



Item 05 - Draft Activity Report 2020-2022

1 For GSSB information

Date	15 March 2023
Meeting	28 March 2023
Project	GSSB Activity Report 2020-2022
Description	Draft GSSB Activity Report 2020-2022 for information and feedback by GSSB members

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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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4 Introduction

5 The Global Sustainability Standards Board

6 The Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) is responsible for issuing the GRI Sustainability
7 Reporting Standards ([GRI Standards](#)). The GSSB is an independent operating entity established
8 under the auspices of GRI. It comprises 15 members representing diverse stakeholder perspectives
9 and a range of expertise on sustainability reporting. The GSSB operates under its [Terms of](#)
10 [Reference](#) and follows a formally defined due process to ensure that the GRI Standards are
11 developed in the public interest through an independent, transparent, and multi-stakeholder process.
12 The [Due Process Oversight Committee](#) oversees the application of the [GSSB Due Process Protocol](#).

13 Overview of GSSB activities 2020-2022

14 Between the first quarter of 2020 to the final quarter of 2022, the GSSB developed the GRI Standards
15 according to the priorities identified in the [GSSB Work Program 2020-2022](#). During this period, the
16 GSSB convened 35 virtual meetings and only one in-person meeting spanning two days in October
17 2022 due to Covid-19 related travel restrictions during this period.

18 The GSSB approved *GRI 306: Waste 2020* and steered the development and final approval of the
19 revised GRI Universal Standards 2021, comprising *GRI 1: Foundation 2021*, *GRI 2: General*
20 *Disclosures 2021*, and *GRI 3: Material Topics 2021*.

21 In the Sector Program, the GSSB approved the list of sectors prioritized in the work program. This
22 period also saw the completion of the Sector Program pilot projects, culminating in the publication of
23 *GRI 11: Oil and Gas Sector 2021*, *GRI 12: Coal Sector 2022*, and *GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture*
24 *and Fishing Sectors 2022*.

25 In addition, the GSSB approved projects for the mining sector and revision projects for biodiversity
26 and labor. The GSSB also approved project proposals for the food and beverages sector, the textiles
27 and apparel sector, and the draft project proposals for climate and financial services.

28 Timeline of meetings and activities

29 2020

30 In 2020, the GSSB continued with the work to revise the Universal Standards and discussed feedback
31 on specific concepts and disclosures, with the eventual approvals of exposure drafts *GRI 101*, *102*,
32 and *103*. After nearly 150 submissions were received on the Universal Standards exposure drafts, the
33 GSSB discussed the substantive comments made by the public on key concepts, the statement of
34 use, governance disclosures, and the reporting model.

35 The final version of *GRI 306: Waste 2020* was approved, with an effective date of 1 January 2022.
36 For the Sector Program, the GSSB supported the decision to develop coal as a separate Standard
37 and approved the exposure draft of the GRI Sector Standard for Oil and Gas.
38 After considering the final list of prioritized sectors, the GSSB revised and approved the GSSB Work
39 Program 2020-2022.

40 **Q1 2020**

41 6 February – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

42 11 February – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

43 26 March – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

44 **Universal Standards**

- 45 • Discussed feedback regarding *GRI 102* governance disclosures by the International
46 Corporate Governance Network (ICGN).

47 **Waste**

- 48 • Approved the final version of *GRI 306: Waste 2020*, without the need for re-exposure, with an
49 effective date of 1 January 2022. A further decision was made to withdraw *GRI 306: Effluents*
50 *and Waste 2016* as of 31 December 2021.

51 **Oil, gas and coal**

- 52 • Discussed the draft GRI Sector Standard for Oil, Gas and Coal.

53 **Q2 2020**

54 23 April – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

55 20 May – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

56 18 June – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

57 **Oil, gas and coal**

- 58 • Reviewed the findings of the Project Working Group on the scope of the Sector Standard,
59 which found that although there are similarities across sectors, including three sectors in one
60 standard may impede their uptake.
- 61 • Resolved to support the decision to develop coal as a single standard and to revise and
62 submit the Sector Standard for oil and gas for further public comment.
- 63 • The GSSB resolved to approve the exposure draft for *GRI 11: Oil and Gas Sector*.

64 **Agriculture and fishing**

- 65 • Approved the Project Working Group composition.

66 **Universal Standards**

- 67 • Discussed the inclusion of a management ‘sign-off’ statement in the Universal Standards in
68 order for the senior decision-maker of an organization reporting using the GRI Standards to
69 acknowledge responsibility for the organization’s use of the GRI Standards.
- 70 • Approved the exposure draft of the Universal Standards: *GRI 101, 102, and 103* in the
71 meeting held on 20 May 2020.

72 **Q3 2020**

73 15 September – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

74 **Human Rights**

- 75 • Approved proposed member for GRI Topic Standard Project for Human Rights Technical
76 Committee.

