



Summary 15 December 2016 meeting
Meeting summary: Approved by the GSSB on 23 February 2017

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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
Vadakepatth Nandkumar	Mediating Institution
Simeon Cheng	Business
Sulema Pioli	Mediating Institution

Apologies:

Name	Designation
Daniel Ingram	Investment Institution
Stiaan Wandrag	Business

In attendance:

Name	Designation
Chelsea Reinhardt	Deputy Director, Standards Division
Anna Krotova	Manager, Standards Division
Laura Espinach	Manager, Standards Division
Pamela Carpio	Senior Coordinator, Governance Relations

List of abbreviations

Board	Board of Directors	ISO	International Standards Organization
DPOC	GRI Due Process Oversight Committee	OHS	Occupational health and safety
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative	PWG	Project working group
GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board	SC	Stakeholder Council
IAC	GRI Independent Appointments Committee	TAC	GRI Technical Advisory Committee

1 Meeting summary

2 Please see a list of decision and action items deriving from the meeting on pp. 6-7.

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

5 Michael Nugent, the GSSB Vice-Chair (henceforth, “the Vice-Chair”) welcomed everyone to the
6 meeting and presented an overview of the meeting agenda. He further moved for the approval of
7 Item 01 – Summary 23 November GSSB meeting.

8 The GSSB unanimously approved the meeting summary with no further changes.
9

10 Session 2: Project proposal for review of GRI 303: 11 Water

12 Chelsea Reinhardt, Deputy Director Standards Division, GRI, presented [Item 02 -Project Pro-
13 posal for Review of GRI 303: Water](#) for which she sought comments and approval from the
14 GSSB. This presentation was followed by a suggestion of key stakeholders or organizations GRI
15 should proactively engage during the formation of the related PWGs and finally a request for
16 GSSB members to volunteer on becoming this PWG’s sponsor.

17 Project Proposal Review of GRI 303: Water

18 The GSSB discussed:

- 19 - The suggestion to change the language on line 66 from “existing disclosures” to “con-
20 tent” to cover a larger possibility of elements of the Standards that could be updated.
- 21 - The objectives related to the review, and specifically how to strike a balance between
22 maintaining a universal Standard while including best practice elements. This was to be
23 reflected and adjusted in the wording in lines 68-69 of Item 02.
- 24 - That since the DPOC oversees the process, not the project itself, the language on line 78
25 should be updated
- 26 - That the notion of “waste water” should be included to effluents-related disclosures so it
27 is clearly distinguished from “water” and “effluents”.

28 The GSSB approved [Item 02 -Project Proposal for Review of GRI 303: Water](#) with the amend-
29 ments noted in this summary. The GSSB also authorized Ms. Reinhardt and the Vice-Chair to es-
30 tablish the final adjustments to the language on the project proposal and requested to receive the
31 final document.

32 Stakeholders and experts to engage

33 Ms. Reinhardt clarified that Deloitte was included in the group of organization to engage as GRI’s
34 existing network enables access to expertise within that firm.

35 Next Steps

36 An overview of the timeline for establishing PWGs was provided with a request to consider
37 moving the call scheduled 23 February to the week of 6 March to allow approval of the PWGs
38 membership and a quicker start of PWG activities. The GRI Secretariat will send out a new
39 scheduling poll in 2017 with possible dates for this call.

40 Session 3: SC and Board input on OHS and Water 41 proposals

42 Ms. Reinhardt informed that no additional comments were received so far from the SC and
43 Board who received the most recent versions of the project proposals on OHS and Water. She
44 also specified that the Standards Division was currently engaged with OHS and Water experts on
45 different governance bodies.

46 Laura Espinach, Manager Standards, GRI, presented an overview of the progress and key takea-
47 ways from the OHS scoping calls held so far and informed the GSSB of the next steps leading to
48 releasing the open call for PWG nominations on 16 January 2017.

49 The GSSB discussed:

- 50 - The involvement of GRI as a liaison agent in the ISO 45001 Standard project, which will
51 run simultaneously to the GSSB OHS review project. Caution was expressed in relation
52 to a deeper implication by the GSSB in the ISO OHS Standard development. However, it
53 was agreed that as a liaison agent, the aim of GRI could be limited to gaining more insight
54 into the development and outcomes of ISO 45001.

