



GSSB Global
Sustainability
Standards Board

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Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 27 June 2019

For GSSB approval

Date	10 September 2019
Meeting	24-25 September 2019
Description	This document presents the summary of the GSSB virtual meeting held on 27 June 2019, for GSSB approval.

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.

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2 Participants

3 Present:

Name	Constituency
Corli le Roux	Mediating institution
Evan Harvey	Investment institution
Gustavo Sinner	Mediating institution
Jennifer Princing	Business enterprise
Judy Kuszewski	Chair
Julia Wilson	Business enterprise
Kent Swift	Civil society organization
Kirsten Margrethe Hovi	Business enterprise
Michel Washer	Business enterprise
Peter Colley	Labor
Rama Krishnan Venkateswaran	Investment institution
Robyn Leeson	Vice-Chair
Tung-Li (Tony) Mo	Civil society organization
Vincent Kong	Business enterprise

4 Apologies:

Name	Constituency
Loredana Carta	Labor

5 In attendance:

Name	Constituency
Bastian Buck	Chief of Standards, Standards Division
Gillian Balaban	Assistant, Standards Division
Margarita Lysenkova	Manager Sector Program, Standards Division
Mia d'Adhemar	Manager, Standards Division
Pamela Carpio	Senior Coordinator, Governance Relations
Sarah-Jayne Dominic	Senior Manager, Standards Division

6 List of abbreviations

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

7 Decisions and action items

8 *Decisions*

9 **GSSB Decision 2019.12** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB](#)
10 [meeting held on 25-26 March 2019](#).

11 **GSSB Decision 2019.13** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 02 – Proposed project working](#)
12 [group composition of the Oil, Gas, and Coal Sector Standard](#).

13 *Action items*

GSSB	
Session 4	GSSB members to submit written feedback on Item 06 – Update on review of GRI 102: General Disclosures 2016 (Universal Standards Project Work Stream 4) and comments on the individual disclosures in <i>GRI 102</i> to the SD by email by Friday, 12 July 2019.
Standards Division	
Session 4	SD to take GSSB feedback under advisement and present the advantages and implications of the three options (including a recommended option) for including human rights and due diligence related disclosures in the GRI Standards, at the GSSB meeting on 24-25 September 2019.

14 Session I: Welcome

15 GSSB Chair Judy Kuszewski (henceforth the Chair) welcomed the GSSB and presented an overview
16 of the meeting agenda.

17 The agenda of the meeting was reorganized to defer approval decisions to later sessions awaiting a
18 quorum.

19 Meeting summary 25-26 March 2019

20 The GSSB was presented with [Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 25-26 March](#)
21 [2019](#) for approval.

22 One GSSB member requested an update on the action items presented in the meeting summary.

23 The SD confirmed that the action items will be covered during the meeting, and any remaining items
24 will be taken up during the GSSB meeting on 24-25 September 2019.

25 **GSSB Decision 2019.12** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB](#)
26 [meeting held on 25-26 March 2019](#).

27 Session 2: Project working group for GRI 28 Sector Standard for oil, gas, and coal

29 The GSSB was presented with [Item 02 – Proposed project working group composition of the Oil,](#)
30 [Gas, and Coal Sector Standard](#) for approval, and [Item 03 – Overview of project working group](#)
31 [membership applications – Oil, Gas, and Coal Sector Standard](#) for review.

32 The SD received a total of 82 applications for the project working group (PWG) for the oil, gas, and
33 coal Sector Standard, and conducted more than 30 interviews. The proposed composition for the
34 PWG comprises 17 candidates representing 10 countries from across the six world regions, and has
35 the following multi-stakeholder representation:

36 Table I. Multi-stakeholder composition for the proposed PWG for oil, gas, and coal

Stakeholder constituency	PWG composition
Business enterprise	7 candidates
Civil society organization	2 candidates
Investment institution	2 candidates
Mediating institution	4 candidates
Labor	2 candidates

37 The Chair called for approval of [Item 02 – Proposed project working group composition of the Oil,](#)
38 [Gas, and Coal Sector Standard](#).

39 GSSB members Corli le Roux, Evan Harvey, Gustavo Sinner, Judy Kuszewski, Julia Wilson, Kent
40 Swift, Kirsten Margrethe Hovi, Michel Washer, Peter Colley, Robyn Leeson, Tony Mo, and Vincent
41 Kong voted in favor.

42 Gustavo Sinner confirmed his approval via the chat box due to technical difficulties with the audio.

43 Jennifer Princing and Rama Krishnan Venkateshwaran sent their approval by email.

44 Loredana Carta was absent for the vote.

45 **GSSB Decision 2019.13** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 02 – Proposed project working](#)
46 [group composition of the Oil, Gas, and Coal Sector Standard](#).

47 Session 3: Update on the project Tax and 48 Payments to Governments

49 Technical Committee membership

50 The GSSB was presented with [Item 04 – \[Item 01 – 1 May 2019\] Proposal for replacement of](#)
51 [membership for GRI Technical Committee on tax and payments to governments](#) and [Item 05 –](#)
52 [Summary of GSSB vote for the replacement of a membership for GRI Technical Committee on tax](#)
53 [and payments to governments](#) for discussion.

