



# **GSSB summary of the virtual call held on 14 December 2023**

**Approved by the GSSB by electronic vote during 18-  
20 December 2023**

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# 1 Participants

2 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>Anna Nefedova</b>	Mediating institution
<b>Jennifer Princing</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Kim Schumacher</b> (joined at 8.00)	Civil society organization
<b>Gangaa Charan Sharma</b> (joined at 7.30)	Business enterprise
<b>Galya Tsonkova</b>	Business enterprise

3 Apologies:

Name	Constituency
<b>Joseph Martin</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Deborah Ng</b>	Investment Institution

4 In attendance from GRI:

Name	Position
Bastian Buck	Chief of Standards
Noora Puro	Senior Manager Standards
Elodie Chêne	Senior Manager Standards
Miguel Pérez Ludeña	Research Lead
Gillian Balaban	Sr. Coordinator Governance Relations

# 5 List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full name
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board
SD	Standards Division
WG	Working group
DPOC	Due Process Oversight Committee

## 6 Decisions and action items

7 The GSSB resolved to approve the following:

GSSB Decision	Item number
2023.34	01 – <a href="#">Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 16 November 2023</a>
2023.35	02 – <a href="#">GRI Topic Standard Project for Biodiversity – Final draft</a>
2023.36	02 – <a href="#">that re-exposure of the GRI 101: Biodiversity 2024 is not needed</a>
2023.37	02 – to withdraw <i>GRI 304: Biodiversity 2016</i> by 31 December 2025.
2023.38	04 – <a href="#">GRI Sector Standard Project for Mining – Final draft</a>
2023.39	04 – that re-exposure of <i>GRI 14: Mining Sector 2024</i> is not needed
2023.41	07 – <a href="#">GRI Standard Project for Alignment Sector Standards with New and Revised Topic Standards – Project proposal</a>

## 8 Session 1: Welcome

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

12 The Chair thanked outgoing GSSB members Vincent Kong, Joseph Martin, and Kim Schumacher for  
13 their service and input to the GSSB.

## 14 Session 2: Update Standards Division

15 Chief of Standards, Bastian Buck, provided a brief update as follows:

- 16 • Updates on projects will be provided as an itemized meeting paper from 2024 onwards.
- 17 • GRI Standards projects for labor and financial services are running on schedule.
- 18 • The interoperability index has been issued in draft form on the GRI and EFRAG websites.
- 19 • A comparison of the exposure draft for climate change and energy with the other established  
20 reporting frameworks and instruments has been issued, which is important to demonstrate  
21 how our work complements and adds to other frameworks.

## 22 Session 3: GRI Topic Standard 23 Project for Biodiversity – Approval of 24 final Standard

25 Elodie Chêne, Senior Manager Standards, presented a project update and the final draft of the  
26 revised Biodiversity Topic Standard for GSSB approval. Based on feedback, the following changes  
27 are to be made to the Biodiversity Topic Standard draft:

- 28 • GSSB feedback indicated that the word 'operational sites' is used throughout and covers all  
29 possible site states;
  - 30 ○ SD proposes that 'operational' be removed when referring to sites. It now reads  
31 'sites'.
- 32 • GSSB suggested deleting duplicated sentence in Disclosure 101-4;
  - 33 ○ SD to delete 'Examples are a mining site owned by an organization or a fishing  
34 ground where an organization operates'.
- 35 • GSSB feedback noted that under Disclosure 101-5 Locations with biodiversity impacts, the  
36 requirement to provide an exact location has been removed, making it inconsistent;
  - 37 ○ SD will use coordinates as a recommendation to be consistent with *GRI 14*.
- 38 • GSSB feedback suggested clarifying guidance in Disclosure 101-6 Direct drivers of  
39 biodiversity loss;
  - 40 ○ SD to further clarify that direct drivers can vary by location.
- 41 • TNFD feedback proposed a change in the guidance to Disclosure 101-4 Identification of  
42 biodiversity impacts;
  - 43 ○ SD to clarify that 'The Locate and Evaluate phases of the TNFD LEAP approach' can  
44 be used to identify biodiversity impacts.
- 45 • TNFD feedback proposed a change in the requirement and guidance to Disclosure 101-5  
46 Locations with biodiversity impacts, including Table 1;
  - 47 ○ SD to make the change from 'stakeholders' to 'Indigenous Peoples, local  
48 communities, and other stakeholders'.
- 49 • Change requirements to Disclosure 101-6 Direct drivers of biodiversity loss;
  - 50 ○ SD will make the change to account for potential impacts as 'lead or could lead to'.
- 51 • The proposed effective date for *GRI 101: Biodiversity 2024* is 1 January 2026.
- 52 • The Chief of Standards advised that due process had been followed for the project.

