



# Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 21 November 2019

## For GSSB approval

<b>Date</b>	28 November 2019
<b>Meeting</b>	10 December 2019
<b>Description</b>	This document presents the summary of the GSSB virtual meeting held on 21 November 2019.

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](http://www.globalreporting.org).

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This document does not represent an official position of the GSSB

## 2 Participants

3 Present:

Name	Constituency
<b>Corli le Roux</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 2)</b>	Chair
<b>Kent Swift</b>	Civil society organization
<b>Michel Washer</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Peter Colley</b>	Labor
<b>Robyn Leeson</b>	Vice-Chair
<b>Tung-Li (Tony) Mo</b>	Civil society organization
<b>Vincent Kong</b>	Business enterprise

4 Apologies:

Name	Constituency
<b>Julia Wilson</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Kirsten Margrethe Hovi</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Rama Krishnan Venkateswaran</b>	Investment institution

5 In attendance:

Name	Constituency
<b>Bastian Buck</b>	Chief of Standards, Standards Division
<b>Gillian Balaban</b>	Assistant, Standards Division
<b>Helen Miller</b>	Coordinator, Governance Relations

## 6 List of abbreviations

DPOC	Due Process Oversight Committee
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board
IAC	Independent Appointments Committee
PWG	Project Working Group
SD	Standards Division
TC	Technical Committee

## 7 Decisions and action items

### 8 *Decisions*

9 **GSSB Decision 2019.18** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB](#)  
10 [meeting held on 24-25 September 2019](#) with the suggested amendment.

11 **GSSB Decision 2019.19** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 03 – Draft GSSB Work Program](#)  
12 [2020-2022](#) for public comment.

### 13 *Action items*

GSSB	
Session 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>GSSB members to confirm their availability for the proposed meeting dates for 2020.</li></ul>
Session 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>GSSB volunteers Evan Harvey, Gustavo Sinner, and Robyn Leeson to provide their feedback on the questions for public comment on the draft GSSB work program.</li></ul>
Standards Division	
Session 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SD to amend lines 257-258 of the draft meeting summary for 24-25 September based on GSSB feedback.</li><li>SD to send out meeting invites for 2020 to GSSB members following confirmation of their availability.</li></ul>
Session 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SD to send the GSSB an overview of Standards downloads for all available languages ahead of the GSSB meeting on 10 December.</li></ul>
Session 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SD to state in the work program that the specified commitments for reviews will set in after the first review of all existing Standards has been completed.</li><li>SD to send the questions for public comment on the draft GSSB work program to the GSSB for review.</li></ul>

## 14 Session I: Welcome

15 GSSB Vice-Chair Robyn Leeson (henceforth the Vice-Chair) welcomed the GSSB and presented an  
16 overview of the meeting agenda.

17 The GSSB was presented with [Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 24-25](#)  
18 [September 2019](#) for approval.

19 A GSSB member pointed out that lines 257-258 on the disclosures on total capitalization and sales  
20 did not adequately capture the discussion during the meeting. The Standards Division (SD) will make  
21 the necessary changes to the meeting summary and ensure the related GSSB feedback flows into  
22 further discussions on these disclosures.

23 **GSSB Decision 2019.18** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB](#)  
24 [meeting held on 24-25 September 2019](#) with the suggested amendment.

25 The SD was presented with [Item 02 – Revised dates for GSSB meetings 2020](#) for discussion.

#### **Actions:**

- 26 • SD to amend lines 257-258 of the draft meeting summary for 24-25 September based on  
27 GSSB feedback.
- 28 • GSSB members to confirm their availability for the proposed meeting dates for 2020.
- 29 • SD to send out meeting invites for 2020 to GSSB members following confirmation of their  
30 availability.

## 31 **Session 2: Update Standards Division**

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

33 The SD presented an overview of ongoing work on different projects.

34 **Tax Standard:** The Standard is due to be launched this year following approval from the Due  
35 Process Oversight Committee (DPOC). Plans are underway to promote the Standard at different  
36 events starting next year.

37 **Human rights disclosures and the universal Standards:** The SD is working on incorporating  
38 the technical committee (TC) recommendations on human rights disclosures into the universal  
39 Standards, consulting relevant stakeholders on labor-related and governance-related disclosures, and  
40 developing guidance on identifying material topics. Ongoing work on this project will be discussed at  
41 the GSSB meetings in December. The SD expects to present the draft revisions to be released for  
42 public comment to the GSSB for approval in February next year.

