



GSSB Global
Sustainability
Standards Board

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Item 04 – Code of conduct for the development of GRI Standards

For GSSB discussion

Date 12 October 2017

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Description This paper sets out a proposed code of conduct for the development of GRI Standards, to guide the work of experts participating in ad hoc Technical Committees and Project Working Groups.

This paper is presented for GSSB discussion and approval. The GSSB is invited to suggest any specific changes.

This document has been prepared by the GRI Standards Division. It is provided as a convenience to observers at meetings of the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB), to assist them in following the Board's discussion. 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.

1 About this document

2 This paper sets out a proposed code of conduct for the development of GRI Standards, to guide the
3 work of experts participating in ad hoc Technical Committees and Project Working Groups. This
4 code of conduct will form an integral part of the Terms of Reference of expert groups.

5 This paper is presented for GSSB discussion and approval. The GSSB is invited to suggest any specific
6 changes.

7 Proposed code of conduct for the development of 8 GRI Standards

9 Experts participating in the development of the GRI Standards commit to abiding by the principles
10 and good practices outlined in this code of conduct.

11 **Working in the public interest**

12 Experts participating in development of the GRI Standards do so for the benefit of the public, over
13 and above the interests of any individual or organization. They commit to advancing Standards within
14 their agreed scope and to not hinder their development.

15 **Making decisions through consensus**

16 Experts strive to make decisions by consensus, that is, to reach agreement by the majority of
17 participants and to reduce or resolve conflicting arguments. Experts should aim to offer different
18 options or alternative solutions when disagreeing with or challenging issues.

19 **Behaving ethically**

20 Experts commit to respecting others and their opinions and to conducting themselves in a
21 professional manner. Experts should ensure that the views of all (including those whose first
22 language is not English) are heard and understood.

23 **Ensuring confidentiality**

24 Expert meetings are held under the Chatham House Rule: 'When a meeting, or part thereof, is held
25 under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither
26 the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.'

27 Meeting materials are confidential; they can be shared with colleagues for input, but not with outside
28 parties without prior permission from the GRI Standards Division.

29 **Participating actively and effectively in meetings**

30 Experts commit to actively participate in the standard development process (including in all
31 meetings), and to work in accordance with the [Due Process Protocol](#). Experts should aim to be
32 concise and additive when contributing to discussions.