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# **GSSB summary of the virtual meeting held on 28 April 2022**

**Approved by the GSSB on 19 May 2022**

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### 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>Jennifer Princing</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Corli le Roux</b> (joined at 1.35)	Mediating institution
<b>Gangaa Charan Sharma</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Kenton Swift</b>	Civil society organization
<b>Michel Washer</b>	Business enterprise
<b><u>Erik Nyman</u></b>	<b><u>Guest speaker UNICEF</u></b>

5 Apologies:

Name	Constituency
<b>Joseph Martin</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Kim Schumacher</b>	Civil society organization

6 In attendance from GRI:

Name	Position
Bastian Buck	Chief of Standards
Harold Pauwels	Director Standards
Gillian Balaban	Sr. Coordinator Governance Relations

### 7 List of abbreviations

GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board
SD	Standards Division
TC	Technical committee

## 8 **Decisions and action items**

### 9 **Decisions**

10 The GSSB resolved to approve the following:

11 **GSSB Decision 2022.09** Item 01 – [Draft summary GSSB meeting - 17 March 2022](#)

## 12 **Session 1: Welcome**

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

16 Item 01 – [Draft summary GSSB meeting - 17 March 2022](#)

## 17 **Session 2: Standards Division update**

18 The Chief of Standards, Bastian Buck, presented the following points for consideration:

- 19 • Regarding the ongoing work by the Sector Program, the GRI Standard for the Coal Sector was  
20 published in Q1.
- 21 • An approval vote for the GRI Standard for the agriculture, aquaculture, and fishing sectors was  
22 originally scheduled for this meeting but needed more time for editorial review. The GSSB should  
23 receive a copy of the Standard in the following week.
- 24 • The mining sector project is moving along at a healthy pace. Two working group meetings were  
25 held, and the screening for likely material topics is almost complete. There are ongoing  
26 discussions about the addition of artisanal and small-scale mining, cybersecurity, and supply  
27 chain due diligence. Work is progressing in sub-group discussions about the project scope,  
28 direction of impact, and reporting requirements. There will be a subsequent update in June.
- 29 • The biodiversity topic project has held two TC meetings and six smaller task group sessions to  
30 develop different parts of the draft. A first consolidated draft of disclosures will be discussed with  
31 the group in the week of 2 May.
- 32 • For the labor related standards revision program, we have confirmation from the labor  
33 constituency. We have held conversations with the International Organization of Employers (IOE)  
34 to represent employers. After conversations, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has  
35 confirmed participation. A project proposal will be discussed in the June meeting.
- 36 • Download statistics for Q1 are in line with the recent growth pattern and highlight the important  
37 work done by the GSSB in setting the GRI Standards.

- 38 • A total of 237,000 downloads in Q1 indicate a high level of engagement with the content. Growth  
39 was strongest in Asia, with an increase of 42,000 downloads. The *GRI 12: Coal Sector 2022* has  
40 been downloaded over 1,000 times. The marketing of our products has driven significant traffic.
- 41 • There have been advancements in recruiting with new colleagues joining the team, while a few  
42 have left the SD. We will provide a full update before the summer break. We currently have 20  
43 people and are looking to grow the SD to 30 people as per budget allocation.

## 44 **Session 3: UNICEF**

45 The Chair welcomed guest speaker Eric Nyman, UNICEF, to present the following points on child  
46 rights and business as input to the GSSB work program 2023-2025:

- 47 • UNICEF has been working specifically on children's rights and how they relate to business. It  
48 looks at aspects such as parents' working conditions, workplace breastfeeding, online safety, and  
49 community and environment. Land use, relocation of communities, access to schools, and  
50 healthcare are other important issues.
- 51 • A child rights lens on sustainability can help understand root causes and the impacts of business.
- 52 • Why children? Children are marginalized and vulnerable and therefore disproportionately impacted;  
53 child labor is on the rise; two-thirds of children suffer physical abuse, 260 million are not in school;  
54 while physical stunting impacts 150 million children.
- 55 • Stunting results from early life malnutrition and has high healthcare costs. Malnutrition costs the  
56 global economy \$3.5 trillion per year. Universal breastfeeding alone can save \$300 billion.
- 57 • Family-friendly policies look at three areas, namely time, resources, and services. For example,  
58 decent work for parents, sick or family leave, workplace breastfeeding, flexible hours, decent  
59 wages, child benefits, and access to affordable childcare. These issues are particularly important  
60 in developing countries.
- 61 • Retention of female workers is a major issue – the example of the clothing and garment industry  
62 shows the importance of using a child rights lens.
- 63 • Children and digital businesses – are organizations practicing responsible digital marketing  
64 processes to protect children from online abuse, child sex content, and data privacy.
- 65 • UNICEF has evidence, guidance, and tools that map to GRI and can help inform child rights  
66 disclosure.
- 67 • From its own research, UNICEF found that most companies surveyed used GRI Standards, which  
68 led to UNICEF and GRI working together.
- 69 • UNICEF Working Paper (2012) – the reporting on child rights has not progressed since due to a  
70 lack of balance, not systematic, not holistic, and often focuses only on positive reporting.
- 71 • A new study is coming out in June 2022 and will be shared with GRI.

- 72 • In conclusion, the Global Child Forum annual benchmark on children's rights shows what leading  
73 companies are doing well and not so well [https://www.globalchildforum.org/internal-report/global-  
benchmark-report-2021/](https://www.globalchildforum.org/internal-report/global-<br/>74 benchmark-report-2021/).

## 75 **Session 4: Any other business and** 76 **close of the meeting**

77 No other business was raised, and the Chair closed the public meeting at 13.49 Central European  
78 Time (CET).