55 Session 4: Discuss timeline and GSSB meeting agen- 56 das for Q1 2017

57 Ms. Reinhardt presented a proposal for the planning of the first quarter of 2017. No further in-
58 put was received from GSSB members.

59 Session 5: GSSB Membership

60 The Vice-Chair presented this session and acknowledged the commitment of the GSSB members
61 stepping-down by the end of this year as indicated in [Item 03 – GSSB Rotation Schedule 2016](#).
62 He further informed that the IAC expects to appoint new members to ensure full membership
63 on the GSSB by mid/end January 2017 and will in the meantime ensure that the GSSB has the 11
64 members, as required by the [GSSB Terms of Reference](#), to continue its activities.

65 Although a regular term on the GSSB is 3 years, it had proven necessary to attribute different
66 term lengths to the initial slate of GSSB members (ex TAC members) who started their terms
67 simultaneously in order to ensure that only 5 members rotate each year.

68 A motion was raised and carried to formally thank departing members for their commitment and
69 contribution to the GSSB.

70 Session 6: AOB

71 Ms. Reinhardt provided an update on the staff changes at the Standards Department which was
72 followed by a short introduction of Anna Krotova as the new Manager, Standards Division, at
73 GRI.

74 Ms. Reinhardt further welcomed comments and questions on [Item 04 - Summary of Technical](#)
75 [questions on the GRI Standards](#).

76 The GSSB discussed:

77 - That producing a hybrid report might help some organizations transition between G4
78 and the Standards. However, this would not be the recommended approach and GRI
79 could rather encourage organizations to fully embrace the Standards.

80 The GSSB further agreed to the proposed approaches to the different technical questions as re-
81 flected in Item 04 and that no Interpretation development was necessary at this point.

82 Since all questions were individually answered by the Standards Division, it was also thought un-
83 necessary to develop further FAQs regarding the questions presented in Item 04.

84 Session 7: GSSB administrative updates

85 GSSB Self-evaluation

86 The Vice-Chair presented a few highlights from the compiled responses of the GSSB Self-Evalua-
87 tion, including some of the qualitative answers which were generally positive.

88 Given the scale used for this evaluation, the Secretariat was requested to follow-up with some
89 GSSB members for whom some of the answers seemed odd, in relation to the rest of their an-
90 swers.

91 Member independence Policy

92 GSSB members were requested to return a completed and signed Item 05 – GSSB Independence
93 Policy, for the past 12 months of activity by 21 December to the Secretariat.

94 Decisions and Action Items

95 DECISIONS

96 Session 1

97 **GSSB Decision 2016.47** The GSSB approved the summary of the meeting held 23 November
98 2016 with no further changes.

99 *The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.*

100 Session 2

101 **GSSB Decision 2016.48** The GSSB agreed to the [Project Proposal for Review of GRI 303:](#)
102 [Water](#) with the amendments noted in this summary.

103 *The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.*

104 Session 5

105 **GSSB Decision 2016.49** The GSSB decides to formally thank David Russell, Hidemi Tomita,
106 Michael Nugent, Simeon Cheng and Robin Edme for serving as GSSB members.

107 *The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.*

108 **ACTIONS**

109 **Governance:**

110 Session 7

- 111 • Enquire on the reasons for odd responses on the GSSB Self-Evaluation with the con-
112 cerned GSSB members.
- 113 • Circulate the final GSSB Independence Policy for 2016 in the following day or two of the
114 present meeting.

115 **Standards Division**

116 Session 2

- 117 • Perform the language edits received regarding [Item 02 -Project Proposal for Review of](#)
118 [GRI 303: Water](#) as noted in this summary and circulate the final document to the GSSB.

119 Session 3

- 120 • Follow-up with the contacts and organizations provided by GSSB members and engage in
121 scoping discussions.

122 **GSSB members**

123 Session 3

- 124 • The GSSB members are to suggest organizations and related contact details for the OHS
125 and Water proposals directly to the Standards Division for them to contact.

126 Session 7

- 127 • Complete and sign p.4 of the GSSB Independence Policy and return to GRI's governance
128 team by 21 December 2016.