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Summary 23 February 2017 meeting
Meeting summary: Approved by the GSSB on 21 March 2017

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Participants

Present:

Name	Constituency
Atilla Yerlikaya	Business Enterprise
Daniel Taillant	Civil Society Organization
Dwight Justice	Labor
Evan Harvey	Investment Institution
Judy Kuszewski	Chair
Julia Wilson	Business Enterprise
Jürgen Buxbaum	Labor
Kent Swift	Civil Society Organization
Kirsten Margrethe Hovi	Business Enterprise
Michel Washer	Business Enterprise
Robyn Leeson	Vice-Chair
Stiaan Wandrag	Business Enterprise
Sulema Pioli	Mediating Institution
Vadakepatth Nandkumar	Mediating Institution

Apologies:

Name	Designation
Daniel Ingram	Investment Institution

In attendance:

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

List of abbreviations

CLG	Corporate Leadership Group	IIRC	International Integrated Reporting Council
FTEs	Full-time employees	OHS	Occupational health and safety
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative	PWG	Project working group
GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
IAC	GRI Independent Appointments Committee	UNGC	United Nations Global Compact

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 Judy Kuszewski, the GSSB Chair (henceforth, “the Chair”) welcomed everyone to the meeting and
6 presented an overview of the meeting agenda. The Chair further moved for approval of [Item 01 –
7 Summary 15 December GSSB meeting](#).

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

10 Session 2: Welcome and introductions of new GSSB 11 members

12 The Chair welcomed the new members to the GSSB:

- 13 • Atilla D. Yerlikaya
- 14 • Evan Harvey
- 15 • Julia Wilson
- 16 • Kent D. Swift
- 17 • Michel Washer
- 18 • Robyn Leeson (Vice-chair)

19 The Chair invited the new members to introduce themselves to the GSSB and complimented the
20 Chair and the members of the Independent Appointments Committee (IAC) for their hard and
21 diligent work in ensuring high quality appointments to the GSSB.

22 Session 3: GSSB Annual Report

23 Bastian Buck, Director Standards Division, informed that it is a due process requirement in the
24 [GSSB Terms of Reference](#) Section 37e, that the GSSB publish an annual report on its activities.

25 Following previous agreement by the GSSB, [Item 03 Draft GSSB Annual Activity Report 2015-16](#)
26 covers the period November 2015 – December 2016 and presents a high level overview of activ-
27 ities and an account of progress. Going forward this will be an annual activity with the expected
28 approval of the GSSB Annual Report 2017 in early 2018.

29 The GSSB agreed that the report is a good reflection of the activities and requested that the
30 composition of the GSSB during this period is accounted for in the report.

31 The Chair moved for approval of [Item 03 Draft GSSB Annual Activity Report 2015-16](#) for publication
32 on the GSSB website. The GSSB members unanimously approved GSSB Annual Activity Report
33 2015-16 with the change noted in this summary.

34 Session 4: Update on Standard Reviews: Water, Oc- 35 cupational Health and Safety (OHS), and Human 36 Rights

37 Mr. Buck informed that the Standards Reviews of Water, OHS and Human Rights are progress-
38 ing in line with the agreed timeline.

39 The Open Call for Applications to the Project Working Groups (PWGs) on Water and OHS
40 closed on 19 February and the Standards Division received more than 50 highly qualified applica-
41 tions for both PWGs. The interviews are underway and the proposed membership will be sub-
42 mitted to the GSSB on 2 March for discussion and approval during the 7 March GSSB virtual
43 meeting.

44 The Standards Division is developing the detailed timeline for the PWGs and it is anticipated that
45 the Exposure Drafts will be submitted to the GSSB in July 2017 for review and approval.

46 The scoping phase is ongoing for the Human Rights reviews and interviews have been conducted
47 with six subject matters experts to date. The Standards Division is developing an initial discussion
48 paper in preparation for the March GSSB in-person meeting during which the aim is to agree on
49 the scope and objectives of the reviews as well as the next steps.

50 Mr. Buck encouraged the GSSB members to contact the Standards Division within the coming
51 days if they want to provide inputs/opinions during the scoping phase.

52 During the meeting a number of GSSB members indicated interest in providing support and input
53 on the Standard Reviews processes.

