



Barbara Strozziiaan 336  
1083 HN Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
[gssbsecretariat@globalreporting.org](mailto:gssbsecretariat@globalreporting.org)

# GSSB summary of the virtual meeting held on 7 February 2019

*Approved by the GSSB on 25 March 2019*

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# Participants

Present:

Name	Constituency
<b>Corli de Roux (left during Session 4)</b>	Mediating Institution
<b>Evan Harvey</b>	Investment Institution
<b>Gustavo Sinner</b>	Mediating Institution
<b>Jennifer Princing</b>	Business Enterprise
<b>Judy Kuszewski (joined during Session 3)</b>	Chair
<b>Kent Swift</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>Kirsten Margrethe Hovi</b>	Business Enterprise
<b>Loredana Carta</b>	Labor
<b>Michel Washer</b>	Business Enterprise
<b>Rama Krishnan Venkateswaran</b>	Investment Institution
<b>Robyn Leeson</b>	Vice-Chair
<b>Tony Mo</b>	Civil Society Organization

Apologies:

Name	Constituency
<b>Julia Wilson</b>	Business Enterprise
<b>Peter Colley</b>	Labor
<b>Vincent Kong</b>	Business Enterprise

In attendance:

Name	Designation
<b>Bastian Buck</b>	Director, Standards Division
<b>Gillian Balaban</b>	Assistant, Standards Division
<b>Karen Williams</b>	Senior Coordinator, Sector Program, Standards Division
<b>Laura Espinach</b>	Senior Manager, Standards Division
<b>Madere Olivar</b>	Senior Manager, Sector Program, Standards Division
<b>Pamela Carpio</b>	Senior Coordinator, Governance Relations
<b>Sarah-Jayne Dominic</b>	Senior Manager, Standards Division

## List of abbreviations

GRI	Global Reporting Initiative	SD	Standards Division
GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board	TC	Technical Committee
PWG	Project Working Group		

# Decisions and action items

## Decisions

**GSSB Decision 2019.01** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 01 – GSSB Draft summary of the 29 November 2018 virtual GSSB meeting](#).

**GSSB Decision 2019.02** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 03 – Sector Program Description](#).

**GSSB Decision 2019.03** The GSSB resolved to approve that [Item 04 – GSSB Project Proposal for an Oil and Gas Sector Standard](#) be shared with the GRI Board and the Stakeholder Council for feedback.

**GSSB Decision 2019.04** The GSSB resolved to approve that [Item 05 – Project Proposal for an Agriculture Sector Standard](#) be shared with the GRI Board and the Stakeholder Council for feedback.

**GSSB Decision 2019.05** The GSSB resolved to approve that [Item 06 – Project Proposal for a Textiles and Apparel Sector Standard](#) be shared with the GRI Board and the Stakeholder Council for feedback.

**GSSB Decision 2019.06** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 08 – GSSB Proposed appointment to the GRI Technical Committee on Human Rights Disclosure](#).

**GSSB Decision 2019.07** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 09 – GSSB Draft Project Proposal for the Review of GRI’s Universal Standards](#).

## Action items

GSSB	
Session 3	GSSB members to get back to the SD with suggestions on organizations or experts for potential membership of project working groups for the three proposed sectors before the 25-26 March GSSB in-person meeting.
Session 4	<p>GSSB members to share any further comments on <a href="#">Item 08 – GSSB Proposed appointment to the GRI Technical Committee on Human Rights Disclosure</a> with the SD in writing.</p> <p>GSSB members to get back to the SD on volunteering for the universal Standards review subcommittee before the 25-26 March GSSB in-person meeting.</p>
Standards Division	
Session 3	SD to share <a href="#">Item 04 – GSSB Project Proposal for an Oil and Gas Sector Standard</a> , <a href="#">Item 05 – Project Proposal for an Agriculture Sector Standard</a> , and <a href="#">Item 06 – Project Proposal for a Textiles and Apparel Sector Standard</a> with the GRI Board and the Stakeholder Council.

Session 4	SD to prepare a detailed discussion session on the proposed human rights recommendations for the 25-26 March GSSB in-person meeting.  SD to prepare a session on the review of universal Standards for the 25-26 March GSSB in-person meeting.
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## 19 Session 1: Welcome

20 GSSB Vice-Chair Robyn Leeson (henceforth the Vice-Chair), welcomed the GSSB and attending GRI  
21 Secretariat staff and presented an overview of the [meeting agenda](#).

22 The GSSB was presented with [Item 01 - GSSB Draft summary of the 29 November 2018 virtual GSSB](#)  
23 [meeting](#).

24 **GSSB Decision 2019.01** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 01 – GSSB Draft summary of the 29](#)  
25 [November 2018 virtual GSSB meeting](#).

## 26 Session 2: Introduction to new members

27 The GSSB was presented with [Item 02 – GSSB Introduction to new members](#).

28 The GSSB has six new members from across the constituencies:

New GSSB member	Constituency
Corli le Roux	Mediating Institution
Gustavo Sinner	Mediating Institution
Jennifer Prancing	Business Enterprise
Loredana Carta	Labor
Peter Colley	Labor
Rama Krishnan Venkateswaran	Investment Institution

29 The Vice-Chair thanked departing members Sulema Pioli, Vadakepatth Nandkumar, Jürgen Buxbaum,  
30 and Dwight Justice, who ended their GSSB terms on 31 December 2018, and Daniel Ingram, and At-  
31 tila Yerlikaya, who stepped down from the GSSB earlier in 2018.