54 In May, the GSSB was presented with a proposal to appoint a new member to the Technical
55 Committee (TC) for Disclosures on Tax and Payments to Governments to replace a member
56 stepping down. The GSSB approved the appointment of Kate Elliot representing the investment
57 institution constituency from the UK, to the TC by electronic vote.

58 One GSSB member raised a concern about maintaining balanced regional representation in expert
59 groups, particularly from emerging or developing countries. This concern has been responded to in
60 [Item 05 – Summary of GSSB vote for the replacement of a membership for GRI Technical](#)
61 [Committee on tax and payments to governments](#).

62 Project status update

63 The SD presented an overview of general feedback on key themes received on the draft Standard
64 during the public comment period, and provided a status update on the TC's progress in responding
65 to these. The key themes that were discussed included feasibility of reporting, alignment with other
66 Standards and initiatives, and the timing for reporting the information.

67 The SD also presented some of the specific changes implemented by the TC to each of the
68 disclosures in response to the feedback received.

69 One concern, raised primarily in stakeholder engagement events, was that the draft Standard does
70 not cover the full range of payments to governments (e.g., penalties, licensing fees). Currently,
71 payments to government are covered in a recommendation (Clause 1.5.3 Industry-related and other
72 taxes or payments to governments) and in guidance, and only refer to examples of taxes and duties.
73 It was suggested that the name of the Standard be changed to 'Tax' to more adequately reflect the
74 disclosures.

75 One GSSB member asked whether the feedback on the Standard being feasible to report covered all
76 respondents, including reporting organizations. The SD clarified that the summarized feedback
77 covered all respondents and was not split up per stakeholder constituency. The GSSB member
78 questioned whether non-reporting organizations could adequately comment on the feasibility of
79 reporting on the Standard.

80 Session 4: Update on the project Review 81 of GRI's universal Standards

82 Project status update

83 The SD provided the GSSB with a project status update, including a high-level analysis of
84 respondents of the online survey, and an overview of expected outputs.

85 In addition to the online survey, the SD has analyzed GRI Standards reports, as well as academic
 86 articles and other reporting frameworks and models, and is currently conducting interviews with
 87 diverse stakeholders to gather information that will feed into the review.

88 The following is an overview of the expected outputs for each of the work streams under the
 89 project. The SD will present more specific recommendations to the GSSB for review at its meeting
 90 on 24-25 September 2019.

91 Table 2. Expected outputs for the project Review of GRI's universal Standards

Work stream	Expected outputs
1: Human Rights and due diligence related disclosures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of human rights-related disclosures into universal Standards. • Incorporation of due diligence approach into <i>GRI 103: Management Approach</i>.
2: Reporting Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential revisions to Reporting Principles in <i>GRI 101: Foundation</i>.
3: 'In accordance' criteria / Reporting model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential revisions to 'in accordance' options in <i>GRI 101: Foundation</i>, including reasons for omission.
4: General Disclosures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisions to individual disclosures in <i>GRI 102: General Disclosures</i>.

92 **Update Work stream 1: Human rights and due diligence related disclosures**

93 Following feedback from the GSSB during its meeting on 25-26 March 2019, the SD is developing
 94 three possible options for including human rights and due diligence related disclosures in the GRI
 95 Standards:

96 **Option A:** New section in *GRI 102: General Disclosures* dedicated to human rights (with a
 97 subset of disclosures on, for example, the human rights policy commitment, how
 98 that is embedded throughout the organization, and the material human rights topics
 99 identified)

100 **Option B:** New universal Standard dedicated to human rights (i.e., GRI 104)

101 **Option C:** New topic-specific Standard dedicated to human rights

102 GSSB members proposed discussing the advantages and implications for all three options. This will
 103 be taken up at the GSSB meeting on 24-25 September.

104 One GSSB member suggested a fourth option as a combination of options A and C: include some
 105 mandatory disclosure in *GRI 102*, along with separate topic-specific Standards for organizations
 106 where human rights is a material topic. This is to account for differences between industries and
 107 regions, and between reporting organizations of different sizes.

108 It was mentioned that option A will be particularly cumbersome for small and medium enterprises
 109 (SMEs). The SD clarified that this is a recurring theme for other work streams and could be
 110 addressed in part with the review of the in accordance options and reasons for omission.

Actions:

- 111 • SD to take GSSB feedback under advisement and present the advantages and implications of
112 the three options, as well as the recommended option for consideration at the GSSB
113 meeting on 24-25 September 2019.

114 Update Work stream 4: General disclosures

115 The GSSB was presented with [Item 06 – Update on review of GRI 102: General Disclosures 2016](#)
116 [\(Universal Standards Project Work Stream 4\)](#).

Actions:

- 117 • GSSB members to submit written feedback on [Item 06 – Update on review of GRI 102:](#)
118 [General Disclosures 2016 \(Universal Standards Project Work Stream 4\)](#) and comments on
119 the individual disclosures in *GRI 102* to the SD by email by Friday, 12 July 2019.

120 Session 5: Any other business / Close of 121 public meeting

122 The GSSB commended GRI and the SD for their participation in the Corporate Reporting Dialogue.

123 No other business was raised and the Chair closed the public session of the meeting at 2.24 p.m.
124 CEST (Central European Summer Time).

125 Session 6: Executive session

126 This was a private session.