53 In response to further comments and questions from the GSSB, the SD clarified the following:

- 54 • On the language relating to offsets and reporting on offsets happening outside an  
55 organization's operational sites, the SD explained:
  - 56 ○ The guidance being referred to on lines 532-533 of Item 02 relates to the goals of an  
57 offset and indicates that an offset can contribute to different aspects, such as no net  
58 loss or net gain for a particular site.
  - 59 ○ The guidance in line 489 explains that offsets take place outside the organizations'  
60 operational sites and are 'interventions in areas not affected by the organization's  
61 activities'.

62 The GSSB approves the following:

GSSB Decision	Item number
2023.35	02 – <a href="#">GRI Topic Standard Project for Biodiversity – Final draft</a>
2023.36	02 – <a href="#">that re-exposure of the GRI 101: Biodiversity 2024 is not needed</a>
2023.37	02 – to withdraw <i>GRI 304: Biodiversity 2016</i> by 31 December 2025.

## 63 **Session 4: GRI Sector Standard**

### 64 **Project for Mining - Approval of final**

### 65 **Standard**

66 Noora Puro, Senior Manager Standards, presented the final draft of the Mining Sector Standard for  
67 discussion and approval by the GSSB:

- 68 • Since public comment, the standard has been revised according to feedback and as validated  
69 by the Working Group (WG). Four WG meetings have occurred, and the SD has conducted  
70 technical and editorial reviews.
- 71 • A basis for conclusions was developed in preparation for approval.
- 72 • DPOC evaluation of the Due Process Adherence Report will occur through January.
- 73 • GSSB feedback enquired about the reporting model, particularly why additional sector  
74 disclosures are only recommendations, not mandatory, and do not require reasons for  
75 omission;
  - 76 ○ SD provided an overview of the 'in accordance' requirements relating to the use of the  
77 Sector Standards, as documented in the GRI Universal Standards, including the  
78 expectation for organizations to report additional sector disclosures where GRI Topic  
79 Standards do not provide sufficient detail over impacts. A further discussion to assess  
80 the Sector Standards reporting model is expected with the GSSB in the coming year.
- 81 • GSSB feedback on Topic 14.17 Employment practices expressed disappointment over the  
82 removal of a disclosure about benefits for employees not being provided to contractors;
  - 83 ○ SD noted that this disclosure was deemed not unique to the mining sector and will be  
84 addressed in the ongoing revision of labor-related standards.
- 85 • GSSB feedback on Topic 14.20 Freedom of association and collective bargaining. which  
86 listed a new sector recommendation to report data on strikes, noted that anti-union investors  
87 could use information to blacklist companies;
  - 88 ○ SD stated that there was broad support from the WG to include the information as it  
89 can provide a useful picture of the underlying problems in organizations.

- 90 • GSSB feedback on Topic 14.9 Economic impacts expressed disappointment about the  
91 removal of sector recommendation to report Disclosure 201-1 Economic value generated  
92 and distributed by mine site;
- 93 ○ SD noted that community investments are still recommended to be reported by mine  
94 site, and the rest of the information was deemed sufficient to be reported by regional,  
95 national, or market levels, as required by Disclosure 201-1 where necessary.  
96 Moreover, Topic 14.23 Payments to governments includes a breakdown of corporate  
97 income tax and other payments to government by project, which addressed this  
98 removal and aligns with the EITI Standard 2023.
- 99 • The proposed effective date for *GRI 14: Mining Sector 2024* is 1 January 2026.
- 100 • The proposed launch date of the Standard is 8 February 2024, organized jointly with the  
101 Biodiversity Topic team.
- 102 • Translations are expected to begin in Q2 2024.
- The Chief of Standards advised that due process had been followed for the project.

103 The GSSB approves the following:

GSSB Decision	Item number
2023.38	04 – <a href="#">GRI Sector Standard Project for Mining – Final draft</a>
2023.39	04 – that re-exposure of <i>GRI 14: Mining Sector 2024</i> is not needed

## Session 5: GRI Standards Project for Alignment of Sector Standards with New Topic Standards – Final project proposal

104 Miguel Pérez Ludeña, Research Lead, presented the final project proposal to align the growing  
105 portfolio of GRI Sector Standards with the new and revised Topic Standards. The following points  
106 were made:

- 107 • The SD explained that the draft proposal of the project was sent to GRI’s Council,  
108 Supervisory Board, and DPOC. No significant comments or changes were provided, meaning  
109 the final project proposal was largely the same as the draft proposal presented to the GSSB  
110 in September 2023.

111 The GSSB approves the following:

GSSB Decision	Item number
2023.41	07 – <a href="#">GRI Standards Project for Alignment of Sector Standards with New Topic Standards - Final Project Proposal</a>

112 **Session 6: Close of public meeting**

No other business was raised, and the Chair closed the public meeting at 08.20 Central European Time (CET).