54 Session 5: AOB

55 Technical Enquiries

56 Mr. Buck referred to [Item 04 - Summary of technical questions on the GRI Standards](#) containing an
57 overview of the technical enquiries received to date through the Standards@globalreporting.org.
58 The vast majority of enquiries are related to: clarification of the Materiality principle, use of the
59 Sector Disclosures, in accordance criteria, and content index requirements.

60 The enquiries are grouped per subject matter and included in the [GRI Standards FAQ](#) on as
61 needed basis to streamline the communication. At present there are no subject matter enquiries
62 that require GSSB attention in terms of interpretation.

63 The GSSB members advised to include links from [Item 04 - Summary of technical questions on the](#)
64 [GRI Standards](#) to the GRI Standards FAQ in order to indicate to what extent the enquiry have
65 been covered.

66 [The GSSB also](#) indicated interest in being further included in the advising process and particular
67 interest were raised for the materiality topic. The Chair requested that a session on the process
68 around technical enquiries is scheduled on the agenda for the March GSSB in-person meeting.

69 Update on the GRI Standards launch events and translations

70 Mr. Buck briefed the GSSB on the 15 GRI Standards Launch Events hosted to date as well as the
71 events and translations in the pipeline. Until 2 February, the GRI Standards have been down-
72 loaded 25,575 times and the 13,746 individual visitors' profiles have been captured which is antic-
73 ipated to lead to better direct communication with interested parties.

74 The GSSB recommended the Standards Division to take a step back and evaluate the communi-
75 cation strategy: what is working and what can be improved. Mr. Buck confirmed that the work
76 on developing a Communication Plan is ongoing and the aim is to discuss this during the 26 April
77 virtual meeting.

78 Update developments GRI Secretariat

79 Mr. Buck provided a short update on developments within the GRI Secretariat with respect to:

- 80 • Tim Mohin's has joined as GRI Chief Executive. Mr. Mohin will be present during the up-
81 coming GSSB in-person meeting
82 • GRI and UNGC Collaboration on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
83 • The GRI Corporate Leadership Groups (CLGs)

84 Further, Mr. Buck informed that funding has been secured from GRI to initiate the work on the
85 sector contents. Hiring is underway for a Deputy Director and a Manager and the team will be
86 built to 4 FTEs by end of FY16-17.

87 The GSSB members asked for further elaboration on the GRI-IIRC collaboration related to the
88 CLG on Integrated Reporting as well as a the GRI-UNGC collaboration on the SDGs. These
89 projects will be covered at the March in-person meeting. During the call GSSB members offered
90 assistance in the work on the SDGs.

91 Draft agenda for the GSSB March in-person meeting

92 Mr. Buck presented the proposed content for the upcoming GSSB in-person meeting and wel-
93 comed any additional input from the GSSB members at latest by 1 March 2017 as the agenda and
94 meeting materials are to be circulated on 7 March 2017.

95 The Chair thanked the GSSB members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 14.30
96 CET.

97 **Decisions and Action Items**

98 **DECISIONS**

99 Session 1:

100 **GSSB Decision 2017.01** The GSSB approved the summary of the meeting held 15 December
101 with no further changes.

102 *The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.*

103 Session 3:

104 **GSSB Decision 2017.02** The GSSB approved the GSSB Annual Activity Report 2015-16 with
105 the changes noted in this summary.

106 *The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.*

107 **ACTIONS**

108 **Governance:**

109 Session 5:

- 110 • Schedule a session on the process related to the technical enquiries in the agenda for the
- 111 GSSB in-person meeting March 2017.
- 112 • Include a link to the [GRI Standards FAQ](#) related to Materiality and topic Boundary in the
- 113 next communication to the GSSB members.

114 **Standards Division**

115 Session 3:

- 116 • Include the composition of the GSSB in the GSSB Annual Activity Report 2015-16 before
- 117 publishing it on the GSSB website.

118 Session 5:

- 119 • Include links from [Item 04 - Summary of technical questions on the GRI Standards](#) to the GRI
- 120 Standards FAQ in order to indicate to what extent the enquiry have been covered.
- 121 • Update the new GSSB members on the status of the Sector Work to date.
- 122 • Schedule a discussion on the GRI Standards Communication Plan for a later GSSB meet-
- 123 ing.

124 **GSSB members**

125 Session 3:

- 126 • Notify the Standards Division within the next couple of days if they want to provide in-
- 127 put/opinions during the early 'scoping' phase of the Human Rights reviews.

128 Session5:

- 129 • If interested, suggest items for the GSSB in-person meeting in March by no later than 1
- 130 March 2017.