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Statement from the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB)

The GSSB welcomes this productive collaboration with organizations in the wider sustainability frameworks and standards community. Report issuers from business and other organizations are eager to see this collaboration now progress to achieve more formal integration between standards and frameworks. This integration is essential to reduce the burden on issuers while also ensuring consistent, comparable and meaningful information for users and stakeholders – and we are committed to achieving it through our standards development work. We warmly invite our peers from within this network and beyond to work together with us to this end.

Our role as the independent standards board that develops and maintains the GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards is to identify the best opportunities to materially improve the relevance, technical rigor, practical value and meaningfulness of the GRI Standards. As we finalize our forthcoming work plan, we will invite our peer organizations to collaborate with us on specific joint standards-setting projects – building on numerous past technical projects we have undertaken together with them. We believe these will be the basis for significant advancement towards a coherent, harmonized and effective future of sustainability disclosure for the benefit of a wide variety of stakeholders and their individual needs.

The GSSB Chair Judy Kuszewski said: “The GRI Standards are the most widely-followed framework for corporate ESG reporting globally. We know from more than two decades of working with thousands of GRI reporting organizations that what issuers want more than anything is a reduction in the complexity and burden of reporting, and an end to the overlapping, redundant or repetitive disclosures that still happen far too often. The GSSB is delighted to build on the foundation that this collaborative effort has provided, to achieve genuine harmonization of reporting standards in the very near future.”