



Item 03 – GRI Sector Standards Project for Mining – Working group terms of reference

For GSSB approval

Date	3 June 2021
Meeting	17 June 2021
Project	GRI Sector Standards Project for Mining
Description	<p>This document sets out the terms of reference for the Working Group for the GRI Sector Standards Project for Mining.</p> <p>Where there is content that needs to be added or confirmed at the commencement of the project, it is highlighted in yellow.</p>

This document has been prepared by the GRI Standards Division and is made available to observers at meetings of the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB). 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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For more information: visit the [\[project webpage\]](#) and [sign up here](#) to receive regular updates.

2 Terms of Reference

3 These Terms of Reference outline the mandate of the Working Group for the GRI Sector Standards
4 Project for Mining (Mining Working Group), including its selection and appointment, primary objectives
5 and time commitments.

6 Background

7 The Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB), GRI's independent standard-setting body, has
8 identified the mining sector as a priority sector for developing a GRI Sector Standards (Sector
9 Standards).

10 The objective of sustainability reporting using the GRI Standards is to provide transparency on how
11 an organization contributes or aims to contribute to sustainable development. The GRI Standards
12 enable an organization to publicly disclose its most significant impacts on the economy, environment,
13 and people, including impacts on human rights, and how the organization manages these impacts.

14 Sector Standards provide information for organizations in a given sector about their likely material
15 topics. Sector Standards also contains a list of disclosures for organizations in the sector to report
16 information about their impacts in relation to each likely material topic. They are designed to enhance
17 the global comparability and quality of information within a sector, thereby enabling greater
18 transparency and accountability of organizations, and informed decision-making by stakeholders.

19 The primary objective of GRI Sector Standards Project for Mining is to develop a Sector Standard that
20 improves the sustainability reporting of mining organizations, making reporting more complete and
21 consistent across the sector. It will be carried out following the [GSSB Due Process Protocol](#).

22 See the [\[project proposal\]](#) for more information.

23 Mandate of the Mining Working Group

24 Sector Standards are developed using multi-stakeholder expertise, authoritative intergovernmental
25 instruments, and other relevant evidence. The Mining Working Group is to contribute their expertise to
26 the development of a Sector Standard for Mining. The overall work of the Mining Working Group
27 should support sustainability reporting as promoted by the GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards
28 (GRI Standards).

29 Scope of work

30 The Mining Working Group will be responsible for developing a Sector Standard for the mining sector,
31 for the consideration of the GSSB. Within the context of the GRI Sector Program, the mining sector is
32 defined as described in the [\[project proposal\]](#).

33 The Mining Working Group will be tasked with providing recommendations on:

- 34 • The context of the mining sector in relation to sustainable development, including relevant
35 Sustainable Development Goals and international instruments and agreements.
- 36 • The likely material topics for organizations in the mining sector, based on the sector's
37 significant impacts on the environment, economy and people, including human rights;
- 38 • The description of these impacts and authoritative references that evidence these impacts;
- 39 • The disclosures from GRI Topic Standards that are relevant for organizations from the mining
40 sector to report on each likely material topic;
- 41 • Additional reporting that is recommended for disclosure by organizations in the mining sector.
42 Additional sector reporting is only included when the Topic Standards do not provide
43 disclosures that sufficiently reflect the impacts associated with the sector.
44

45 The Mining Work Group may also provide recommendations on:

- 46 • The scope, key and name of the Sector Standard;
- 47 • Considerations that may be relevant to Sector Standards for related sectors;
- 48 • Revisions or updates to other GRI Standards.

49 Impacts identified within this project for which no GRI Standard exists will be assessed and prioritized
50 by the GSSB for future GRI Standards development.

51 **Responsibilities of other entities**

52 The Standards Division is responsible for:

- Overall project management and ensuring compliance with the [GSSB Due Process Protocol](#);
- Facilitating, providing logistical support and preparing materials for Working Group meetings;
- Maintaining an online collaboration platform for the Working Group;
- Engaging with the GSSB and other GRI Governance bodies;
- Engaging other experts and interested parties in a peer review and on an as needed basis;
- Coordinating public exposure of the draft Sector Standard, including collecting and summarizing feedback for consideration by the Working Group;
- Undertaking research to support the development of the Sector Standard; and
- Drafting the content of the Sector Standard.

53 The Standards Division will draft the Sector Standard and other relevant deliverables in accordance
54 with the recommendations of the Working Group. The content of the Sector Standard will be drafted in
55 accordance with template and house rules for terminology, style and presentation. The Working
56 Group will **not** be responsible for editing the stylistic and grammatical presentation of deliverables.
57 Such edits will be undertaken by the Standards Division to ensure consistency with existing GRI
58 documents.

59 The GSSB votes on the approval of a draft of the Sector Standard for public exposure and the final
60 content of a Sector Standard. The GSSB will review the drafted contents and may ask the Mining
61 Working Group to conduct further research and/or develop the draft recommendations further.
62 Working group members should be committed to support the revision of draft contents in addition to
63 the development of these contents. Further information on the role and authority of the GSSB can be
64 found in the [GSSB Due Process Protocol](#).

65 **Additional considerations**

66 The development of the Sector Standard is to be carried out within the existing structure and template
67 of the GRI Standards, including preserving the hierarchy, coherence and implementation approach of
68 the GRI Standards. The content of Sector Standards must be in line with the in accordance model
69 outlined in [[GRI 1: Foundation 2021](#)].

