



# Item 02 – Stakeholder Council response to the GSSB’s Sector Standard Proposals and Proposal for Review of Universal Standards

## For GSSB information

<b>Date</b>	12 March 2019
<b>Meeting</b>	25-26 March 2019
<b>Description</b>	This document provides the Stakeholder Council response for the following proposals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GSSB’s Sector Standard Proposals</li><li>• Proposal for Review of Universal Standards</li></ul>

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# Stakeholder Council response to the GSSB's Sector Standard Proposals and Proposal for Review of Universal Standards

*March 2019*

20 Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the GSSB's Sector Standard Proposals and  
21 Proposal for Review of Universal Standards.

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23 All members of the Stakeholder Council were invited to input by email. Their responses were  
24 collated, and a draft of this document circulated for further comment prior to finalisation.

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26 This response is provided on the understanding that it will be made public in full rather than on a  
27 partial or edited basis.

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29 Names of possible experts to involve in the process suggested by SC members have been provided  
30 separately and are not to be made public.

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### 32 **Overall comment**

33 The Stakeholder Council find the proposals to be self-explanatory and easy to understand. We are  
34 of the view that these are priority sectors due to the significance of their impacts.

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### 36 **Oil and Gas Sector**

37 The scope covers oil, gas and coal exploration and production. It is unclear from the title that coal is  
38 included and there is a query as to whether it fits with other activities covered such as oil and gas  
39 drilling, refining, transport.

40 Consider including reference to materiality in lines 80-81 in the preceding objectives.

41 In Table 2, line 111 the Content development by Project Working Group is missing (see line 114).

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### 43 **Agriculture Sector**

44 The scope covers activities such as fishing, crop production and livestock with very different impacts.

45 Query whether fishing should be included and, if so, whether the standard should have a different  
46 title to reflect this.

47 In Table 2 the Content development by Project Working Group is missing.

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### 49 **Textiles and Apparel Sector**

50 With respect to economic impacts, lines 39-45, note that the sector is very 'mobile' with  
51 companies moving production regularly to countries with lower costs.

52 With respect to the reference to 'relevant issues' in lines 55-57 when discussing the OECD, note  
53 that the OECD refers to them as 'sector risks'.

54 Re line 62, we suggest specifically mentioning key voluntary reporting initiatives. There is no table  
55 with milestones.

56 We recommend engagement with the following organisations through the process:

- 57 • The Partnership for Sustainable Textiles (Initiative - Germany)
- 58 • Dutch Agreement on Sustainable Garments and Textile: Sociaal-Economische Raad  
59 (Initiative - Netherlands)
- 60 • OECD Pilot Alignment Assessment of the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (Framework)
- 61 • Clean Clothes Campaign (NGO)
- 62 • Sustainable Apparel Coalition
- 63 • Ethical Trade Initiative

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67 **Universal Standards**

68 Whilst there is agreement that human rights disclosures are key, there is not agreement to removing  
69 the human-related GRI specific standards and making human rights disclosures mandatory for all  
70 reporting organizations, regardless materiality. There is concern that this approach might be unclear  
71 and result in a decreased focus on human rights issues.

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73 Carol Adams

74 Chair, GRI Stakeholder Council on behalf of the Stakeholder Council

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