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GRI Topic Climate Change Standard(s) project

Subgroup member biographies

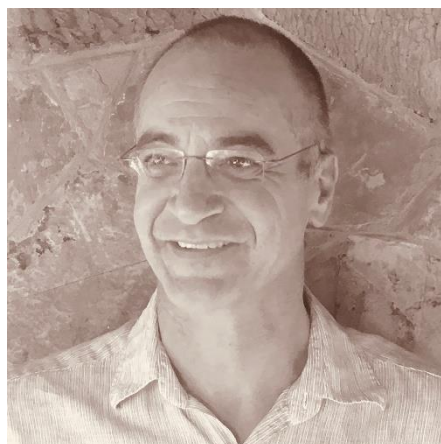
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Subgroup members

In accordance with due process, the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) has selected the following members to participate in the subgroup that will be responsible for reviewing the Climate Change disclosures in the GRI Standards. The members represent diverse, multi-stakeholder backgrounds and bring an excellent combination of relevant knowledge and experience in Climate Change.



Brandon Abdinor

Climate Advocacy Lawyer, Centre for Environmental Rights, South Africa

Constituency: Civil Society

Brandon joined the CER as a Climate Advocacy Lawyer in 2021. In this role he engages with climate change related laws and policies with a view to helping ensure that these are effective and advance the needs of climate justice for all. The role includes liaising with a wide range of stakeholders to gather and share information and build consensus around legal advocacy in pursuit of an increasingly sound and just climate change response. Since March 2023, Brandon has been acting at the Head: pollution and Climate Change programme overseeing all activities.

He obtained an LLB from University of the Witwatersrand and was admitted as an attorney in 1998 after serving articles at Routledges Incorporated in Johannesburg. He went on to fulfil various management and legal roles in the corporate sector before opening his own legal and consulting practice in 2018, focussing on dispute resolution and sustainability matters.

Brandon became aware of the extent of the environmental crisis in the early 2000's, which led him to introduce climate change response and general sustainability initiatives into the organisations he was leading at the time. Some of these efforts culminated in a greening of a corporate head office, the formulation of energy efficient building standards for the construction industry, climate change awareness training and standing engagement on the Durban Climate Change Partnership.

Most recently Brandon acted as first a board member, then consulting associate at Earthlife Africa, which saw him design and deliver legal rights training for grassroots communities, as well as provide legal support on various environmental campaigns.



Avi Allison

Carbon Portfolio Strategy Lead, Microsoft, United States

Constituency: Business Enterprise

Avi Allison is a Carbon Portfolio Strategy Lead at Microsoft, where he focuses on Microsoft's electricity decarbonization strategy and Microsoft's approach to carbon accounting. Mr. Allison's recent work has included developing Microsoft's approach to addressing its upstream (supply chain) and downstream (sold products) electricity emissions and coordinating Microsoft's position regarding the evolution of corporate carbon accounting standards. Previously, Mr. Allison worked as a program manager within Microsoft's Cloud Operations & Innovation Energy team, where he developed and executed strategies to supply Microsoft datacenters with reliable, affordable, sustainable energy. Prior to joining Microsoft in 2020, Mr. Allison worked as a consultant with Synapse Energy Economics. In that role, Mr. Allison conducted research, developed analyses, and authored reports and expert testimony on a variety of electric-sector topics, including resource planning, power plant economics, rate design, market design, and emission reduction strategies. Earlier in his career, Mr. Allison conducted research on climate change and environmental health topics for nonprofit environmental organizations. Mr. Allison holds a Master of Environmental Management from Yale University and a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Columbia University.



David Burns

Senior Associate with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, United States

Constituency: Mediation Institution

David is a Senior Associate with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, focused on market-based approaches, strategy development, governance, and external stakeholder engagement. He also serves as WRI's Natural Climate Solutions Policy Lead. Based in the Climate Program but working closely with experts across the organization, he supports WRI's engagement with key stakeholders and initiatives working on Nature-based Solutions and carbon markets, guides relevant research, and coordinates communications on the use of nature to enhance climate ambition.

Prior to joining WRI, David served as a Senior Manager with the National Wildlife Federation, where his work centered on eliminating deforestation and human rights abuses from the production of globally traded agricultural commodities like palm oil, soy, and cattle products. He previously consulted for the World Bank and Climate Focus, specializing in REDD+, carbon markets, and land-use policy.

David holds a Master of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry (now Yale School of the Environment) and a B.A. from Bates College. He is based in Washington, DC.



Rahnuma Chowdhury

Consultant at the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), Switzerland

Constituency: Civil Society/ Investment institution (Non-Governmental Organization)

Rahnuma Chowdhury joined UNEP FI in February 2021, specialising in the development and implementation of transition plans for investors, specifically the Investor Climate Action Plans (ICAPs) Expectations Ladder. She sits across UNEP FI's Investment and Climate teams where she focuses on developing investor leadership practices in responsible investing and building approaches to track and assess investor performance on net zero commitments. She also acts as ICAPs Manager for the Investor Agenda and is UNEP FI's representative on the ICAPs WG. Rahnuma sits as an Advisor to the GFANZ Workstream on Financial Institution Transition Plans and on the Steering Group for the Act 4 Finance Decarbonising the Transition project. She was also an Expert on the Race to Zero Criteria Consultation for Transition Plans & Immediate Action.