70 The Mining Working Group should aim to develop topic descriptions that are clear, consistent, and
71 focused on impacts from a sustainable development perspective. Content should also seek to be in
72 line with key authoritative inter-governmental instruments (such as instruments of the United Nations,
73 the International Labour Organization, and the OECD) and consider the content of other business and
74 human rights reporting frameworks, such as the UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework.

75 The discussions of the Working Group are confidential but any recommendations made by the
76 Working Group to the GSSB will be publicly available in accordance with the [GSSB Due Process
77 Protocol](#).

78 GRI will hold the copyright of any deliverables associated with the project.

79 **Composition of the Mining Working Group**

80 It is anticipated that the Working Group will have up to 15 members. The Working Group will aim to
81 have at least one person drawn from each of the constituencies on which the membership of the
82 GSSB is based: business enterprises, investment institutions, labor, civil society, and mediating
83 institutions.

84 In addition, geographical, gender and cultural diversity will be considered. There can only be one
85 representative per organization in the Working Group.

86 **Table 1: Descriptions of constituencies represented on the Working Group**

Business enterprise	a) An enterprise (other than a mediating or investment institution) that has been established in order to generate a profit for the benefit of its investors or owners; or b) An organization representing the collective interests of those falling into category 'a'.
Investment institution	An enterprise that is primarily concerned with the direct or indirect, long-term investment of funds in business – including, but not limited to, asset owners, asset managers, development banks, exchanges, ratings agencies and market information brokers.
Labor	An organization established independently of employers and governments to represent the interests of workers.
Civil society	An organization established in order to promote or secure a public good relating to sustainability (environmental, social and governance) and that does not fall into any of the categories defined above.
Mediating institution	An individual or organization that provides goods and/or services associated with the reporting process and derives benefit from doing so.

87 A GSSB sponsor(s) may join Working Group meetings.

88 **Selection criteria**

89 In accordance with the [GSSB Due Process Protocol](#), members of the Working Group are appointed
90 by the GSSB. The principal criterion for selecting the Working Group is relevant knowledge and
91 experience of a broad range of sustainable development issues for the mining sector.

92 Members must be able to ability to participate in Working Group meetings held in English and provide
93 written English feedback when requested.

94 In addition, the following criteria will be considered:

- 95 • relevant knowledge of sustainability reporting for the sector;
- 96 • familiarity with the needs of users of sustainability reports;
- 97 • related experience with multi-stakeholder initiatives;
- 98 • understanding of and willingness to work in a consensus-based, multi-stakeholder working
99 group.

100 **Working Group commitments**

101 Working Group members are expected to:

- 102 • act in an individual capacity, exclusively in the public interest, and according to due process
103 as defined in the [GSSB Due Process Protocol](#);

- 104 • review the materials provided by the Standards Division in advance of Working Group
105 meetings, in order to be able to actively participate;
- 106 • provide timely feedback on documents or other materials distributed by the Standards
107 Division;
- 108 • work in the manner that aims at achieving consensus.

109 The development of the Sector Standard for Mining is expected to take up to 20 months following the
110 appointment of the Working Group. See the timeline included in the [\[project proposal\]](#).

111 Working Group members commit to attending approximately 25 hours of meetings and reviewing the
112 draft Sector Standard a minimum of three times during that period. Working Group members also
113 commit to plan sufficient time to prepare for meetings, review other materials and engage in
114 supplementary content creation methods. It is estimated that this may result in up to 50 hours of time
115 commitment across the project (excluding any necessary travel time).

116 Meetings and other engagement methods will vary depending on the needs of the Working Group and
117 the project. Commonly used methods include full group meetings in-person and virtually, sub-group
118 workshops, and use of digital content creation platforms. The use of these methods will also take into
119 account any travel restrictions or risk factors related to Covid-19.

120 Virtual meetings are normally held between 1.00-2:30 pm Central European Time (CET), so that
121 members in most time zones can join. This will be adjusted based on the final geographical
122 representation of the Working Group.

123 In the event of an in-person meeting, Working Group members will be asked to attend a two-day
124 meeting in Amsterdam (excluding travel time).

125 See appendix 1 for the proposed meeting schedule and an itemized time commitment.

126 Working Group members volunteer their time. There is no fee or compensation associated with
127 participation in the Working Group. Upon request, Working Group members will be eligible for travel
128 and accommodation reimbursement for in-person meetings, in accordance with GRI policies.

129 **Public communications protocol**

130 Public communication on issues related to the activities of the Working Group and the development of
131 the GRI Standards is the responsibility of the GSSB. Working Group members may publicly express
132 their personal opinions and views but may not speak on behalf of the Working Group, GSSB or GRI.

133 The names and bios of members will be published on the GRI website. Members are welcome to
134 publicize their participation in, and the activities of the Working Group, in channels such as press
135 releases or on social media. Members are asked to work with the Standards Division or GRI's
136 communication team to coordinate any such activity ahead of time.

137 Working Group members are advised to use the following when referring to their participation in this
138 process:

139 "[name of member] has been appointed by the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB), GRI's
140 independent standard setting body, to serve on a Working Group to produce a Standard for the
141 mining sector."

142 **How to apply**

143 Once the open call is launched, all interested experts will be able to nominate themselves to be part
144 of the Mining Working Group, by submitting their CV and the application form to
145 [\[mining@globalreporting.org\]](mailto:mining@globalreporting.org).
146

147 **Appendix 1. Meeting schedule**

148 [To be completed prior to Working Group recruitment: the proposed schedule of meetings will be
149 determined based on the timing of the commencement of the project, the travel limitations anticipated
150 at that time, and the outcomes of the pilot projects.]

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