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# GSSB summary of the meeting held on 18 June 2020

| *Approved by the GSSB on 15 September 2020*

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### 3 Participants

4 Present:

Name	Constituency
Judy Kuszewski	Chair
Robyn Leeson	Vice-Chair
Peter Colley	Labor
Evan Harvey	Investment institution
Kirsten Margrethe Hovi	Business enterprise
Vincent Kong	Business enterprise
Tung-Li (Tony) Mo	Civil society organization
Jennifer Prancing	Business enterprise
Corli le Roux	Mediating institution
Gustavo Sinner	Mediating institution
Kenton Swift	Civil society organization
Rama Krishnan Venkateswaran	Investment institution
Michel Washer	Business enterprise

5 Apologies:

Name	Constituency
Loredana Carta	Labor
Bruce Klafter	Business enterprise

6 In attendance:

Name	Position
Bastian Buck	Chief of Standards, Standards Division
Mia d'Adhemar	Senior Manager Sector Program, Standards Division
Pamela Carpio	Manager Sector Program, Standards Division
Gillian Balaban	Team Assistant, Standards Division

### 7 List of abbreviations

GSSB                      Global Sustainability Standards Board  
SD                           Standards Division

## 8 Decisions and action items

### 9 *Decisions*

10 **GSSB Decision 2020.12** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item – 01 Draft summary of the GSSB](#)  
11 [meeting held on 20 May 2020](#).

12 **GSSB Decision 2020.13** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 03 – Exposure draft GRI Sector](#)  
13 [Standard: Oil and Gas](#) for public comment.

### 14 *Action items*

GSSB	
Session 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>GSSB to provide comments or approval on the circulated documents, as requested, by the dates specified on the documents (see Session 2 summary for document details).</li></ul>
Session 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>GSSB to send their comments on the public comment questions for the exposure draft of GRI Sector Standard: Oil and Gas to the SD by 24 June 2020.</li><li>GSSB to provide the SD with suggestions or contact details for stakeholders that can be approached for the public comment.</li></ul>
Session 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>GSSB to send their approval of the proposed working group member by 30 June 2020.</li></ul>
Standards Division	
Session 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SD to circulate documents for GSSB comments and approval via email.</li><li>SD to contact GSSB members to confirm dates and times for additional calls.</li></ul>

## 15 Session I: Welcome

16 GSSB Chair Judy Kuszewski (henceforth the Chair) welcomed the GSSB and presented an overview  
17 of the meeting agenda.

18 The GSSB was presented with [Item – 01 Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 20 May 2020](#)  
19 for approval.

20 **GSSB Decision 2020.12** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item – 01 Draft summary of the GSSB](#)  
21 [meeting held on 20 May 2020](#).

22 The Chair made announcements:

- 23 • On behalf of the GSSB, the Chair accepted a request by the Due Process Oversight  
24 Committee for a discussion with the GSSB on the due process requirements.  
25 • On 17 June 2020, GRI hosted a virtual event to launch the Global Standards Fund that will  
26 support the independent development of the GRI Standards.

## 27 Session 2: Standards Division update

28 The Standards Division (SD) presented an update of its activities under the ongoing projects,  
29 including the public comment period for the Universal Standards and human rights-related updates,  
30 downloads and translations of the Waste Standard, and ongoing work on the Agriculture and Fishing  
31 Sector Standard.

32 The SD also highlighted the following points for GSSB information:

- 33 • The public comment period on the GSSB Work Program 2020-2022 ends on 23 June. The  
34 SD will analyze the comments and present proposed amendments for GSSB discussion.  
35 • The SD has drafted an FAQ in response to technical inquiries on whether the GSSB will  
36 delay the effective date of 1 January 2021 for new or revised Standards released last year.  
37 • The SD has prepared the GSSB Activity Report for the period from January 2017 to  
38 December 2019.  
39 • The GSSB in-person meeting scheduled for 6-7 October has been cancelled due to travel  
40 restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The SD expects to hold additional calls  
41 with the GSSB.

### 42 Documents to be circulated to the GSSB

43 The GSSB will receive the following documents from the SD after the meeting:

44 For comments by close of business on Wednesday, 24 June 2020:

- 45 • GRI Sector Standards Project for Oil, Gas, and Coal – Public comment questions for  
46 exposure draft of Sector Standard: Oil and Gas  
47 • Proposed FAQ on 1 January 2021 effective date

48 For electronic approval by close of business on Tuesday, 30 June 2020:

- 49 • GRI Sector Standards Project for Agriculture and Fishing – Proposed member for working  
50 group  
51 • GRI Sector Standards Project for Oil, Gas, and Coal – Proposed member for working group  
52 • GSSB Activity Report, January 2017 – December 2019

### Actions:

- 53 • SD to circulate documents for GSSB comments and approval via email.  
54 • SD to contact GSSB members to confirm dates and times for additional calls.  
55 • GSSB to provide comments or approval on the circulated documents, as requested, by the  
56 dates specified on the documents.

## 57 Session 3: Approval of exposure draft of 58 GRI Sector Standard for oil and gas

59 The GSSB was presented with [Item 02 – Cover note to the exposure draft of Sector Standard: Oil](#)  
60 [and Gas](#) for information, and [Item 03 – Exposure draft GRI Sector Standard: Oil and Gas](#) for  
61 approval.

### 62 Sector Standard setup and structure

63 The SD outlined the interconnections between the Universal Standards and Sector Standards, which  
64 provide the foundation for the Sector Standards.