Prior to her role at UNEP FI, Rahnuma worked on a number of projects relating to climate change for financial services firms including developing ESG frameworks, setting climate strategy and assessing sustainable investments within roles at QBE, PwC and the Bank of England. Rahnuma holds a BA in Public Affairs and Policy Management with High Honours from Carleton University in Ottawa and a MSc in Development Management from the London School of Economics.



Leanne Govindsamy

Head of the Corporate, Accountability and Transparency Programme, Centre for Environmental Rights, South Africa

Constituency: Civil Society

Leanne Govindsamy is a human rights lawyer working towards social and environmental justice. As head of the Corporate, Accountability and Transparency Programme at the Centre for Environmental Rights, she utilises legal advocacy and other tools to promote and protect constitutional rights and values through corporate accountability and transparency.”

Centre for Environmental Rights, Programme Head: Corporate Accountability and Transparency

Leanne holds an LLB from the Wits University and an LLM in International Human Rights Law summa cum laude from the

University of Notre Dame. She served as a law clerk in the Constitutional Court to Justice Tholakele Madala and worked briefly at legal NGOs in India, which reinforced her commitment to the attainment of social justice and the protection of human rights through judicial and non-judicial mechanisms of accountability. She completed her articles at the law firm Cheadle Thompson and Haysom, where she continued to work as an associate before joining Corruption Watch as Head of Legal and Investigations in 2014. She has obtained an MA in Anthropology from Wits University.

Leanne joined the Centre in October 2018 and manages its Corporate Accountability and Transparency programme.



Carolin Gresch

Consultant at the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), Switzerland

Constituency: Civil Society/ Investment institution (Non-Governmental Organization)

Carolin Gresch is a consultant at the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, where she has dedicated her efforts to the Un-convened Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance. Over the past two years, she has gained substantial expertise in the critical areas of climate target setting and reporting, while working within the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification Track of the Alliance. In addition to supporting the Target Setting Protocols, which are the flagship projects of the Alliance, Carolin manages the Working Groups of the MRV Track.

Prior to her work at UNEP FI, Carolin served as a member of the Climate Team of the Principles for Responsible Investment, contributing to various projects focused on financing the transition. She also provided support to the ESG Implementation Team of the Allianz Investment Management SE.

Carolin's academic achievements include a Master's degree in Management and Technology from the Technical University of Munich, with a focus in Finance & Accounting and Mechanical Engineering.



Mark Hodge

Vice President, Shift, United States

Constituency: Civil Society

As Vice President with Shift, Mark helps shape Shift strategy and oversees a range of collaborations with companies, governments, investors, civil society and other partners. Mark co-led Shift's Valuing Respect Project, focused on developing better ways to evaluate business respect for human rights. He has extensive insight into how businesses implement the UN Guiding Principles in practice. As a trained moderator and facilitator, Mark has deep interest and experience in leading processes that address complex challenges and lead to practical outcomes.

Based on Shift's leading expertise in advancing business respect for human rights consistent with the UNGPs, Shift is increasingly asked to partner with various climate and environment focused organisations to integrate a people-lens to their work. These have included the Climate Disclosures Standards Board (prior to its integration into ISSB); the Taskforce for Nature-Related Financial Disclosures and the Science-Based Target Network.

Mark has focused significantly on the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles in the context of emerging digital technologies such as AI, facial recognition, cloud computing and social media. He has served as Senior Advisor to the UN Human Rights *Business, Human Rights and Technology (B-Tech) project* to develop guidance and recommendations for companies, States and investors about how to embed respect for human rights into the business of technology. Mark has also been a Technology and Human Rights Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Carr Center.

Mark was previously the Executive Director of the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights (GBI) which he co-founded in 2009. In that role he led the development of GBI's cross-industry peer learning program that addressed the daily realities and dilemmas of doing business with respect for human rights. His work also included a project on leverage in corporate lending and project finance for the Dutch Banking Sector Agreement on International Responsible Business Conduct, and the development of a program of work on new digital technologies for the Institute for Human Rights and Business. Mark has designed and delivered training and capacity building around the world to business leaders, NGO representatives and students, and conducted factory and mine assessments and field visits in several countries with a focus on India, where he was based between 2009 and 2012.



