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# Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 19 May 2022

## For GSSB approval

<b>Date</b>	25 May 2022
<b>Meeting</b>	19 May 2022
<b>Description</b>	This document presents the summary of the GSSB virtual meeting held on 19 May 2022.

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](http://www.globalreporting.org).

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This document does not represent an official position of the GSSB

### 3 **Participants**

4 Present:

Name	Constituency
<b>Judy Kuszewski</b>	Chair
<b>Robyn Leeson</b>	Vice-Chair
<b>Loredana Carta</b>	Labor
<b>Peter Colley</b>	Labor
<b>Giulia Genuardi</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Evan Harvey</b>	Investment institution
<b>Vincent Kong</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Anna Nefedova</b>	Mediating institution
<b>Joseph Martin</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Jennifer Princing</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Corli le Roux</b>	Mediating institution
<b>Gangaa Charan Sharma</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Kim Schumacher</b>	Civil society organization
<b>Kenton Swift</b>	Civil society organization
<b>Michel Washer</b>	Business enterprise

5 In attendance from GRI:

Name	Position
Bastian Buck	Chief of Standards
Harold Pauwels	Director Standards
Mia d'Adhemar	Head Sector Program
Margarita Lysenkova	Manager Sector Program
Gillian Balaban	Sr. Coordinator Governance Relations

### 6 **List of abbreviations**

GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board
SD	Standards Division
TC	Technical committee
DPP	Due Process Protocol
DPAR	Due Process Adherence report
DPOC	Due Process Oversight Committee

## 7 Decisions and action items

### 8 Decisions

9 The GSSB resolved to approve the following:

10 **GSSB Decision 2022.10** Item 01 – [Draft summary GSSB meeting – 28 April 2022](#)

11 **GSSB Decision 2022.11** Item 02 – [GRI Sector Standards Project for Agriculture, Aquaculture and](#)  
12 [Fishing – Final draft with an effective date of 1 January 2024](#)

13 **GSSB Decision 2022.12** – GSSB resolves to approve that re-exposure of GRI 13: Agriculture,  
14 Aquaculture and Fishing Sectors 2022 is not needed

### 15 Session 1: Welcome

16 The Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) Chair Judy Kuszewski (henceforth the Chair)  
17 welcomed the GSSB. The Chair presented an overview of the meeting agenda. The GSSB was  
18 presented with the following items for approval:

19 Item 01 – [Draft summary GSSB meeting – 28 April 2022](#)

20 Item 02 – [GRI Sector Standards Project for Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing – Final draft](#)

### 21 Session 2: Standards Division update

22 The Chief of Standards, Bastian Buck, presented the following points:

- 23 • From 17-19 October, there will be a two-day in-person GSSB meeting in Amsterdam.
- 24 • The biodiversity project, GRI 304, is in the draft development phase. The third TC meeting was  
25 held, preparing for the fourth meeting.
- 26 • The PCP is expected to start in the 4th quarter. Colleagues overseeing the project indicate that in-  
27 depth discussions are expected. The expert group and GRI staff want to ensure a consistent set  
28 of disclosures.
- 29 • We are on schedule to submit this draft to the GSSB after the summer break. Updates on this  
30 project will be provided through September, October, and November.
- 31 • The labor Standards review program is a larger effort linked to several existing standards, which  
32 might involve the creation of new standards.
- 33 • We are preparing to have a project proposal for the GSSB in July. We have secured the right mix  
34 of institutions, and nominations for experts will be formalized with the GSSB.
- 35 • Progress depends on whether this is a phased project or if all the Standards are done  
36 simultaneously. The team is working to resolve this issue with the institutions involved, and we

- 37 want a practical proposal from an SD resourcing perspective and the expertise these  
38 organizations make available.
- 39 • Two WG meetings for the mining project are completed. A survey screening for likely material  
40 topics was conducted, and there are sub-working group meetings underway to elicit detail on  
41 likely material topics.
  - 42 • A Standards manager has been appointed to lead the food and beverage project. Working group  
43 recruitment will advance in the coming months. After the summer break, we will have a detailed  
44 timeline for when the project working group will commence its work.
  - 45 • GRI has announced a collaboration with IFRS Foundation in a meeting with the ISSB technical  
46 team in London to look at how to substantiate this collaboration. This will be an important input to  
47 discussions of the future work program.
  - 48 • Thanks to our colleagues in the HR department and in the SD that are actively involved in  
49 recruitment. We continue to grow the team. However, we are not on schedule to hit the 30 FTE  
50 mark by the end of June, but we are making progress.
  - 51 • We will be able to conclude this first phase of hiring for 2022. We will then look to discuss with the  
52 leadership of the GRI Foundation how to enable the next phase of hiring in the near term.

## 53 **Session 3: GRI Sector Standard** 54 **project for Agriculture, Aquaculture** 55 **and Fishing - approval of final** 56 **Standard**

57 Manager Sector Program, Margarita Lysenkova, presented the Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing  
58 Sector Standard draft for approval by the GSSB. The following points are for consideration:

- 59 • A detailed overview of the changes resulting from the public comment was presented to the  
60 GSSB on 17 March 2020.
- 61 • Since then, the SD has worked on finalizing the draft, which included responses from the final  
62 round of comments received in the technical review by our WG.
- 63 • Changes made included two updated topic names, the provision of more examples of positive  
64 impacts, and additional sector reporting particular to aquaculture and fishing.
- 65 • In line with the previously published Sector Standard, the SD proposes 1 January 2024 as the  
66 effective date, allowing for a transition period in which organizations can collect data during the  
67 reporting cycle.

