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Summary 21 July 2016 meeting
Meeting summary – Approved by GSSB on 4 August 2016

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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
Sulema Pioli	Mediating Institution
Vadakepatth Nandkumar	Mediating Institution

Apologies:

Name	Designation
Daniel Ingram	Investment Institution
Simeon Cheng	Business

In attendance:

Name	Designation
Bastian Buck	Director, Standards Division
Chelsea Reinhardt	Deputy Director, Standards Division
Jenni Puroila	Research Analyst, Standards Division
Laura Espinach	Manager, 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: Welcome and approval of previous meeting 4 summary

5 Following the appointment to GRI Interim Chief Executive the Global Sustainability Standards
6 Board (GSSB) Chair has stepped down. In line with the GSSB Terms of Reference the GSSB
7 Vice-Chair (henceforth “the Vice-Chair”) will be chairing the meetings in the absence of a Chair.

8 The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. An overview of the meeting was presented
9 and the Vice-Chair moved a motion of thanks to the former Chair, Eric Hespeneide, for his
10 outstanding leadership of the GSSB. The GSSB unanimously supported this motion.

11 The Vice-Chair further moved for the approval of [Item 01 – Summary 23 June 2016 virtual meet-
12 ing](#). The GSSB unanimously approved the meeting summary without any changes.

13 Session 2: Initial Feedback from Public Comment Pe- 14 riod

15 The GSSB was briefed on the initial feedback received during the Public Comment Period that
16 closed on Sunday 17 July 2016. The GRI Standards Division will implement the comments re-
17 ceived and circulate the updated Standards to the GSSB members for review between 27 July and
18 10 August 2016.

19 The GSSB discussed:

- 20 • Combining GRI 101, 201, and 301 into a ‘universal’ Standard. The GSSB instructed the
21 Standards Division to develop a mock-up version of combining GRI 101 and 201 into one
22 Standard while maintaining GRI 301 as a separate standard.
- 23 • The necessity of developing an online tool to allow users to combine and download cus-
24 tomized content.
- 25 • Updating the naming convention around the Standards from SRSs to GRI Standards.
- 26 • Whether the term “disclosure” is accurate in the context of the GRI Standards.
- 27 • Continuing with the GRI referenced option while revising the text in GRI 101 section 3
28 to more clearly emphasize the distinction between in accordance reports and GRI refer-
29 enced claims as well as including examples were needed.
- 30 • Elevation of sector disclosures from guidance to recommendation in GRI 101.
- 31 • Postponing the Effective Date of the GRI Standards from 1 January 2018 to 1 July 2018
32 (all reports published on or after).
- 33 • Simplifying the disclosure for topic Boundary based on a ‘value chain’ approach including
34 up and downstream activities. This suggestion was made based on public consultation
35 feedback as well as internal research carried out by the Standards Division. The GSSB

36 members further discussed the use of the terms 'value chain' and 'entities' in the disclo-
37 sure.

38 Session 3: Any other business

39 The timeline for the upcoming activities related to the Transition to Standards Project was noted
40 by the GSSB.

41 Decisions and Action Items

42 DECISIONS

43 Session 1

44 **GSSB Decision 2016.016** The GSSB agreed to formally thank Mr Eric Hespenheide for serving
45 as GSSB Chair.

46 **GSSB Decision 2016.017** The GSSB approved the summary of the meeting held 23 June 2016.

47 *The GSSB supported the decisions by consensus.*

48 Session 2

49 **GSSB Decision 2016.018** The GSSB agreed to name the Standards "GRI Standards" with indi-
50 vidual labelling as e.g. GRI 101, GRI 201.

51 **GSSB Decision 2016.019** The GSSB agreed to elevate sector disclosures from guidance to a
52 recommendation in GRI 101.

53 **GSSB Decision 2016.020** The GSSB agreed to change the Effective Date from 1 January 2018
54 to 1 July 2018 in the next set of revised draft Standards, which will be confirmed at the GSSB in-
55 person meeting August 30 – 1 September.

56 **GSSB Decision 2016.021** The GSSB agreed to continue with the wording 'disclosure' rather
57 than 'indicator' in the GRI Standards

58 *The GSSB supported the decisions by consensus.*

59 ACTIONS

60 Standards Division

- 61 • Review and analyze the comments received during the Public Comment Period and up-
62 load the revised draft Standards for review by the GSSB between 27 July and 10 August
63 2016
- 64 • Create a mock-up version of GRI 101 and 201 combined into one Standard and highlight
65 where bridge text is required, while maintaining GRI 301 as a separate Standard. Send
66 this mock-up version to the GSSB for review.
- 67 • Replace SRSs with GRI Standards throughout the draft Standards.
- 68 • Elevate sector disclosure from guidance to recommendation in GRI 101.

- 69 • Revise the text in GRI 101 section 3 to more clearly emphasize the distinction between
70 in accordance reports and GRI referenced claims as well as including examples where
71 needed.
72 • Implement the proposed recommended changes to the Topic Boundary while addressing
73 the comments received from the GSSB members.

74 **GSSB members**

- 75 • Email the Standards Division directly with any further feedback on the recommended
76 changes to the Topic Boundary