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Summary 27 October 2016 meeting
Meeting summary – Draft_v1: pending GSSB approval

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Participants

Present:

Name	Constituency
Daniel Taillant	Civil Society Organization
David Russell	Business
Dwight Justice	Labor
Hidemi Tomita	Business
Judy Kuszewski	Mediating Institution
Jürgen Buxbaum	Labor
Kirsten Margrethe Hovi	Business
Michael Nugent (Vice-Chair)	(Mediating Institution)
Robin Edme	Mediating Institution
Stiaan Wandrag	Business
Vadakepatth Nandkumar	Mediating Institution

Apologies:

Name	Designation
Daniel Ingram	Investment Institution
Simeon Cheng	Business
Sulema Pioli	Mediating Institution

In attendance:

Name	Designation
Bastian Buck	Director, Standards Division
Chelsea Reinhardt	Deputy Director, Standards Division
Pamela Carpio	Senior Coordinator, Governance Relations
Tina Nybo Jensen	Senior Coordinator, Governance Relations

List of abbreviations

DPOC	Due Process Oversight Committee	GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board
FSB	Financial Stability Board	N/A	Not applicable
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative	TCFD	Task Force on Climate-related Disclosures

1 Meeting summary

2 Please see a list of decision and action items deriving from the meeting on pp. 5-6.

3 Session 1: Welcome and approval of previous meeting 4 summary

5 The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone and presented an overview of the meeting. He further moved
6 for the approval of [Item 01 – Summary 30-31 August GSSB meeting](#).

7 The GSSB provided the following request:

- 8 • To delete a repeated word on line 205 of that summary so the phrase appears as “in order
9 to prevent”.

10 The GSSB unanimously approved the meeting summary with the amend noted in this meeting
11 summary.

12 Session 2: Discussion on GSSB Future Work Program 13 2017-2019

14 The GSSB received a presentation on the draft [GSSB Future Work Program 2017-2019](#) including
15 an [overview of the main feedback](#) received by different parties as well as of a timeline containing
16 two staggered phases of Standard development. The presentation was followed by a GSSB dis-
17 cussion in view of deciding on the schedule for Phase I of the Standards review and provide in-
18 put to finalize the high-level GSSB Work Program.

19 The GSSB discussed:

- 20 • The capacity of GRI’s Standards Division team to tackle strategic priorities in the review
21 of the Standards while honouring its existing commitments. This has immediate implica-
22 tions on the activities included in phase I of the schedule for 2017.
- 23 • The purpose of a staggered timeline of activities for 2017 and the proposal to hold 2
24 scheduled public comment periods in order to provide flexibility and keep stakeholders
25 engaged throughout the year.
- 26 • That a cautious approach of the in-accordance criteria review is needed. The suggestion
27 made by the Standards Team is to start by monitoring how reporters will be using this
28 option through the first reporting cycle. This was thought to allow establishing the neces-
29 sary evidence to perform a sensible review. The same caution was expressed for the
30 boundary issue.
- 31 • The pressing need for the Standards to address human rights issues in light of interna-
32 tional discussions. Given the complexity and overarching nature of this topic, the ap-
33 proach would be to already start engaging various relevant stakeholders in preliminary
34 scoping discussions. The GSSB would then be involved early next year (February-March)
35 before a project proposal is finalized. The Work Program would have to reflect that this
36 is considered to be the 1st priority of phase 2.
- 37 • The need for the Standards to address the Climate Change topic more specifically. GSSB
38 members discussed and eventually determined not to begin a review of any Climate

- 39 Change-related content until the FSB (TCFD) recommendation has been released, but to
40 make sure that the significance of this alignment is captured in the GSSB Work Program.
41 • That the assurance issue should remain in the sight of the GSSB although it needs more
42 discussion to determine its priority above other issues.
43 • That a mention of a possible consideration of an omnibus Standard during 2017 would be
44 useful to keep in the Work Program, in case the market demands it.

45 The GSSB further agreed to Phase I as proposed in the Revised Work Program, i.e. the review
46 of *GRI 403: Occupational Health and Safety* and *GRI 303: Water* (also including content on 'efflu-
47 ents' from *GRI 306: Effluents and Waste*). The GSSB requested the Standards Division to pre-
48 pare proposals for GSSB's discussion and approval during its November and December meetings.

