



Summary 27 October 2016 meeting
Meeting summary – Approved by the GSSB on 23 November 2016

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Participants

Present:

Name	Constituency
Daniel Taillant	Civil Society Organization
David Russell	Business
Dwight Justice	Labor
Hidemi Tomita	Business
Judy Kuszewski	Mediating Institution
Jürgen Buxbaum	Labor
Kirsten Margrethe Hovi	Business
Michael Nugent (Vice-Chair)	(Mediating Institution)
Robin Edme	Mediating Institution
Stiaan Wandrag	Business
Vadakepatth Nandkumar	Mediating Institution

Apologies:

Name	Designation
Daniel Ingram	Investment Institution
Simeon Cheng	Business
Sulema Pioli	Mediating Institution

In attendance:

Name	Designation
Bastian Buck	Director, Standards Division
Chelsea Reinhardt	Deputy Director, Standards Division
Pamela Carpio	Senior Coordinator, Governance Relations
Tina Nybo Jensen	Senior Coordinator, Governance Relations

List of abbreviations

DPOC	Due Process Oversight Committee	N/A	Not applicable
FSB	Financial Stability Board	PWG	Project Working Group
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative	TCFD	Task Force on Climate-related Disclosures
GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board		

1 Meeting summary

2 Please see a list of decision and action items deriving from the meeting on pp. 5-6.

3 Session 1: Welcome and approval of previous meeting 4 summary

5 The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone and presented an overview of the meeting. He further moved
6 for the approval of [Item 01 – Summary 30-31 August GSSB meeting](#).

7 The GSSB provided the following request:

- 8 • To delete a repeated word on line 205 of that summary so the phrase appears as “in order
9 to prevent”.

10 The GSSB unanimously approved the meeting summary with the amendment noted in this meeting
11 summary.

12 Session 2: Discussion on GSSB Future Work Program 13 2017-2019

14 The GSSB received a presentation on the draft [GSSB Future Work Program 2017-2019](#) including
15 an [overview of the main feedback](#) received as well as a timeline containing two staggered phases
16 of Standard development.

17 The GSSB discussed:

- 18 • The capacity of GRI’s Standards Division team to tackle strategic priorities, which has im-
19 mediate implications on the activities to be included in phase I of the schedule for 2017.
- 20 • The purpose of a staggered timeline of activities for 2017 and the proposal to hold 2
21 scheduled public comment periods in order to provide flexibility and keep stakeholders
22 engaged throughout the year.
- 23 • The approach to reviewing the in-accordance criteria and the boundary issue. The sug-
24 gession made by the Standards Team is to start by monitoring practice through the first
25 reporting cycle to establish the necessary evidence.
- 26 • The pressing need for the Standards to address human rights issues in light of interna-
27 tional discussions. Given the complexity and overarching nature of this topic, the ap-
28 proach would be to already start engaging stakeholders in preliminary scoping discus-
29 sions. The GSSB would then be involved early next year (February-March) before a pro-
30 ject proposal is finalized. The Work Program should reflect this as the 1st priority of
31 phase 2.
- 32 • The need for the Standards to address climate change more fully. GSSB members deter-
33 mined not to begin a review of any climate change-related content until the FSB (TCFD)
34 recommendations have been released, but to make sure that the significance of this align-
35 ment is captured in the GSSB Work Program.
- 36 • That the assurance issue should remain in the sight of the GSSB although it needs more
37 discussion to determine its priority above other issues.

- 38 • That a mention of a possible omnibus Standard during 2017 would be useful to retain in
39 the Work Program.

40 The GSSB further agreed to Phase I as proposed in the Revised Work Program, i.e. the review
41 of *GRI 403: Occupational Health and Safety* and *GRI 303: Water* (also including content on ‘efflu-
42 ents’ from *GRI 306: Effluents and Waste*). The GSSB requested the Standards Division to pre-
43 pare proposals for discussion and approval during its November and December meetings.

44 The GSSB deferred the approval of the complete Work Program to the November call and re-
45 quested that a new version reflecting the present discussion would be circulated ahead of that
46 call.

47 Session 3: Discussion on GSSB self-evaluation

48 The [draft GSSB Self-Evaluation 2016](#) was discussed and the following edits were requested:

- 49 - To replace the scale on part I.1 by the one presented in all other parts of the document.
50 - Provide an N/A answer option to all parts of the document.
51 - Provide room for qualitative statements in all parts of the document.
52 - Simplify part I.2 of the document and clarify the Public interest definition in that same
53 section.

54 Session 4: Update on Standards Launch

55 The GSSB received a summary of the activities and reactions so far to the launch of the Stand-
56 ards. The launch webinars attracted a large amount of participants and the regional launch events
57 (ca. 30) were expected to attract over 2000 participants by the end of this year. Feedback re-
58 ceived so far did not show any unexpected comment, with many questions related to the use of
59 the Standards. The Standards were mainly downloaded in their full set, thousands of times, and
60 supporting material such as the animation and the mapping documents also showed to be useful
61 and popular. Finally, the launch of the Standards was covered by different media e.g. Bloomberg,
62 the Wall Street Journal and social media, and additional exposure in mainstream media was ex-
63 pected.

64 Session 5: Any Other Business

65 The Vice-Chair clarified that the upcoming GSSB meeting originally scheduled for 17 November
66 was now changed to 23 November. The meeting of 15 December would remain as originally
67 scheduled for the moment but would perhaps be cancelled closer to that date if judged unneces-
68 sary.

69 He also:

- 70 • asked GSSB members to encourage suitable people to nominate in response to the open
71 call for nominations for the GSSB, now extended to 27 November, and the DPOC.
72 • informed the GSSB that he would not nominate for another term on the GSSB or for the
73 Chair position.

74 Decisions and Action Items

75 DECISIONS

76 Session 1

77 **GSSB Decision 2016.42** The GSSB approved the summary of the meeting held 30-31 August
78 2016 with the amendment noted in this summary.

79 *The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.*

80 Session 2

81 **GSSB Decision 2016.43** The GSSB agreed to Phase I as proposed in the Revised Work Pro-
82 gram, i.e. the review of GRI 403: Occupational Health and Safety and GRI 303: Water also includ-
83 ing content on 'effluents' from GRI 306: Effluents and Waste

84 *The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.*

85 ACTIONS

86 **Governance:**

87 Session 1

- 88 • Delete a repeated word on line 205 of Item 01 - Summary 30-31 August GSSB meeting
89 so the phrase appears as "in order to prevent".

90 Session 3

- 91 • Implement the requests received and circulate an updated GSSB Self-Evaluation docu-
92 ment

93 **Standards Division**

94 Session 1

- 95 • Implement the comments received and circulate the updated Work Program to the
96 GSSB members for approval on the 23 November call.
97 • Prepare project proposals for the review of GRI 403 and GRI 303 the GSSB meetings in
98 November and/or December
99 • Publish the final version of the GSSB Work Program, once approved, on the GSSB web-
100 site by the end of the current calendar year.
101 • Indicate the team's capacity to the GSSB by early next year in view of undertaking new
102 projects.

103 Session 4

- 104 • Invite GSSB members and their networks to attend launch events and ensure seating for
105 them in case they can attend.

106 **GSSB members**

107 Session 1

- 108 • Consider nominating to follow one or both PWG in Phase I.

- 109 • Provide the Standards Division with any further feedback on the recommended changes
110 to the Work Program within 6 working days following the meeting.

111 Session 5

- 112 • Encourage suitable people to nominate in response to the open call for nominations on
113 the GSSB and the DPOC.