32 The Vice-Chair welcomed the new GSSB members to the meeting.

## 33 Session 3: Sector Program

34 The GSSB was presented with [Item 03 – Sector Program Description](#), together with feedback re-  
35 ceived from the GRI Board and Stakeholder Council, and feedback from the GSSB subcommittee for  
36 the Sector Program.

37 No further content revisions or amendments were suggested.

38 **GSSB Decision 2019.02** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 03 – Sector Program Description](#).

39 GSSB Chair Judy Kuszewski (henceforth the Chair) joined the meeting.

40 The GSSB was presented with [Item 04 – GSSB Project Proposal for an Oil and Gas Sector Standard](#),  
41 [Item 05 – Project Proposal for an Agriculture Sector Standard](#), and [Item 06 – Project Proposal for a](#)  
42 [Textiles and Apparel Sector Standard](#).

43 A GSSB member requested clarification on the potential involvement of IPIECA: The global oil and  
44 gas industry association for environmental and social issues, in the oil and gas sector project. The  
45 Standards Division (SD) confirmed that IPIECA is aware of the project proposal and has expressed  
46 support for the project and interest in participating.

47 A GSSB member asked whether the agriculture project would include the whole food value chain,  
48 e.g., whether it would include food processing and food retail. The SD clarified that the project  
49 would cover only agriculture but not food processing and retail as these are intended to be covered  
50 in additional projects.

51 No further content revisions or amendments were suggested to the proposals.

52 **GSSB Decision 2019.03** The GSSB resolved to approve that [Item 04 – GSSB Project Proposal for](#)  
53 [an Oil and Gas Sector Standard](#) be shared with the GRI Board and the Stakeholder Council for feed-  
54 back.

55 **GSSB Decision 2019.04** The GSSB resolved to approve that [Item 05 – Project Proposal for an Ag-](#)  
56 [riculture Sector Standard](#) be shared with the GRI Board and the Stakeholder Council for feedback.

57 **GSSB Decision 2019.05** The GSSB resolved to approve that [Item 06 – Project Proposal for a Tex-](#)  
58 [tiles and Apparel Sector Standard](#) be shared with the GRI Board and the Stakeholder Council for  
59 feedback.

60 The SD requested suggestions from the GSSB on organizations or experts for potential membership  
61 of the project working groups (PWGs) for each of the three sectors.

### 62 **Actions:**

- 63 • SD to share [Item 04 – GSSB Project Proposal for an Oil and Gas Sector Standard](#), [Item 05 –](#)  
64 [Project Proposal for an Agriculture Sector Standard](#), and [Item 06 – Project Proposal for a](#)  
65 [Textiles and Apparel Sector Standard](#) with the GRI Board and the Stakeholder Council.
- 66 • GSSB members to get back to the SD with suggestions on organizations or experts for po-  
67 tential membership of project working groups for the three proposed sectors before the 25-  
68 26 March GSSB in-person meeting.

## 69 Session 4: Review of human rights disclo- 70 sure

71 The GSSB was presented with [Item 07 – GSSB Recommendations of the GRI Technical Committee](#)  
72 [on Human Rights Disclosure](#). The recommendations include a proposed set of human rights disclo-  
73 sures to be required for all organizations preparing a report in accordance with the GRI Standards.

74 A few GSSB members shared their comments on the recommendations, including comments relating  
75 to feasibility and clarity.

76 It was agreed that ample time be allocated at the 25-26 March GSSB in-person meeting to discuss  
77 the disclosures in detail.

78 The GSSB was presented with [Item 08 – GSSB Proposed appointment to the GRI Technical Com-](#)  
79 [mittee on Human Rights Disclosure](#). The two GSSB sponsors for the project to review human  
80 rights-related disclosures ended their GSSB terms on 31 December 2018. The SD proposed the ap-  
81 pointment of former GSSB member and project sponsor Dwight Justice to the GRI Technical Com-  
82 mittee on Human Rights Disclosure to ensure continuity of the project.

83 **GSSB Decision 2019.06** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 08 – GSSB Proposed appointment to](#)  
84 [the GRI Technical Committee on Human Rights Disclosure](#).

### 85 **Actions:**

- 86 • GSSB members to share any further comments on [Item 08 – GSSB Proposed appointment](#)  
87 [to the GRI Technical Committee on Human Rights Disclosure](#) with the SD in writing.
- 88 • SD to prepare a detailed discussion session on the proposed human rights recommendations  
89 for the 25-26 March GSSB in-person meeting.

## 90 *Review of universal Standards*

91 The GSSB was presented with [Item 09 – GSSB Draft Project Proposal for the Review of GRI's Uni-](#)  
92 [versal Standards](#).

93 GSSB members expressed support for the proposed project workstreams and advised the SD to in-  
94 involve reporting practitioners in the discussion to ensure that the requirements are feasible, practical,  
95 and of value to the reporting organizations.

96 The SD clarified that reporting practitioners will be consulted in a field test before the revised con-  
97 tent is exposed for public comment. The SD requested suggestions from GSSB members on any or-  
98 ganizations or experts to be consulted on the project.

99 The SD requested three volunteers from the GSSB to convene a subcommittee to provide overall  
100 advice and direction on the project.

101 **GSSB Decision 2019.07** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 09 – GSSB Draft Project Proposal](#)  
102 [for the Review of GRI's Universal Standards](#).

### 103 **Actions:**

- 104 • GSSB members to get back to the SD on volunteering for the universal Standards review  
105 subcommittee before the 25-26 March GSSB in-person meeting.
- 106 • SD to prepare a session on the review of universal Standards for the 25-26 March GSSB in-  
107 person meeting.

108 **Session 5: Any other business and close of**  
109 **meeting**

110 There was no other business and the Chair closed the meeting.