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# **GSSB summary of the virtual meeting held on 20 April 2023**

**Approved by the GSSB on 16 May 2023**

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# Participants

Present:

Name	Constituency
<b>Carol Adams</b>	Chair
<b>Jeff Robertson</b>	Vice-Chair
<b>Loredana Carta</b>	Labor
<b>Peter Colley</b>	Labor
<b>Chulendra De Silva</b>	Mediating institution
<b>Giulia Genuardi</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Vincent Kong</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Corli le Roux</b>	Mediating institution
<b>Joseph Martin</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Anna Nefedova</b>	Mediating institution
<b>Deborah Ng</b>	Investment Institution
<b>Jennifer Princing</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Kim Schumacher</b> (joined at 13.10)	Civil society organization
<b>Gangaa Charan Sharma</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Galya Tsonkova</b>	Business enterprise

In attendance from GRI:

Name	Position
Bastian Buck	Chief of Standards
Harold Pauwels	Director Standards
Margherita Barbieri	Manager Standards
Matthew Dunn	Manager Standards
Gillian Balaban	Sr. Coordinator Governance Relations

## List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full name
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board
SD	Standards Division
WG	Working group
TC	Technical committee
EFRAG	European Financial Reporting Advisory Group
ISSB	International Sustainability Standards Board
UNEP FI	United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative

# Decisions and action items

The GSSB resolved to approve the following:

GSSB Decision	Item number
2023.11	02 – <a href="#">GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change – Proposed members for Technical Committee</a>

## Session 1: Welcome

The Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) Chair Carol Adams (henceforth the Chair) welcomed the GSSB. The Chair presented an overview of the meeting agenda. A quorum was established, and the above item was presented to the GSSB for approval.

## Session 2: Update Standards Division

Chief of Standards, Bastian Buck, provided an update on the ongoing Topic and Sector Standard projects.

Head of Technical Development, Laura Espinach, followed with a presentation on the text of Box 1 in *GRI 1: Foundation 2021*. Box 1, as it currently reads, which explains the link between sustainability reporting and financial and value creation reporting, needs updating to reflect the latest developments by ISSB and EFRAG. The SD has prepared a revised text in line with the near-final versions of ISSB and EFRAG standards. This text is not final but informs the GSSB's position on the relationship between the different standards. Any proposed changes to the GRI Standards must follow the Due Process Protocol.

There is general agreement on the proposed text, with the following points made by GSSB members:

- The last paragraph should say that sustainability reporting with the GRI Standards is 'independent of considering sustainability-related risks and opportunities' rather than being 'independent of sustainability-related risks and opportunities'.
- The use of the term prospects is very broad, and it would require clarification. It would be beneficial to clarify ISSB's focus on investors, creditors, and lenders (primary users) at the outset.
- Impacts will result in a financial implication either in the short term or in the long term, and hence impact materiality is a precursor to financial materiality. Financial materiality is a subset of impact materiality when considering a long-term perspective.

- 27 • The last paragraph could make it clearer that organizations cannot de-prioritize reporting on  
28 impacts based on definitions of materiality of other frameworks (e.g., financial materiality,  
29 double materiality).

30 In response to questions and comments from the GSSB, the SD clarified that the ISSB had removed  
31 the reference to 'significant risks and opportunities' in favor of 'risks and opportunities' that could  
32 reasonably be expected to affect an entity's business model and strategy. The ISSB also does not  
33 use the terms financial materiality or financial risks and opportunities.

34 The proposed text will also be discussed with ISSB and EFRAG.

## 35 **Session 3: Topic Standard Project for** 36 **Economic Impact – Proposed** 37 **framework and scope**

38 Matthew Dunn, Manager Standards, presented the proposed framework and scope of the project.

39 Five themes were presented as follows:

- 40 • Goods and services
- 41 • Distributed value
- 42 • Job creation
- 43 • Economic governance
- 44 • Economic multiplier

45 In response to GSSB questions and comments, the following points regarding the scope of the project  
46 were clarified:

- 47 • Goods and services must focus on economic impact, as the consumption of goods and  
48 services can have other impacts unrelated to economic impacts.
- 49 • Pricing strategies can restrict access to goods and services, resulting in various impacts. Due  
50 to competition, revealing the pricing strategy is also of concern.
- 51 • Direct and indirect government subsidies and other values generated or distributed are to be  
52 incorporated in one disclosure. Also, a decision must be made on how to report these,  
53 quantitatively or qualitatively.
- 54 • Economic multiplier theme will focus on the organization's indirect and long-term effects on  
55 the broader economy. Capacity building within the organization and along its value chain, RD,  
56 innovation, and investment in infrastructure projects are important elements of this theme.
- 57 • Economic governance complements distributed value theme and may need to be described in  
58 sequence.

59 **Session 4: Topic Standard Project for**  
60 **Climate Change – Updated TC**  
61 **membership**

62 Margherita Barbieri, Manager Standards, provided a project update and presented the GSSB with  
63 Item 02 – [GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change – Proposed members for Technical](#)  
64 [Committee for approval](#).

65 The project is taking a programmatic approach that extensively utilizes subgroups to manage content  
66 development, with the first group of nominations approved by the GSSB in the March meeting.  
67 Today’s nominations include three business enterprises (IT, energy, and chemical industries) and two  
68 civil society representatives. The May meeting will present nominations from the labor constituency  
69 and the African and Latin American regions. The project team has also built a considerable network  
70 for peer review to fill potential gaps in regional focus.

71 In response to a GSSB question, the SD noted that the composition of the TC includes the five  
72 constituencies. UNEP FI represents the investment constituency and financial sectors in the project  
73 context.

74 The GSSB approves the following:

GSSB Decision	Item number
2023.11	02 – <a href="#">GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change – Proposed members for Technical Committee</a>

75 **Session 5: Close of public meeting**

76 No other business was raised, and the Chair closed the public meeting at 13.48 Central European  
77 Summer Time (CEST).