Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 22 October 2020

For GSSB approval

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>6 November 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>19 November 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>This document presents the summary of the GSSB virtual meeting held on 22 October 2020.</td>
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Participants

Present:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judy Kuszewski</td>
<td>Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robyn Leeson</td>
<td>Vice-Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loredana Carta</td>
<td>Labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Colley</td>
<td>Labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evan Harvey</td>
<td>Investment institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirsten Margrethe Hovi</td>
<td>Business enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vincent Kong</td>
<td>Business enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Martin</td>
<td>Business enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tung-Li (Tony) Mo</td>
<td>Civil society organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Princing</td>
<td>Business enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gustavo Sinner</td>
<td>Mediating institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenton Swift</td>
<td>Civil society organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michel Washer</td>
<td>Business enterprise</td>
</tr>
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Apologies:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corli le Roux</td>
<td>Mediating institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rama Krishnan Venkateswaran</td>
<td>Investment institution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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In attendance from the Standards Division:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bastian Buck</td>
<td>Chief of Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Espinach</td>
<td>Head of Technical Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mia d'Adhemar</td>
<td>Senior Manager Sector Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Krotova</td>
<td>Senior Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miguel Pérez Ludeña</td>
<td>Research Lead Sector Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veronica Wachong</td>
<td>Senior Coordinator Sector Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gillian Balaban</td>
<td>Team Assistant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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List of abbreviations

GSSB  Global Sustainability Standards Board
SD    Standards Division
Decisions and action items

Decisions

GSSB Decision 2020.19 The GSSB resolved to approve Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 15 September 2020.

GSSB Decision 2020.20 The GSSB resolved to approve Item 04 – GRI Sector Standards Project for Oil, Gas, and Coal – Proposed member for working group.

Action items

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Standards Division</th>
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| Session 4 | - SD to take GSSB feedback under advisement and present the list of prioritized sectors, incorporating this feedback, for GSSB approval at its meeting on 19 November.  
- SD to present the Work Program 2020-2022 for GSSB approval at its meeting on 19 November. |

Sessions 1 & 2: Private sessions

These were private sessions.

Session 3: Welcome

The GSSB was presented with Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 15 September 2020 for approval.

GSSB Chair Judy Kuszewski (henceforth the Chair) welcomed the GSSB and presented an overview of the meeting agenda.
A GSSB member asked whether the timeline for the agriculture and fishing project would be presented at a future meeting, as it was mentioned as an Action item in the summary but was not included in the present meeting agenda.

The Standards Division confirmed that the timeline for the agriculture and fishing project would be presented at a subsequent meeting.

**GSSB Decision 2020.19** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 15 September 2020.](#)

**Session 4: GSSB Work Program 2020-2022 update**

The GSSB was presented with **[Item 02 – GRI Sector Standards Program – Revised list of prioritized sectors](#)** for approval and **[Item 03 – GSSB Work Program 2020-2022](#)** for information.

**Proposed list of prioritized sectors**

The SD presented a list ranking the priority of projects to be covered under the Sector Program, including a list of top 10 sectors to be prioritized for development next, following the first two pilot projects on oil, gas, and coal, and agriculture and fishing that are currently underway.

A GSSB member called attention to the growing importance of artificial intelligence (AI) across sectors and questioned whether IT and services should be in group 3 of the prioritization.

The Chair confirmed the GSSB’s ambition to be forward-thinking, and suggested that AI can be addressed at a topic level alongside the Sector Program. The SD pointed out that while the chief criteria used to prioritize sectors are impacts on sustainable development and feasibility of producing the Standard, the ranking is flexible and may alter over time in response to such needs and developments.

A GSSB member noted that the number of companies wishing to report in each sector is also a relevant factor in assigning priority, as that affects impact. The SD replied that sectors with most GRI reporting already feature in the top 10 priority sectors for development, and that information on uptake will be taken into account in prioritization for future projects. However, the SD also noted that current uptake figures should be considered with caution, as report registration numbers are not complete.