77 **Work Program 2020–2022**

- 78 • Discussed the overview of public comments received on the draft GSSB Work Program 2020-
79 2022.

80 **Q4 2020**

81 22 October – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

82 5 November – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

83 19 November – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

84 3 December – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

85 10 December – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

86 **Work Program 2020–2022**

- 87 • Discussed and approved the revised work program for 2020-2022 and the revised list of
88 prioritized sectors for the GRI Sector Standards Program.

89 **Oil, gas and coal**

- 90 • Approved an additional member to the GRI Sector Standard Project for Oil, Gas and Coal
91 Working Group.

92

93 **Universal Standards**

- 94 • Discussed public comments on key concepts, the statement of use, the reporting model,
95 governance disclosures, and the sustainable development dimensions in the Universal
96 Standards exposure draft.
- 97 • Discussed the public comments on the use of Sector Standards collected during the exposure
98 periods for the Universal Standards and the Oil and Gas Sector Standard. The GSSB
99 recommended that the Standards Division explore the development of a requirement to
100 'comply or explain' for instances where a Sector Standard is in place, together with guidance
101 or a recommendation for reporting on commonly associated topics for a sector where no
102 Sector Standard exists.

103 **2021**

104 The GSSB approved the final version of the revised GRI Universal Standards (*GRI 1: Foundation*
105 *2021*, *GRI 2: General Disclosures 2021*, and *GRI 3: Material Topics 2021*), with an effective date of 1
106 January 2023.

107 *GRI 11: Oil and Gas Sector 2021* was also approved for publication, with an effective date of 1
108 January 2023, marking the first completed sector standard. Additionally, exposure drafts for *GRI 12:*
109 *Coal Sector* and *GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors* were approved. The mining
110 sector project was officially initiated.

111 For Topic Standards, the revision of *GRI 304: Biodiversity 2016* was initiated.

112 **Q1 2021**

113 21 January – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

114 25 February – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

115 4 March – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

116 23 March – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

117 25 March – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

118 **Universal Standards**

- 119 • Continued discussions on the public feedback of the exposure drafts, focusing on key
120 concepts, the statement of use, the reporting model, governance disclosures, and the
121 sustainable development dimensions.

122 **Work Program 2020-2022**

- 123 • Discussed the project schedule for 2021, as included in the GSSB Work Program 2020-
124 2022.

125 Mining

- 126 • Approved draft project proposal for GRI Sector Standard project for Mining.

127 Q2 2021

128 29 April – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

129 10 June – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

130 17 June – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

131 Universal Standards

- 132 • Approved GRI Universal Standards 2021, without re-exposure, with an effective date of 1
133 January 2023.
- 134 • Resolved to approve withdrawal by 31 December 2022 of the GRI Universal Standards 2016,
135 as well as Topic Standards *GRI 307: Environmental Compliance 2016*, *GRI 412: Human
136 Rights Assessment 2016*, and *GRI 419: Socioeconomic Compliance 2016* as their contents
137 were incorporated into the Universal Standards 2021.

138 Oil, gas and coal

- 139 • Provided feedback on the final draft of the GRI Sector Standard for Oil and Gas.
- 140 • Approved exposure draft for GRI Sector Standard for Coal.

141 Agriculture, aquaculture and fishing

- 142 • Resolved to approve the change of the Sector Standard's name to include aquaculture.
- 143 • Approved exposure draft for GRI Sector Standard for Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Fishing.

144 Mining

- 145 • Approved project proposal for GRI Sector Standard for Mining.

146 Q3 2021

147 1 July – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

148 23 September – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

149 Oil, gas and coal

- 150 • Approved *GRI 11: Oil and Gas Sector 2021*, without re-exposure, with an effective date of 1
151 January 2023.

152

153 **Biodiversity**

- 154 • Approved draft project proposal and final proposal for GRI Topic Standard project for
155 Biodiversity.

156 **Q4 2021**

157 21 October – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

158 18 November – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

159 9 December – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

160 **Work Program 2020-2022**

- 161 • GSSB discussed the 2022 addendum to the GSSB Work Program 2020-2022, outlining key
162 priorities for 2022.

163 **Food and beverages**

- 164 • Approved draft project proposal for GRI Sector Standard project for Food and Beverages.

165 **Textiles and apparel**

- 166 • Approved draft project proposal for GRI Sector Standard project for Textiles and Apparel.

167 **Biodiversity**

- 168 • The GSSB approved the Technical Committee composition by electronic vote.
- 169 • Approved an additional member of the Technical Committee for the Topic Standard project
170 for Biodiversity.

171 **Mining**

- 172 • Approved the proposed working group for the GRI Sector Standard project for Mining.

173 **Oil, gas and coal**

- 174 • Provided feedback on the key conclusions from the public exposure period for the GRI
175 Sector Standard for Coal.

