



GSSB Global
Sustainability
Standards Board

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Item 03 – 2018 SC Recommendations to the GSSB

For GSSB information

Date	12 March 2019
Meeting	25-26 March 2019
Description	This document is an excerpt of the latest, full set of 16 recommendations provided by the Stakeholder Council (SC) to the GRI Board in November 2018, an outcome of the last SC AGM held on 29-30 October 2018. It displays the 2018 SC recommendations aimed at activities under the remit of the GSSB. The GRI Board asked the GSSB to consider and respond to the SC recommendations.

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.

2018 SC Recommendations to the GSSB

Introduction

A key responsibility of the GRI Stakeholder Council (SC) is to provide broad strategic advice to the GRI Board. This exercise is performed annually during the SC Annual General meeting (AGM). This document is an excerpt of the latest, full set of 16 recommendations provided to the GRI Board in November 2018, an outcome of the last SC AGM held on 29-30 October 2018. It displays the 2018 SC recommendations aimed at activities under the remit of the GSSB. The GSSB will discuss these recommendations during their upcoming in-person meeting, scheduled on the 25-26 March 2019 and provide a response to these recommendations to the SC subsequently.

4. Financial Services Sector based Standards

Background

The SC has previously provided recommendations to the Board, together with feedback to the GSSB regarding the need to prioritise sector supplement updates (e.g. SC Recommendation 2017.04, SC's January 2018 feedback to the GSSB).

Recommendations

The SC recommends that the Board allocates resources for updating the GRI G4 Financial Sector Disclosures to align with the GRI Standards. Consideration should be given to the following:

- The disclosures be updated by applying the same methodology used to develop the modular Standards
- Include a requirement in the Universal Standards to report using the Sector Standards if the reporting company operates in financial services
- Include a mapping with comparable Financial Sector Frameworks (similar to the SDG GRI Compass but on a lower scale)
- The update be initially available in English with the intention to translate it into multiple languages at a later date.

Board response

TBD

5. TCFD Recommendations (1)

Recommendation

The SC recommends that the GRI Board direct the GRI Secretariat to engage on the TCFD Recommendations with specific stakeholder groups in order to:

- 16 • Demonstrate how information collected and conveyed for sustainability reporting purposes
17 using GRI Standards can be used to report against the TCFD Recommendations in
18 mainstream filings, including collecting and presenting data with the same rigour as financial
19 data
20 • Educate sustainability professionals to speak the language of risk and resilience. This could
21 include training sustainability professionals on enterprise risk management and translating
22 traditional sustainability language into language that CFOs and risk management professionals
23 understand

24 6. TCFD Recommendations (2)

Background

The SC acknowledges the progress already made and recommends that the GRI Board ensures that the Secretariat work program includes:

- 25 • Demonstrating how the current GRI standards can meet the TCFD recommendations and
26 the gaps that remain (i.e. how does reporting against GRI Standards 102-14, 15, 18, 20, 26-
27 31 and 103 support reporting against TCFD's?)
28 • Identifying the potential for guidance and/or amendment to GRI 305.5 (reduction in
29 emissions) to align with the TCFD recommendations
30 • Identifying the potential for guidance and/or amendment to GRI 308 (supplier environmental
31 assessment) to align with the TCFD recommendations
32 • Providing guidance (signposting is encouraged) to enable companies to report beyond GHG
33 carbon footprint (e.g. can they demonstrate scenario testing, and demonstrate how it has
34 impacted their strategy and impacts on the environment?)

Board response to recommendations 5. and 6.

35 TBD

36 7. Green/Social/Sustainability Bond Standards

Recommendation

The SC recommends that GRI Board directs the GRI Secretariat:

- 37 • to monitor emerging green/social/sustainability bond standards for divergence, gaps and
38 weaknesses noting that the SC considers that the priority standard setter to engage with is
39 the ICMA on its Green & Social Bond Principles
40 • to focus on influencing standards that address the impact of bond financing, not the
41 intentions or the process e.g.
42 • Flagging where reporting standards do not align with GRI Standards
43 • Working with other standard setters to prepare linkage documents
44 • Collaborating with organisations to enhance/develop reporting guidelines or standards

Board response

45 TBD

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