43 **Waste Standard:** The SD is working towards the expected release of the Standard in Q2 next  
44 year and aims to present the final Standard for approval to the GSSB in Q1 next year.

45 **Sector Standard for oil, gas and coal:** The in-person meeting of the project working group  
46 (PWG) took place in October. There has been one follow-up virtual meeting since, and work on  
47 developing content is underway. The SD will reconfirm the proposed timelines for the project in Q1  
48 next year.

49 **Sector Standard for agriculture:** The SD is looking to present the GSSB with a project proposal  
50 on the Sector Standard for agriculture in upcoming meetings.

51 The SD presented the GSSB with statistics for downloads of GRI Standards and their translations  
52 from January to October 2019. English is the leading language for Standards downloads, followed by  
53 Spanish.

#### **Actions:**

- 54 • SD to send the GSSB an overview of Standards downloads for all available languages ahead  
55 of the GSSB meeting on 10 December.

## 56 Session 3: Review GSSB Work Program 57 2020-2022

58 The GSSB was presented with [Item 03 – Draft GSSB Work Program 2020-2022](#) for discussion and  
59 approval.

60 The SD outlined the commitments stated in the GSSB work program, which follow from the  
61 discussion at the 24-25 September GSSB meeting:

- 62 • Review all existing GRI Standards every four years.
- 63 • Have five new topic-specific Standards under development concurrently.
- 64 • Cover all 40-45 high-impact sectors (no definitive indication of a timeline yet).
- 65 • Issue FAQs, guidance documents, and authoritative interpretations as needed.

66 The work program contains a project schedule for 2020. This covers Phase I of the review of the  
67 human rights-related Standards, the review of GRI's universal Standards, and the review of GRI  
68 waste-related disclosures. Based on the anticipated budget allocation, no commitments have been  
69 made for the development of new topic-specific Standards in 2020.

70 Biodiversity has been identified as a priority topic for the development of a new topic-specific  
71 Standard if resources become available. Additional priority topics will be identified using stakeholder  
72 feedback, input from the Sector Program, the list of pending projects, and previous GSSB  
73 discussions.

74 Under the Sector Program, the GSSB will continue to work on the Sector Standard for oil, gas and  
75 coal, and will commence work on the Sector Standard for agriculture.

76 GSSB members highlighted that the project schedule for 2020 does not meet the proposed  
77 commitments. The SD clarified that the commitment for regular reviews is the ideal state that would  
78 enable adequate continuous improvement. The SD will refine the messaging in the work program.

79 A GSSB member mentioned that the four-year review cycle still falls short of the expectations of  
80 stakeholders. It was also mentioned that the commitment to have five new Standards under  
81 development concurrently does not meet the GSSB ambition and is more a minimum requirement.  
82 The GSSB discussed how to communicate and manage expectations in relation to the work  
83 program, while accounting for resource and budget constraints.

84 A GSSB member asked whether the public comment period could be used to gather specific  
85 feedback on stakeholders' expectations relating to the GSSB work commitments and priorities. The  
86 SD clarified this was possible and asked for three GSSB members to volunteer to review the  
87 questions for the public comment period. GSSB members Evan Harvey, Gustavo Sinner, and Robyn  
88 Leeson volunteered for the review.

89 **GSSB Decision 2019.19** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 03 – Draft GSSB Work Program](#)  
90 [2020-2022](#) for public comment.

### **Actions:**

- 91 • SD to state in the work program that the specified commitments for reviews will set in after  
92 the first review of all existing Standards has been completed.  
93 • SD to send the questions for public comment on the draft GSSB work program to the GSSB  
94 for review.  
95 • GSSB volunteers Evan Harvey, Gustavo Sinner, and Robyn Leeson to provide their feedback  
96 on the questions for public comment on the draft GSSB work program.

## 97 **Session 4: Any other business / Close of** 98 **public meeting**

99 The Chair thanked departing GSSB member Julia Wilson, who will be ending her term with the  
100 GSSB on 31 December 2019. The Chair informed the GSSB that the call for nominations for a  
101 replacement concluded recently, and the Independent Appointments Committee (IAC) will get back  
102 once they have an update.

103 No other business was raised and the Chair closed the public sessions of the meeting at 2.09 p.m.  
104 CET (Central European Time).

## 105 **Sessions 5-7: Executive sessions**

106 The remaining sessions of the meeting were private sessions.