



Barbara Strozziiaan 336
1083 HN Amsterdam
The Netherlands
info@gssb.globalreporting.org

Summary 23 June 2016 meeting
Meeting summary – Approved by GSSB on 21-07-2016

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Participants

Present:

Name	Constituency
David Russell	Business
Daniel Taillant	Civil Society Organization
Dwight Justice	Labor
Eric Hespeneheide (Chairman)	
Hidemi Tomita	Business
Judy Kuszewski	Mediating Institution
Kirsten Margrethe Hovi	Business
Michael Nugent (Vice-Chair)	(Mediating Institution)
Robin Edme	Mediating Institution
Simeon Cheng	Business
Stiaan Wandrag	Business
Sulema Pioli (joined at 14.15)	Mediating Institution
Vadakepatth Nandkumar	Mediating Institution

Apologies:

Name	Designation
Daniel Ingram	Investment Institution
Jürgen Buxbaum	Labor

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

GRI Global Reporting Initiative

GSSB Global Sustainability Standards Board

1 Meeting summary

2 Please see a list of decision and action items deriving from the meeting on pp. 4-5.

3 Session 1: Review and approve meeting summary 4 from 16-17 May 2016 GSSB meeting

5 The Chairman (henceforth “the Chair”) of the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB)
6 welcomed everyone to the meeting. An overview of the meeting was presented and the Chair
7 moved for the approval of the Agenda item listed below.

- 8 • [Item 01 - Summary 16-17 May 2016 in-person meeting](#)

9 The GSSB unanimously approved the meeting summary without any changes.

10 Session 2: Review and approve GSSB high-level Work 11 Program 2017-2019 for public consultation 12 commencing in June 2016

13 [Agenda Item 02 – Work Program 2017-2019](#) was circulated and considered as read. The GSSB
14 was informed that the document has been amended following the initial discussions during the
15 May 2016 meeting. The GSSB was informed that it will be posted for a 90-day public comment in
16 the last week of June.

17 The GSSB discussed:

- 18 • That it should be clearly indicated that priority work areas are not listed in order of
19 priority, and that the GSSB reserves the right to make amendments to the Work
20 Program based on the available funds and other developments that might affect the
21 priorities at any given time.
- 22 • To ask a question during the public comment on whether work on human rights-related
23 Standards should be considered a priority for 2017
- 24 • In Item 02, section b) *Review and update GRI Standards on a regular basis*, to refer to
25 ‘review’ rather than ‘review and update’, since reviews don’t necessarily have to lead to
26 an update, but the term ‘review’ is generally understood to include the option to update
27 contents
- 28 • In Item 02, section c) *Develop additional topic-specific Standards on a regular basis*, to include
29 a reference to an omnibus exposure in 2017 and 2018 that cuts across the different
30 Standards, to address language and unintended consequences that affect more than one
31 Standard
- 32 • The need to add language related to credibility and trust mechanisms, indicated as a key
33 activity in Item 02, section j) *Initiate collaborations and projects to improve the quality of*
34 *reporting*

- 35 • Include specific requests for stakeholder input during the public comment on section G)
36 *Collaborate with key partners to reduce the burden on reporters and increase the uptake of the*
37 *GRI Standards and section J) Initiate collaborations and projects to improve the quality of*
38 *reporting (Item 2 pp. 7 and 8)*
39

40 The GSSB agreed to provisionally approve the Work Program 2017-2019 for public exposure,
41 subject to the agreed modifications noted in this summary under action items (pp. 4-5). The
42 Standards Division will circulate the final version to the GSSB before publication.

43 **Session 3: Discuss initial findings from public** 44 **consultation period**

45 The GSSB was presented with an update on the current and upcoming activities related to the
46 Public Consultation on the full set of draft GRI Standards, as well as the initial findings.

47 **Session 4: Overview of GSSB timeline for July-** 48 **September 2016**

49 The GSSB was presented with the timeline for GSSB activities and related objectives from July to
50 September 2016. The GSSB was asked to contact the Standards Division directly in case of any
51 timing issues.

52 **Session 5: Any other business**

53 The Chair closed the meeting at 2.35 PM CEST.

54 **Decisions and Action Items**

55 **DECISIONS**

56 Session 1

57 **GSSB Decision 2016.014** The GSSB approved the summary of the meeting held 16-17 May
58 2016.

59 Session 2

60 **GSSB Decision 2016.015** The GSSB provisionally approved the Work Program 2017-2019 for
61 public exposure, subject to the agreed modifications noted in this summary.

62 **ACTIONS**

63 **Standards Division**

64 Session 2

- 65 • Include a disclaimer in *Item 2 – Work program 2017-2019* specifying that the work areas
66 are not listed in order of priority, and that the GSSB reserves the right to make
67 amendments to the Work Program based on the available funds and other internal or
68 external events that might affect the priorities at any given time.
- 69 • Include a question for public comment on whether human rights-related Standards are a
70 priority, under *Standards currently identified for review in 2017* (Item 2 p. 5), and ask for
71 input on the priorities.
- 72 • Refer to ‘review’ instead of ‘review and update’ in *b) Review and update GRI Standards on*
73 *a regular basis* (Item 2 pp. 4-5)
- 74 • Include under section *c) Develop additional topic-specific Standards on a regular basis* (Item 2
75 pp. 5-6) the option to develop an omnibus exposure that covers different standards to
76 address language and unintended consequences that affect more than one Standard.
- 77 • Add language related to credibility and trust mechanisms in section *j) Initiate collaborations*
78 *and projects to improve the quality of reporting* (Item 2 p.8)
- 79 • Include specific requests for stakeholder input on section *G) Collaborate with key partners*
80 *to reduce the burden on reporters and increase the uptake of the GRI Standards* and *J) Initiate*
81 *collaborations and projects to improve the quality of reporting* (Item 2 pp. 7 and 8)
- 82 • Circulate the finalized version of *Item 2 – Work program 2017-2019* to the GSSB
83 members before publication for public comment, including a deadline for feedback on
84 major flaws.

85 **GSSB members**

86 Session 2

- 87 • Notify the Standards Division in a timely manner if they find any major flaws in the final
88 version of *Item 2 – Work program 2017-2019*.

89 Session 4

- 90 • Contact the Standards Division directly in case they have timing issues related to the
91 scheduled GSSB activities for July-September 2016.