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Summary 7 March 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 (left meeting at 14.10)
Evan Harvey	Investment Institution
Judy Kuszewski	Chair
Julia Wilson	Business Enterprise
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
Jürgen Buxbaum	Labor

In attendance:

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

List of abbreviations

AOB	Any other business	OHS	Occupational health and safety
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative	PWG	Project working group
GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board		

1 Meeting summary

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

3 Session 1: Welcome

4 Judy Kuszewski, the GSSB Chair (henceforth, “the Chair”) welcomed everyone to the meeting and
5 presented an overview of the [meeting agenda](#).

6 Chelsea Reinhardt, Deputy Director Standards Division, briefed the GSSB members on general
7 observations related to the Project Working Groups (PWGs) membership selection processes:

- 8 • Due to the high number of well qualified applicants received, keeping the membership to
9 15 per PWG means turning down leading experts with significant expertise. The Standards
10 Division propose “Expert review panels” as an alternate way to keep the stakeholder en-
11 gaged. The format of these are to be confirmed, however, they will not affect the role of
12 the PWGs or the GSSB as set out in the [GSSB Due Process Protocol](#).
- 13 • It is challenging to achieve a balanced geographical representation on the PWGs partly due
14 to language issues and lower uptake of GRI in some regions. The Standards Division pro-
15 pose targeted, translated webinars during the public consultation period to ensure regional
16 input.

17 Session 2: Discuss and approve proposed member- 18 ship for Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) PWG

19 Laura Espinach, Manager Standards Division, summarized the selection process for membership
20 on the OHS PWG. The Standards Division received a total 49 applications, which were reviewed
21 against the selection criteria included in [Item 01](#) lines 20-39. The GSSB Sponsors and the Chair
22 reviewed and provided input on the proposed PWG composition presented in [Item 01](#) (Table 2,
23 pp. 4-8) before the meeting.

24 The GSSB members enquired about a possible conflict of interest in cases where they share em-
25 ployer with a PWG applicant. The Chair thanked the GSSB members for declaring the relation-
26 ships but confirmed that there is no due process requirement for the members in question to
27 recuse themselves from the decision-making process. In evaluating the proposed composition,
28 the GSSB members are to focus on the outlined selection criteria and can disregard the organiza-
29 tional affiliations.

30 The GSSB discussed:

- 31 • The process for appointing labor members to the PWGs. The Chair clarified that the
32 Council of Global Unions through internal deliberations identifies suitable candidates to
33 join the PWGs.
- 34 • The relatively small number of applications from the Investor Community. The Standards
35 Division proposed to engage the Investor Community more broadly during the review
36 process.

- 37 • The underrepresentation from some regions as broad regional representation will en-
38 sure legitimacy. The GSSB recommended to investigate alternate options to get contri-
39 butions from the underrepresented regions (namely Africa and South America) and GSSB
40 members offered their support with e.g. regional panels during the public consultation.
41 • The importance of ensuring balanced representation on the PWGs with subject-matter
42 experts.
43 • That technical and non-technical/human rights elements of OHS should be prioritized in
44 the work of the PWG in a balanced manner.

45 The Chair called for approval of the proposed composition of the OHS PWG with additional ap-
46 proval of a fourth labor candidate per email by 14 March latest. The GSSB members unanimously
47 approved the proposed composition of the OHS PWG with subsequent approval of the fourth
48 labor candidate as proposed (by email).

49 The GSSB further agreed to discuss the proposed “Expert review panels” during the upcoming
50 GSSB in-person meeting. In the meantime, the Standards Division can respond to the unselected
51 candidates and propose an alternate way for engagement through dedicated webinars.

52 Session 3: Discuss and approve proposed member- 53 ship for Water PWG

54 Anna Krotova, Manager Standards Division, summarized the selection process for membership
55 on the Water PWG. The Standards Division received a total 53 applications, which were re-
56 viewed against the selection criteria included in [Item 03](#) lines 20-39. The GSSB Sponsor and the
57 Chair provisionally approved the proposed PWG composition presented in [Item 03](#) (Table 2, pp.
58 5-9) before the meeting.

59 The GSSB discussed:

- 60 • The lack of labor constituency representatives. The Standards Division confirmed the se-
61 rious efforts undertaken to ensure this representation, however, the labor constituency
62 do not encompass subject-matter experts with this specific focus. The Standards Division
63 proposed to engage the Labor constituency more broadly during the review process.
64 • The lack of balanced regional representation. The GSSB restated the recommendation to
65 investigate alternative ways of ensuring broad regional contributions.
66 • The increased importance of having the community perspective explicitly included in the
67 scope of the Water PWG’s work (including the link with human rights/ right to water).
68 The Standards Division confirmed that the proposed PWG composition has the required
69 background and expertise in this area. The GSSB asked for an adjusted wording of the
70 PWG’s Terms of Reference explicitly prioritizing the impact on users and right-holders
71 to be tabled for approval during the upcoming in-person meeting.

72 The Chair called for approval of the proposed composition of the Water PWG. The GSSB mem-
73 bers unanimously approved the proposed composition of the Water PWG.

74 Session 5: AOB

75 The Chair thanked the GSSB members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 14.35
76 CET.

77 Decisions and Action Items

78 DECISIONS

79 Session 2:

80 **GSSB Decision 2017.03** The GSSB members approved the proposed composition of the OHS
81 PWG with subsequent offline approval of the fourth labor candidate as proposed.

82 *The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.*

83 Session 3:

84 **GSSB Decision 2017.04** The GSSB members approved the proposed composition of the Wa-
85 ter PWG.

86 *The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.*

87 Actions

88 Governance:

89 Session 2:

- 90 • Table a discussion on the proposed “Expert review panels” during the upcoming GSSB
91 in-person meeting.

92 Standards Division:

93 Session 2:

- 94 • Engage the Investment Community more broadly during the review process.
- 95 • Investigate alternate options to get contributions from the regions underrepresented in
96 the PWGs (namely Africa and South America).

97 Session 3:

- 98 • Engage the Labor constituency more broadly during the review process.
- 99 • Adjust the wording of the Water PWG’s Terms of Reference to explicitly priorities im-
100 pact of users and right-holders. To be tabled for approval during the upcoming GSSB in-
101 person meeting.

102 The Chair:

103 Session 2:

- 104 • Review the wording on the email communication to those applicants who were not se-
105 lected for the PWGs.