Injy Johnstone

Research Associate within the Oxford Sustainable Finance Group, University of Oxford, UK

Constituency: Mediation Institution (Academic)

Injy is a Research Associate within the Oxford Sustainable Finance Group working to establish a new research programme focused on offsetting. She is a PhD Candidate in International Environmental Law at the Faculty of Law at Victoria University of Wellington and an Enrolled Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand. Her research focuses on conceiving Net-Zero as a source of new legal norms and delving into their substance, including the environmental integrity of carbon markets. Injy has attended Columbia University as a Visiting Scholar and Edinburgh Law School as a Visiting Researcher. Prior to this, and as a Fulbright scholar, Injy gained an LLM in Environmental and Energy Law from the University of Colorado-Boulder. She also holds an LLB(Hons) from Victoria University of Wellington and a BSc in Physical Geography and Economics from the University of Otago. Throughout her career Injy has worked with and for a range of public, private and third-sector entities across four continents. These include Oxford Net-Zero, the Global Center on Adaptation, UNESCO and the UN MGCY. While at New Zealand's Ministry for the Environment she was the Project Administrator for New Zealand's Zero Carbon Act. Injy attended COP26 and COP27 as an observer focused on Article 6 Carbon Markets and is keenly interested in how Article 6 will be operationalised in coming years. She is also currently part of the Early Career Scholars for an Inclusive Stocktake (ECSIS) program



José Luis Reséndiz

Doctoral Researcher at the Oxford Sustainable Finance Group, University of Oxford, UK

Constituency: Mediation Institution (Academic)

José Luis Reséndiz is a Doctoral Researcher at the Oxford Sustainable Finance Group, specializing in transition finance and business model transformation aligned with a net-zero and nature-positive economy. His research is focused on sustainability-linked finance and transition plans in the power and aviation sectors. In addition to his role at Oxford, he is a Research Fellow at Boston University's Global Development Policy Center and a member of the Secretariat for the UK Transition Plan Taskforce, established by HM Treasury. This taskforce aims to develop the standard for corporate climate transition plans in the UK and inform the FCA. José Luis has provided consultation and policy advisory services on sustainable finance and energy policy to governments and multilateral agencies, including the World Bank and the Government of Mexico City



Michael Macrae

Senior Manager with Greenhouse Gas Protocol, United States

Constituency: Mediation Institution

Michael Macrae is a member of WRI's GHG Protocol Secretariat facilitating the review and update process for the Scope 2 Guidance. Prior to WRI, he led development of Enel North America's market advocacy and regulatory strategy for the North eastern United States, ensuring and enabling growth of distributed energy resources, renewable generation and storage, demand response, and electric vehicle infrastructure. Michael has also worked with Harvard University, managing the University's wholesale and retail electricity market participation, developing energy procurement strategies to meet energy supply, environmental, and sustainability needs. Leadership positions in that capacity included serving as Vice Chair of the NEPOOL End User Sector, Vice Chair of the NEPOOL-GIS working group, and a member of the joint nominating committee for the ISO-NE Board of Directors. With Harvard he also oversaw the University's state and federal regulatory air compliance programs, including permitting a new Combined Heat and Power (CHP) unit and a new District Energy Facility as well as managing Harvard's voluntary Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG inventory. He serves on his town's Municipal Light Board of Directors and teaches courses on corporate carbon accounting at the Harvard University. Michael earned his PhD in chemistry from University of California, San Diego.



Fernando Reyes-González

Environmental Monitoring & Reporting Program Manager, Microsoft, United States

Constituency: Business Enterprise

Fernando is the Environmental Monitoring & Reporting Program Manager within the CELA Sustainability team at Microsoft. In this role, he leads the measurement and reporting of environmental impacts across the business by working with stakeholders to identify objectives, key results and environmental impacts across the organization, and collaboratively determine goals/KPIs to track progress. Prior to Microsoft, Fernando spent 12 years with Johnson Controls, part of their corporate sustainability team leading the internal and external reporting of environmental sustainability data; third party data audit and CDP response; sustainability metrics projections; and supported various sustainability initiatives. Fernando is originally from Monterrey, Mexico and has a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Environmental Engineering from ITESM (Monterrey Tec); and a Masters in Environmental Management from IIT Stuart School of Business in Chicago, IL.



Katie Sierks

Senior Program Manager Carbon Removal, Microsoft, United States

Constituency: Business Enterprise

Katie Sierks is a Senior Program Manager on the Microsoft Carbon Removal Team. She procures high-quality carbon removals to ensure Microsoft achieves ambitious carbon neutrality and carbon negativity commitments. She aims to develop a high-quality, global voluntary carbon market by catalyzing market growth, transparency, and accessibility.

Prior to Microsoft, Katie helped launch and scale Corteva's Carbon Initiative, enabling farmers to de-risk the adoption of new, soil-health building practices. She also worked in engineering, corporate sustainability, and supply chain management roles at Cargill and Walmart. Katie completed an MBA and Masters of Environmental Management at Yale University and bachelors in Environmental Engineering and Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard College.



Ally Wilson

Senior Leader in Sustainability Standards, Microsoft, United States

Constituency: Business Enterprise

Ally is a senior leader in Sustainability Operations with three decades of successful experience with Microsoft in data, systems and digital transformation. In her current role, she leads enterprise sustainability data measurement, governance, and internal/external disclosures. Driven by the desire to create and innovate, she is leading efforts to transform climate physical and transition risk enterprise modelling. A relative newcomer to the Sustainability discipline, Ally brings operational structure and discipline to support progress against commitments. Ally is inspired by finding new ways to integrate technology to streamline, automate and unlock solutions.