68 The GSSB had the following questions and comments regarding the new Sector Standard:

69 **GSSB:** How has the SD considered the relationship between the latest Sector Standard and the  
70 biodiversity Topic Standard's development?

71 **SD:** One WG member participates in the biodiversity project, which provides some overlap. We  
72 have been in discussions with colleagues on issues of common interest but cannot respond  
73 until the completion of the biodiversity project and how these could be incorporated in a later  
74 update of the Sector Standard.

75 **GSSB:** The issue of Topic Standards needing revision after the publication of a Sector Standard is an  
76 aspect that will be more prevalent in the Standards that follow.

77 **SD:** The issue is acknowledged. We can now advance beyond the Sector program's pilot projects,  
78 which adds pressure on the system and the different parts of the modular Standards  
79 structure. This provides the initiative to update existing Standards or develop new Standards.  
80 Expanding our Standards means that we can scale our Sector and Topic teams, which we  
81 continue to address with increasing resources. The Sector Standards also work as designed  
82 by providing priorities for topic updates or development.

83 The Chair, on behalf of the GSSB, acknowledged the stakeholder involvement and thanked the SD  
84 for their contributions to the project. The Chair further discussed the steps required in the DPP, and  
85 the Chief of Standards confirmed its adherence to the due process.

#### 86 **Vote on final approval**

87 Table 1. GSSB summary of votes.

<b>GSSB member</b>	<b>Approval</b>	<b>Approval without re-exposure</b>
Anna Nefedova	In favor	In favor
Corli le Roux	In favor	In favor
Evan Harvey	In favor	In favor
Ganga Charan Sharma	In favor	In favor
Giulia Genuardi	In favor	In favor
Jennifer Princing	In favor	In favor
Joseph Martin	In favor	In favor
Judy Kuszewski	In favor	In favor
Kent Swift	In favor	In favor
Kim Schumacher	In favor	In favor
Loredana Carta	In favor	In favor

Michel Washer	In favor	In favor
Peter Colley	In favor	In favor
Robyn Leeson	In favor	In favor
Vincent Kong	In favor	In favor
Total in favor	15	15

## 88 **Session 4: Presentation by Mercy for** 89 **Animals**

90 The GSSB frequently welcomes external stakeholder input for the GSSB work program 2023-2025 on  
91 various topics of interest to international standard setting. The Chair welcomed Zoë Sigle, global  
92 corporate engagement manager at Mercy for Animals. The following points were presented to the  
93 GSSB:

- 94 • Mercy for Animals is a global non-profit animal farm protection organization based in the United  
95 States. It is known for its undercover investigations to improve animal welfare standards in the  
96 supply chain.
- 97 • Regarding the GSSB, Mercy for Animals is interested in contributing insights to animal health and  
98 welfare Topic Standards.
- 99 • The use of animals in the supply chain is ubiquitous: 1.2-2.7 trillion aquatic animals are used for  
100 feed, over 60 billion land animals are used for food, and over 192 million animals are used for  
101 scientific research.
- 102 • Focusing on the five freedoms of animal well-being is critical. These include; 1. Freedom from  
103 hunger, malnutrition, and thirst; 2. Freedom from fear and distress; 3. Freedom from heat stress  
104 and discomfort; 4. Freedom from pain, injury, and disease; 5. Freedom to express normal  
105 behavioral patterns.
- 106 • Business considerations include how animal welfare, corporate procurement policies, and  
107 external stakeholder responses influence one another.
- 108 • The caged confinement of laying hens is a key work area at Mercy for Animals and relevant to the  
109 GSSB.
- 110 • While several national and regional governments have taken steps to improve the welfare of  
111 laying hens, investors are increasingly acknowledging the risks associated with the mistreatment  
112 of animals, including in regulations, the market, and corporate reputation.
- 113 • Over 120 global companies have adopted cage-free egg commitments in their supply chains, in  
114 sectors such as food services, hospitality, food manufacturers, restaurants, and retailers.

- 115 • The increasing prevalence of meaningful public commitments to animal welfare and global  
116 progress reporting are steps in the right direction.
- 117 • Regarding GRI Topic Standards, Mercy for Animals recommends that more corporate attention  
118 be given to animal welfare in supply chains, creating species-specific standards, and establishing  
119 more quantitative reporting of inputs that aim to meet the five freedoms.
- 120 • Key areas are expanding existing collaboration areas between companies and NGOs,  
121 acknowledging the scale and severity of animal suffering, and raising public concern for bills,  
122 statutes, and regulations.

123 Following a brief conversation among GSSB members about how existing GRI Standards in the  
124 Sector and Topic programs address animal welfare concerns, the Chair thanked Mercy for Animals  
125 for their input.

## 126 **Session 5: Any other business and** 127 **close of the meeting**

128 No other business was raised, and the Chair closed the public meeting at 14.08 Central European  
129 Time (CET).