



Stakeholder Council Feedback on the Revised GSSB Work Program 2017-2019

January 2018

To: Eric Hespenheide, Chair, GRI Board
From: Carol Adams, Chair, GRI Stakeholder Council
22nd February 2018

The Stakeholder Council considered the GSSB Work Program during its web meetings on 23 January 2018 and invited further individual input to be submitted by email. A draft summary of feedback was compiled and circulated for further comment. No further input was received on the draft.

Through this process the Stakeholder Council provides the following input for consideration:

1. Priority work areas

There was agreement with the priority work areas as presented on page 3 of the Revised GSSB Work Program 2017-2019, but the Stakeholder Council is of the view that there should be prioritization within this list.

The SC suggests that the needs and limited resources of SMEs are considered within each work area.

The SC queries whether there is a “materiality process” for identification of new topics to be considered for inclusion in Standards that is transparent to GRI stakeholders.

2. Sector supplements

The Stakeholder Council has long advocated for sector supplements and there is also support for prioritizing the issuance of authoritative interpretations and guidance. The possibility of the sector specific content being in the form of such ‘guidance’ was raised as a means of avoiding conflict with existing standards.

The SC recommends providing more detail on the method for prioritizing Sector supplements.

The following suggestions were made for prioritizing sector work:

- Position sector supplements as aligned to the 6 <IR> capitals and identify industries which could be interested in developing better metrics and funding the development of these.
- Identify sectors which are active in sustainability reporting, the SDGs and sustainability initiatives.
- Consider the extent of sustainability risks and opportunities by sector.

3. Other work areas suggested for prioritization

Many Stakeholder Council members are involved in either preparing or using reports which apply multiple Standards/Frameworks. Members suggested that it would be helpful to report

preparers and users if GRI Standards linked to the multiple capitals in the <IR> Framework by providing appropriate measures for capital inputs and outcomes. In particular, there are currently limited sources identifying indicators for social and relationship capital and intellectual capital.

4. Planning, timelines and resources

The SC suggests that timelines are specified for each work area including, where relevant, goals and targets.

The GSSB Work Program could be accompanied by a plan with respect to how GRI/GSSB intends to mobilize industries for buy-in – and seek industry related funds. Further, it could indicate its alignment with the achievement of the GRI Board’s strategic objectives.