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GSSB summary of the GSSB meeting held on 21 November 2019

| *Approved by the GSSB on 10 December 2019*

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3 Participants

4 Present:

| Name | Constituency |
|--|----------------------------|
| Corli le Roux | Mediating institution |
| Evan Harvey | Investment institution |
| Gustavo Sinner | Mediating institution |
| Jennifer Princing | Business enterprise |
| Judy Kuszewski (joined during Session 2) | Chair |
| Kent Swift | Civil society organization |
| Loredana Carta | Labor |
| Michel Washer | Business enterprise |
| Peter Colley | Labor |
| Robyn Leeson | Vice-Chair |
| Tung-Li (Tony) Mo | Civil society organization |
| Vincent Kong | Business enterprise |

5 Apologies:

| Name | Constituency |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Julia Wilson | Business enterprise |
| Kirsten Margrethe Hovi | Business enterprise |
| Rama Krishnan Venkateswaran | Investment institution |

6 In attendance:

| Name | Constituency |
|-----------------|--|
| Bastian Buck | Chief of Standards, Standards Division |
| Gillian Balaban | Assistant, Standards Division |
| Helen Miller | Coordinator, Governance Relations |

7 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 |

8 Decisions and action items

9 *Decisions*

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

12 **GSSB Decision 2019.19** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 03 – Draft GSSB Work Program](#)
13 [2020-2022](#) for public comment.

14 *Action items*

| GSSB | |
|--------------------|--|
| Session 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">GSSB members to confirm their availability for the proposed meeting dates for 2020. |
| Session 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">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. |
| Standards Division | |
| Session 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">SD to amend lines 257-258 of the draft meeting summary for 24-25 September based on GSSB feedback.SD to send out meeting invites for 2020 to GSSB members following confirmation of their availability. |
| Session 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">SD to send the GSSB an overview of Standards downloads for all available languages ahead of the GSSB meeting on 10 December. |
| Session 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">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.SD to send the questions for public comment on the draft GSSB work program to the GSSB for review. |

15 Session I: Welcome

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

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

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

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

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

Actions:

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

32 Session 2: Update Standards Division

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Actions:

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

57 Session 3: Review GSSB Work Program 58 2020-2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

90 **GSSB Decision 2019.19** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 03 – Draft GSSB Work Program](#)
91 [2020-2022](#) for public comment.

Actions:

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

98 Session 4: Any other business / Close of 99 public meeting

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

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

106 Sessions 5-7: Executive sessions

107 The remaining sessions of the meeting were private sessions.