### 65 Likely materiality of topics

66 The concept of likely materiality is currently applied uniformly across all topics included in the Oil  
67 and Gas exposure draft. Working group members have raised concerns and expressed that some  
68 topics (e.g., the climate change-related topics such as GHG emissions and climate resilience and  
69 transition) should be considered material and mandatory for reporting by all organizations in the  
70 sector. The SD proposed to maintain the current setup in the exposure draft and seek feedback  
71 through public comment on the value and challenges of making reporting on certain topics  
72 mandatory. The SD will circulate the public comment questions for GSSB comments.

### 73 GSSB feedback on ‘What to report’ sections

74 The SD received a comment from the GSSB on the use of the word ‘should’ in the ‘What to report’  
75 sections in the draft Sector Standard.

76 The SD explained the rationale for this choice of wording.

77 The word ‘should’, in all instances that it is used in these sections, follows the Universal Standards  
78 and represents recommended reporting. The use of the word ‘can’, which also signals recommended  
79 reporting, was considered and dismissed by the SD in light of the working group recommendations  
80 to send a clear message to organizations on the need for reporting these disclosures.

81 The SD will work on improving clarity of these sections through visual cues during template  
82 development. In the exposure draft, the SD will provide a visual depiction of the structure of the  
83 ‘What to report’ sections in the Introduction, which clarifies the meaning and reporting expectations  
84 for each element of these sections. The SD also proposed the following wording to improve clarity:  
85 ‘The following additional disclosures have also been identified as appropriate **and should be**  
86 **reported** on this topic’.

87 GSSB members expressed support for these proposed changes and agreed that visual cues would be  
88 essential to improving clarity of these sections, given that the Standards serve a global audience.

89 One GSSB member asked whether the use of the word ‘should’ is derived based on the status of the  
90 additional disclosure or the source from which it is drawn (e.g., based on whether the source is  
91 another standard or recommended guidelines). The SD did not make a distinction between  
92 disclosures based on the status of the source for simplicity and because of the Sector Project  
93 ambition that these additional disclosures are eventually incorporated into GRI Topic Standards. The  
94 SD highlighted that the oil and gas sector and the coal sector face high demands for transparency,

95 which has led to the working group identifying several additional disclosures. This situation might not  
96 be as pronounced for other sectors.

97 Another GSSB member suggested clarifying which information listed in the Sector Standards is new  
98 to report, mentioning that organizations will find this information useful.

## 99 Oil and Gas Sector Standard exposure draft

100 The SD presented the revisions implemented following the previous GSSB discussion of the draft  
101 Sector Standard.

102 The SD informed the GSSB of four Sector topics for which there are no corresponding GRI Topic  
103 Standards:

- 104 • Asset integrity and process safety
- 105 • Climate resilience and transition
- 106 • Closure and decommissioning
- 107 • Land use and resettlement

108 The SD also reiterated the working group input that the issue of climate change is central for this  
109 sector and that there is currently no clear corresponding GRI Topic Standard that encompasses  
110 international norms and the working group's expectations for reporting on the climate change-  
111 related topic of climate resilience and transition. This topic merits further consideration; the SD  
112 proposed to seek input on this during the public comment period.

113 GSSB members raised no further comments or questions.

### 114 Approval of the exposure draft of GRI Sector Standard: Oil and Gas

115 The Chair called for comments regarding the exposure draft. No comments or concerns were  
116 raised.

117 **GSSB Decision 2020.13** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 03 – Exposure draft GRI Sector](#)  
118 [Standard: Oil and Gas](#) for public comment.

119 Thirteen GSSB members were present for the decision: Peter Colley, Evan Harvey, Kirsten  
120 Margrethe Hovi, Vincent Kong, Judy Kuszewski, Robyn Leeson, Tung-Li (Tony) Mo, Jennifer  
121 Prancing, Corli le Roux, Gustavo Sinner, Kenton Swift, Rama Krishnan Venkateswaran, and Michel  
122 Washer.

123 GSSB members Loredana Carta and Bruce Klafter were absent for the decision.

124 The SD presented the plans for the public comment period, which will last for 90 days between July  
125 and October 2020.

#### Actions:

- 126 • GSSB to send their comments on the public comment questions for the exposure draft of  
127 GRI Sector Standard: Oil and Gas to the SD by 24 June 2020.
- 128 • GSSB to provide the SD with suggestions or contact details for stakeholders that can be  
129 approached for the public comment.

## 130 Session 4: Proposed plan for the GRI 131 Sector Standard for coal

132 The SD proposed developing a separate Sector Standard for coal under the existing Oil, Gas, and  
133 Coal Project, using the same working group. The SD has analyzed and tested this proposal with the  
134 existing working group to ensure they adequately represent expertise on coal.

135 Two working group members with exclusive oil and gas expertise may abstain from the  
136 development of the coal content. The SD proposed the replacement of a previously disengaged  
137 working group member. The SD will circulate the proposal for the replacement member to the  
138 GSSB for electronic approval.

139 A GSSB member raised the question whether the abstinence of the two members would have  
140 implications for business constituency representation in the working group. The SD confirmed that  
141 one of these members is from the business constituency but explained that this concern could be  
142 balanced by the proposed replacement member who represents the business constituency. The SD  
143 will check for business constituency representation in the working group to ensure it is adequately  
144 represented.

145 The SD expects to present the Coal exposure draft to the GSSB for approval in November. While  
146 developing the coal content, the SD will give consideration to packaging the oil and gas and coal  
147 Sector Standards as extractives-related Standards as previously flagged by a GSSB member.

### **Actions:**

- 148 • GSSB to send their approval of the proposed working group member by 30 June 2020.

## 149 Session 5: Any other business and close of 150 public meeting

151 No other business was raised and the Chair closed the public sessions of the meeting at 3.05 p.m.  
152 CEST (Central European Summer Time).

## 153 Session 6: Private session

154 This was a private session.