49 The GSSB deferred the approval of the complete Work Program to the November call and re-
50 quested that a new version reflecting the present discussion would be circulated ahead of that
51 call.

52 Session 3: Discussion on GSSB self-evaluation

53 The draft GSSB Self-Evaluation 2016 was discussed and the following edits were requested by the
54 GSSB:

- 55 - To replace the scale on part 1.1 by the one presented in all other parts of the document.
56 - Provide an N/A answer option to all parts of the document.
57 - Provide more room for qualitative statements in all parts of the document.
58 - Simplify part 1.2 of the document and clarify the Public interest definition in that same
59 section.

60 Session 4: Update on Standards Launch

61 The GSSB received a summary of the activities and reactions so far to the launch of the Stand-
62 ards. The launch webinars attracted an important amount of participants and the regional launch
63 events (ca. 30) were expected to attract over 2000 participants by the end of this year. Feedback
64 received so far did not show any unexpected comment and many questions related to the use of
65 the Standards. The Standards were mainly downloaded in their full set, thousands of times, and
66 supporting material such as the animation and the mapping documents also showed to be useful
67 and popular. Finally, the launch of the Standards was covered by different (social) media e.g.
68 Bloomberg and the Wall Street Journal and additional exposure of the Standards by mainstream
69 media was expected.

70 Session 5: Any Other Business

71 The Vice-Chair clarified that the upcoming GSSB meeting originally scheduled for 17 November
72 was now changed to 23 November. The meeting of 15 December would remain as originally
73 scheduled for the moment but would perhaps be cancelled closer to that date if judged unneces-
74 sary.

75 He also asked GSSB members to contribute when possible in submitting nominations in response
76 to the open call for nominations on the GSSB and the DPOC.

77 He finally informed the GSSB that he would not submit his nomination for another term on the
78 GSSB or for the Chair position.

79 Decisions and Action Items

80 DECISIONS

81 Session 1

82 **GSSB Decision 2016.42** The GSSB approved the summary of the meeting held 30-31 August
83 2016 with the amend noted in this summary.

84 *The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.*

85 Session 2

86 **GSSB Decision 2016.43** The GSSB agreed to Phase I as proposed in the Revised Work Pro-
87 gram, i.e. the review of GRI 403: Occupational Health and Safety and GRI 303: Water also includ-
88 ing content on 'effluents' from GRI 306: Effluents and Waste

89 *The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.*

90 ACTIONS

91 Governance:

92 Session 1

- 93 • Delete a repeated word on line 205 of Item 01 - Summary 30-31 August GSSB meeting
94 so the phrase appears as "in order to prevent".

95 Session 3

- 96 • Implement the requests received and circulate an updated GSSB Self-Evaluation docu-
97 ment

98 Standards Division

99 Session 1

- 100 • Implement the comments received and circulate the updated Work Program to the
101 GSSB members for approval on the 23 November call. These changes include:
 - 102 ○ Add a specific reference to the FSB (TCFD) Phase I Report and the relevance
103 for updating content on Climate Change
 - 104 ○ Add a sentence about revisiting the potential for an omnibus review later in 2017
- 105 • Prepare project proposals for the review of GRI 403 and GRI 303 and submit to the
106 GSSB for its meetings in November and/or December
- 107 • Publish the definitive version of the GSSB Work Program on the GSSB website by the
108 end of the current calendar year.
- 109 • Indicate the team's capacity to the GSSB by early next year in view of undertaking new
110 projects.

111 Session 4

- 112 • Invite GSSB members and their networks to attend launch events and ensure seating for
113 them in case they can attend.

114 **GSSB members**

115 Session 1

- 116 • Consider becoming a sponsor in order to follow the progress of PWGs in Phase I of the
117 Standards review, on a high-level.
118 • Provide the Standards Division with any further feedback on the recommended changes
119 to the Work Program within 6 working days following the meeting.

120 Session 5

- 121 • Contribute when possible in submitting nominations in response to the open call for
122 nominations on the GSSB and the DPOC.

DRAFT