A GSSB member pointed to certain inconsistencies between the top ten priority sectors and the annex (rubber is included with forestry in the top 10 sectors, but is included in the scope of the agriculture and fishing sector in the annex). The GSSB member also commented on connections and synergies between sectors (such as both agriculture and forestry being foundational for textiles, or the connection between infrastructure and construction), and noted that more such connections could emerge over the course of the projects and inform the ordering of the sectors.

Another GSSB member requested information on why mining and metals have been split into separate sectors, why only iron and aluminum are included as metals in the list, and whether the focus will fall on downstream activities and recycling, in addition to primary activities.

The SD explained that the current distinction between the manufacturing and extractive parts of the industry is aimed to better capture impacts on sustainable development, and the criteria to include
iron, aluminum, and steel is based on standard industry practice and the way these companies are
organized. The SD clarified that borders between sectors can be refined as work progresses. The
activities covered under the sectors remain to be scoped out.

The SD will take GSSB feedback under advisement and present the list of prioritized sectors,
incorporating this feedback, for GSSB approval at a subsequent meeting.

Overview of revised work program for 2020-2022

The Standards Division (SD) presented an update of its revised work program for 2020-2022,

focusing on the proposal for 2021. The SD drew attention to a new preamble to the work program
highlighting the role the GSSB can play in forming a single coherent global set of sustainability
standards.

A GSSB member asked for clarification on whether the focus on a harmonization of standards in the
preamble was a signal to other organizations that the GSSB sees its work to be in integrating GRI
Standards with others.

The Chair confirmed this to be the case and highlighted the role the GSSB can play in the practical
aspects of harmonization of standards.

A GSSB member commented on the discrepancy between what the GSSB aspires to achieve with
the work program and what budget constraints allow, and hoped that a renewed focus on funding
would address this.

The SD requested the GSSB to provide any further comments on the work program by email to the
SD by close of business 30 October 2020, in time to finalize the document before the GSSB meeting
on 19 November.

Actions:

- GSSB to provide feedback on Item 02 – GRI Sector Standards Program – Revised list of
  prioritized sectors and Item 03 – GSSB Work Program 2020-2022 to the SD by email by
  close of business 30 October 2020.
- SD to take GSSB feedback under advisement and present the list of prioritized sectors,
  incorporating this feedback, for GSSB approval at its meeting on 19 November.
- SD to present the Work Program 2020-2022 for GSSB approval at its meeting on 19
  November.

Session 5: GRI Universal Standards Project update

The SD presented an overview of the public comment submissions on the Universal Standards
exposure draft, including an overview of respondents and key themes. The key themes covered in
the responses include the revised concepts of ‘material topic’ and ‘stakeholder’, the process for
identifying material topics, the reporting model and statements of use, and revisions relating to
Sector Standards and governance disclosures. The SD also explained the methodology involved in
analysis of the feedback.
The SD presented a schedule for a series of more detailed, theme-specific discussions to be held with the GSSB through November and December on revisions to the Universal Standards following the public comment.

**Session 6: GRI Sector Standards Project for Oil, Gas, and Coal update**

The SD presented an update of its activities under the Sector Standards Project for Oil, Gas, and Coal. This included an overview of the public comments on the Oil and Gas exposure draft. The SD reiterated that the public comment period had the dual purpose of eliciting feedback on the exposure draft as a template for all Sector Standards, as well as on the oil and gas content specifically. The overview presented by the SD referred to themes that applied to Sector Standards in general; submissions relating specifically to oil and gas content will be presented at a later date. Themes covered included implementation approach, usability, mandatory reporting, and the requirement to comply with or explain why a topic is not material.

The SD presented the timeline for revision of the Oil and Gas Standard, and for developing an exposure draft for coal.

**Approval of proposed member for Oil, Gas, and Coal Project working group**

The GSSB was presented with Item 04 – GRI Sector Standards Project for Oil, Gas, and Coal – Proposed member for working group for approval.

The Chair called for comments or questions regarding the proposal. No comments or concerns were raised. The GSSB approved the proposed member by consensus.

**GSSB Decision 2020.20** The GSSB resolved to approve Item 04 – GRI Sector Standards Project for Oil, Gas, and Coal – Proposed member for working group.

**Session 7: Any other business and close of meeting**

No other business was raised and the Chair closed the meeting at 15:01 CEST (Central European Summer Time).