The Conference called on companies and organizations to take action towards a better future, with a particular focus on:

- **Innovation**: to achieve global initiatives such as the SDGs, organizations need to take innovative approaches to sustainability. The active participation of business was highlighted as crucial to delivering on the SDGs in particular;

- **Collaboration**: new, lasting partnerships and a true multi-stakeholder approach will be vital for furthering the sustainability agenda. GRI announced over a dozen new partnerships during the Conference, across sustainable development, data and technology;

- **Transparency**: the new paradigm for conducting business responsibly. The importance of storytelling and building trust with stakeholders was a key feature throughout the program.

The new era of corporate disclosure is set to be digital, responsible and interactive. Innovation and technology will have a vital role to play in enabling access to high-quality information in real time to inform better decision making for all stakeholders, powering us towards a more sustainable economy and world.

The 5th GRI Global Conference explored the ‘new era of corporate disclosure’ by convening over 1,100 sustainability leaders and practitioners from business, government, NGOs and academia. Participants discussed solutions to some of the most pressing sustainability issues of our time, including how to enable business action on the SDGs and how to respond to the systemic trends of data, technology and innovation.

**Highlights**

*Vision without action is merely a daydream. Action without vision is just passing time. With both, you can change the world.*  
Michael Meehan, Chief Executive, GRI

**PLENARY SESSIONS**

1. 20 Years On: Are we making a difference?
2. Innovation for Sustainable Development: The role of private sector collaboration
3. Using Sustainability Data to Enable Transformational Change
4. Trust & Transparency: Building better business and policy worldwide
Conference facts

117 PARTICIPANTS

TOP 10 COUNTRIES
NETHERLANDS
UNITED KINGDOM
UNITED STATES
GERMANY
ITALY
SWITZERLAND
INDIA
COLOMBIA
FRANCE
SPAIN

SESSION/SPEAKER RATINGS
826 votes: Participants rated plenary sessions 4 out of 5 on average
61% rated speakers as ‘very good’ or ‘excellent’ on diversity, experience & inspiration

CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE
88% of all participants’ expectations were either met or exceeded
83% of participants rated overall logistics as ‘very good’ or ‘excellent’

What inspired me most was the quality of the attendees and the appetite to debate reporting’s hottest button topics. I walked away with a head packed full of ideas on how sustainability reporting is currently shifting. GRI succeeded in creating a space which engaged me, got the creative juices flowing, and encouraged me to make new connections. Jonathan Morris, BSR

MAIN REASONS TO ATTEND
• Discover new innovations and trends
• Connect with the GRI Network
• Improve reporting knowledge and practices

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK:

CONTACT
Barbara Strazzilu 336, 1083 HN Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Telephone: +31(0) 20 531 00 00 Email: info@globalreporting.org
Conference facts

Did you know? 2016 conference participants came from over 70 countries and 6 continents!

208 SPEAKERS
46% FEMALE
54% MALE

Companies that do business responsibly and find opportunities to advance the Sustainable Development Goals through innovation and partnership will be the business leaders of tomorrow. Lise Kingo, Executive Director, UN Global Compact

Did you know? 2016 conference participants came from over 70 countries and 6 continents!

In 2013, there were 31% female speakers & 69% male!

PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

GRI announced over a dozen new partnerships across sustainable development, data and technology:

GRI launches Digital Reporting Alliance: this will address two key challenges in sustainability reporting - the lack of structured data and the lack of demand for digital reporting;

Sustainable Development: UN Global Compact and GRI strengthen collaboration with a renewed MoU to continue a commitment to advancing responsible business practices and more focus on accountability, transparency and meaningful disclosure of sustainability information to enable this;

Human Rights: a call for governments and business to step up action with an MoU signed between GRI and the Danish Institute for Human Rights;

Policy & Regulation: the 4th edition of Carrots & Sticks released by GRI, UNEP, KPMG and The Centre for Corporate Governance in Africa - the most comprehensive picture of the global sustainability regulatory landscape.

GRI GOLD COMMUNITY

GRI’s core supporters are at the heart of the community shaping the future of sustainability and reporting! 478 GOLD Community members joined the Conference, which provided excellent opportunities for networking and knowledge-sharing.
The SDGs come down to one thing – jobs. Governments can promote the circumstances for inclusive economic growth but private sector-led investment is the only sustainable engine of inclusive economic growth. The Rt Hon Desmond Swayne TD MP, Minister of State, Department for International Development, UK

85% increase in media exposure

3 films, 8 articles & press releases: content produced at the Conference

GRI top tweet: GRI & @globalcompact strengthen collaboration for the new #SDG era! Full PR here: http://bit.ly/1sGig4C #GRI2016

The top conference tweet received 6156 impressions & 105 engagements!

CONFERENC APP

953 Users - the total number of unique app users across iOS, Android, and web

83.3K User engagement - the total number of actions across all users for the Conference

18.2K User contributions - the total number of social shares, attendee messages, and more across the Conference

The App gave participants the opportunity to vote on various topics, here is an example below. Answers were captured in real-time and shared during sessions!

#GRI2016 was trending all three conference days!

1.5 million impressions, overall estimated reach 4 million impressions!

#GRI2016 was trending all three conference days!
EMISSIONS

The total absolute emissions associated with the aspects of the conference measured were 542.05 tCO2e. This was a reduction of 55.4% compared to the 2013 Conference. With 1,117 delegates attending over the 3-day event, average emissions were 0.49 tCO2e per delegate (37.1% reduction).

In 2013, the emissions were as follows:

Total emissions: 1215.31 tCO2e
Average emissions per delegate: 0.78 tCO2e

GRI will offset all CO2 emissions as a result of the Conference. Support will go towards the gold standard GHG offsetting project selected by GRI: The Paradigm Project, which provides clean and sustainable wood stoves in Kenya.

PROCUREMENT

Sustainability is a key factor for procurement of suppliers and guides many of the logistical decisions that go into a sustainable GRI event. The main measures taken included:

• Minimizing use of paper in favor of electronic communication with the full program and many publications offered on the Conference App;
• A sustainably graded venue - Amsterdam RAI - which recycles 100% of its waste;
• Catering provided 50% vegetarian options and 80% of all food offered had a combination of the following criteria: fresh, local, organic, seasonal and sustainable.

Conscious choice of numerous materials and suppliers:

• 100% organic cotton T-shirts for assistants
• tap water points available in the marketplace instead of bottled water
• electric bikes, pedal to charge mobile devices
• slave free chocolate to thank speakers
• recycled paper pocket programs, seeded paper badges, and recycled lanyards
• banner supplier and printer are 100% CO2 Neutral
• in addition to re-used materials such as 80% of all plastic badge holders
• … alongside many other initiatives!

We aren’t sustainable unless we innovate,
to innovate we have to be sustainable.
The best minds out there aren’t doing it for money, they’re doing it to be part of a bigger project to better mankind.
That’s why sustainability and innovation are so strongly linked and together they can create real progress. Ernesto Ciorra, Head of Innovation and Sustainability, Enel
Join us!

If you are interested in being at the forefront of sustainability trends and innovations, check out the GRI website and social media channels to stay up to date:

- **GRI GOLD Community**: join our core supporter network for exclusive benefits and insights to help shape your reporting
- **Transition to GRI Standards**: keep on top of the latest developments for the future of reporting
- **Social media**: follow us to join live discussions and latest updates on what the @GRI_Secretariat are up to

GRI appreciates the invaluable support of its key Conference partners, who made it possible to bring together leaders from around the world to advance sustainability and reporting, showcase transformative solutions and practices, and help shape a sustainable future.