Standards Division update**

16 Chief of Standards Bastian Buck presented the following updates on projects and staff recruitment:

- 17 • The biodiversity project had its fourth TC meeting on 14 June 2022, with the next meeting
18 scheduled for September. A final TC meeting (fatal flaw check) will occur in October 2022, before
19 the public consultation. The aim is to approve the exposure draft in the November GSSB meeting
20 and commence public exposure in December 2022. There is a slight delay, as previously advised,
21 owing to the rich discussion with the expert group to ensure that a comprehensive proposal is
22 ready for exposure. Two more meetings are required to arrive at an exposure draft for GSSB
23 approval.
- 24 • Background discussions with the ILO, unions, and employers have been completed for the Labor
25 Standard revision program. A draft proposal will be ready for GSSB discussion and approval in
26 July 2022. Several layers of engagement are proposed with experts comprising a core group of
27 the ILO and union representation, augmented by stakeholder perspectives to derive an exposure
28 draft for this project.
- 29 • Since May, the mining sector project has advanced substantially with five sub-group meetings
30 defining the list of likely material topics (around 25 in total) – topic descriptions are currently being
31 written. A half-day WG meeting is to take place at the end of June. The project is on schedule
32 with positive feedback from expert discussions. In the September and October GSSB meetings,
33 detailed projections can be made on the next steps and when the project will be ready for GSSB
34 approval of public exposure.
- 35 • The important news for the Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Fishing project is that the DPOC has
36 formally approved the Standard. The virtual launch event is set for 30 June 2022, with speakers
37 from the OECD, WBA, and FAO on the panel. The Standard is in the final proofreading stages.

- 38 • Recruitment efforts have yielded significant capacity. With the budget allocation, more than 10
39 new colleagues will be recruited to augment the 21 already employed in the SD. The aim is to
40 build resources around the sector standards, the topic standards, and the review of the existing
41 standards. The recruitment of technical expertise, publishing, and translation functions will further
42 strengthen the SD.
- 43 • The recruitment process has been slow due to the constrained labor market. At least four new
44 colleagues will join in the next two months. The recruitment will be completed by the end of Q3 to
45 have 28 colleagues in the Standards Division. We encourage the promotion of these positions;
46 reach out if you have candidates in mind.

47 **Session 3: Australian Red Cross** 48 **presentation on the possibility of** 49 **integrating International** 50 **Humanitarian Law (IHL) into GRI** 51 **Standards and guidance**

52 Ms. Fauve Kurnadi, Legal Adviser on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Australian Red Cross,
53 and Dr. Jonathan Kolieb, senior Lecturer in Law at RMIT University, present the possibility of
54 integrating International Humanitarian Law into GRI standards and guidance:

- 55 • A recommendation is to develop a topic-specific IHL standard as a natural continuation of GRI's
56 commitment to strengthening human rights-related standards to reflect the increased attention
57 given to conflict settings.
- 58 • In the interim, the following actions are for consideration: a commitment to research into the
59 relevance of IHL to responsible business practices; a gap analysis of existing GRI Standards to
60 identify potential areas for IHL inclusion; the development of practical guidance on IHL for the
61 current reporting season; the inclusion of IHL into education and training for businesses, including
62 in relevant GRI Academy courses; and strengthening of other relevant GRI Standards' conflict-
63 sensitivity.
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65 **Session 4: Any other business and**
66 **close of the meeting**

67 No other business was raised, and the Chair closed the public meeting at 13.07 Central European
68 Time (CET).

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