176 **2022**

177 The GSSB concluded the project for the development of a standard for the coal sector with the
178 approval and launch of *GRI 12: Coal Sector 2022*. The GSSB approved the final *GRI 13: Agriculture,*
179 *Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022*. The GSSB initiated a project to review the labor-related GRI
180 Topic Standards. The GSSB also approved final project proposals for the food and beverages sector,
181 the textiles and apparel sector, the draft project proposal for the financial services sector, and the

182 draft project proposal for climate. The GSSB held an in-person meeting in Amsterdam in October, at
183 which the GSSB approved the draft Work Program 2023-2025 for public comment.

184 **Q1 2022**

185 10 February – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

186 17 March – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

187 **GSSB Work Program**

- 188 • Approved addendum to work program 2020-2022, outlining key work priorities for 2022.
- 189 • Started discussions on the development of the new work program 2023-2025, including a
190 process to invite external parties to provide feedback on priorities for the review of existing
191 and development of new GRI Standards.
- 192 • Sector Standards will continue to be developed in 2022 according to the priority list as
193 resourcing enables.

194 **Coal**

- 195 • Approved *GRI 12: Coal Sector 2022*, without the need for re-exposure, effective 1 January
196 2024 and subject to the proposed changes agreed with the GSSB.

197 **Food and beverages**

- 198 • Approved the final project proposal.

199 **Textiles and apparel**

- 200 • Approved the final project proposal.
- 201 • Apparel and footwear retail are included in the project scope.

202 **Agriculture, aquaculture, and fishing**

- 203 • Discussed feedback from the Public Comment Period on the Sector Standard's revised draft.

204 **Q2 2022**

205 28 April – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

206 19 May – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

207 16 June – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

208 **Agriculture, aquaculture and fishing**

- 209 • Approved *GRI 13: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022*, with an effective date
210 of 1 January 2024 and subject to the proposed changes agreed with the GSSB.

211 **Labor**

- 212 • Approved the GRI Topic Standard Project for Labor – draft project proposal.

213 **Q3 2022**

214 7 July – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

215 15 September – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

216 **Labor**

- 217 • Approved the final project proposal. The proposed timeline is expected to be 25 months.
- 218 • Approved the proposed members for the technical committee.
- 219 • A call for experts to join the advisory group to support the technical committee was launched.

220 **Work Program 2023-2025**

- 221 • Discussed the preparation of the draft GSSB Work Program 2023-2025 and the key priority
222 areas: the review of existing Topic and Sector Standards; the development of new Topic and
223 Sector Standards; a research program to support the development of Standards; cooperation
224 with other partners; and translations.

Q4 2022

225 18-19 October – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

226 17 November – [Agenda](#) / [Summary](#)

227 **Work Program 2023-2025**

- 228 • Approved the draft GSSB Work Program 2023-2025.
- 229 • Approved revised list of prioritized sectors.

230 **Financial services**

- 231 • One financial services project will cover banking, insurance, and capital markets with a
232 proposed timeline of approximately 30 months.
- 233 • Approved the draft project proposal.

234 **Climate**

- 235 • Approved draft project proposal.

236 **Labor**

- 237 • Approved the list of proposed experts for the advisory group.

GSSB members and constituencies

2020	2021	2022
Judy Kuszewski - Chair	Judy Kuszewski - Chair	Judy Kuszewski - Chair
Robyn Leeson - Vice-Chair	Robyn Leeson - Vice-Chair	Robyn Leeson - Vice-Chair
Loredana Carta - Labor	Loredana Carta - Labor	Loredana Carta - Labor
Peter Colley - Labor	Peter Colley - Labor	Peter Colley - Labor
Evan Harvey - Investment institution	Giulia Genuardi - Business enterprise	Giulia Genuardi - Business enterprise
Kirsten Margrethe Hovi - Business enterprise	Evan Harvey - Investment institution	Evan Harvey - Investment institution
Bruce Klafter - Business enterprise	Vincent Kong - Business enterprise	Vincent Kong - Business enterprise
Vincent Kong - Business enterprise	Corli le Roux - Mediating institution	Corli le Roux - Mediating institution
Corli le Roux - Mediating institution	Joseph Martin - Business enterprise	Joseph Martin - Business enterprise
Joseph Martin - Business enterprise	Jennifer Princing - Business enterprise	Anna Nefedova - Mediating institution
Tung-Li Mo - Civil society organization	Kim Schumacher - Civil society organization	Jennifer Princing - Business enterprise
Jennifer Princing - Business enterprise	Gustavo Sinner - Mediating institution	Kim Schumacher - Civil society organization
Gustavo Sinner - Mediating institution	Kenton Swift - Civil society organization	Gangaa Charan Sharma - Business enterprise
Kenton Swift - Civil society organization	Rama Krishnan Venkateswaran - Investment institution	Kenton Swift - Civil society organization
Rama Krishnan Venkateswaran - Investment institution	Michel Washer - Business enterprise	Rama Krishnan Venkateswaran - Investment institution
Michel Washer - Business enterprise		Michel Washer - Business enterprise