Summary 15 December 2016 meeting
Meeting summary: Approved by the GSSB on 23 February 2017

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Participants

Present:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Taillant</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Russell</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<td>Dwight Justice</td>
<td>Labor</td>
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<td>Hidemi Tomita</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judy Kuszewski</td>
<td>Mediating Institution</td>
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<td>Jürgen Buxbaum</td>
<td>Labor</td>
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<td>Kirsten Margrethe Hovi</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Nugent (Vice-Chair)</td>
<td>(Mediating Institution)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robin Edme</td>
<td>Mediating Institution</td>
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<td>Vadakepatth Nandkumar</td>
<td>Mediating Institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simeon Cheng</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sulema Pioli</td>
<td>Mediating Institution</td>
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Apologies:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Ingram</td>
<td>Investment Institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stiaan Wandrag</td>
<td>Business</td>
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</tbody>
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In attendance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea Reinhardt</td>
<td>Deputy Director, Standards Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Krotova</td>
<td>Manager, Standards Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Espinach</td>
<td>Manager, Standards Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pamela Carpio</td>
<td>Senior Coordinator, Governance Relations</td>
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List of abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board</td>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPOC</td>
<td>GRI Due Process Oversight Committee</td>
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<td>GRI</td>
<td>Global Reporting Initiative</td>
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<td>GSSB</td>
<td>Global Sustainability Standards Board</td>
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<td>IAC</td>
<td>GRI Independent Appointments Committee</td>
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<td>ISO</td>
<td>International Standards Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHS</td>
<td>Occupational health and safety</td>
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<td>PWG</td>
<td>Project working group</td>
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<td>SC</td>
<td>Stakeholder Council</td>
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<td>TAC</td>
<td>GRI Technical Advisory Committee</td>
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Meeting summary

Please see a list of decision and action items deriving from the meeting on pp. 6-7.

Session 1: Welcome and approval of previous meeting summary

Michael Nugent, the GSSB Vice-Chair (henceforth, “the Vice-Chair”) welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented an overview of the meeting agenda. He further moved for the approval of Item 01 – Summary 23 November GSSB meeting.

The GSSB unanimously approved the meeting summary with no further changes.

Session 2: Project proposal for review of GRI 303: Water

Chelsea Reinhardt, Deputy Director Standards Division, GRI, presented Item 02 - Project Proposal for Review of GRI 303: Water for which she sought comments and approval from the GSSB. This presentation was followed by a suggestion of key stakeholders or organizations GRI should proactively engage during the formation of the related PWGs and finally a request for GSSB members to volunteer on becoming this PWG’s sponsor.

Project Proposal Review of GRI 303: Water

The GSSB discussed:

- The suggestion to change the language on line 66 from “existing disclosures” to “content” to cover a larger possibility of elements of the Standards that could be updated.
- The objectives related to the review, and specifically how to strike a balance between maintaining a universal Standard while including best practice elements. This was to be reflected and adjusted in the wording in lines 68-69 of Item 02.
- That since the DPOC oversees the process, not the project itself, the language on line 78 should be updated.
- That the notion of “waste water” should be included to effluents-related disclosures so it is clearly distinguished from “water” and “effluents”.

The GSSB approved Item 02 - Project Proposal for Review of GRI 303: Water with the amendments noted in this summary. The GSSB also authorized Ms. Reinhardt and the Vice-Chair to establish the final adjustments to the language on the project proposal and requested to receive the final document.

Stakeholders and experts to engage

Ms. Reinhardt clarified that Deloitte was included in the group of organization to engage as GRI’s existing network enables access to expertise within that firm.

Next Steps
An overview of the timeline for establishing PWGs was provided with a request to consider moving the call scheduled 23 February to the week of 6 March to allow approval of the PWGs membership and a quicker start of PWG activities. The GRI Secretariat will send out a new scheduling poll in 2017 with possible dates for this call.

Session 3: SC and Board input on OHS and Water proposals

Ms. Reinhardt informed that no additional comments were received so far from the SC and Board who received the most recent versions of the project proposals on OHS and Water. She also specified that the Standards Division was currently engaged with OHS and Water experts on different governance bodies.

Laura Espinach, Manager Standards, GRI, presented an overview of the progress and key takeaways from the OHS scoping calls held so far and informed the GSSB of the next steps leading to releasing the open call for PWG nominations on 16 January 2017.

The GSSB discussed:

- The involvement of GRI as a liaison agent in the ISO 45001 Standard project, which will run simultaneously to the GSSB OHS review project. Caution was expressed in relation to a deeper implication by the GSSB in the ISO OHS Standard development. However, it was agreed that as a liaison agent, the aim of GRI could be limited to gaining more insight into the development and outcomes of ISO 45001.

Session 4: Discuss timeline and GSSB meeting agendas for Q1 2017

Ms. Reinhardt presented a proposal for the planning of the first quarter of 2017. No further input was received from GSSB members.

Session 5: GSSB Membership

The Vice-Chair presented this session and acknowledged the commitment of the GSSB members stepping-down by the end of this year as indicated in Item 03 – GSSB Rotation Schedule 2016. He further informed that the IAC expects to appoint new members to ensure full membership on the GSSB by mid/end January 2017 and will in the meantime ensure that the GSSB has the 11 members, as required by the GSSB Terms of Reference, to continue its activities.

Although a regular term on the GSSB is 3 years, it had proven necessary to attribute different term lengths to the initial slate of GSSB members (ex TAC members) who started their terms simultaneously in order to ensure that only 5 members rotate each year.

A motion was raised and carried to formally thank departing members for their commitment and contribution to the GSSB.
Session 6: AOB

Ms. Reinhardt provided an update on the staff changes at the Standards Department which was followed by a short introduction of Anna Krotova as the new Manager, Standards Division, at GRI. Ms. Reinhardt further welcomed comments and questions on Item 04 - Summary of Technical questions on the GRI Standards.

The GSSB discussed:
- That producing a hybrid report might help some organizations transition between G4 and the Standards. However, this would not be the recommended approach and GRI could rather encourage organizations to fully embrace the Standards.

The GSSB further agreed to the proposed approaches to the different technical questions as reflected in Item 04 and that no Interpretation development was necessary at this point. Since all questions were individually answered by the Standards Division, it was also thought unnecessary to develop further FAQs regarding the questions presented in Item 04.

Session 7: GSSB administrative updates

GSSB Self-evaluation
The Vice-Chair presented a few highlights from the compiled responses of the GSSB Self-Evaluation, including some of the qualitative answers which were generally positive.

Given the scale used for this evaluation, the Secretariat was requested to follow-up with some GSSB members for whom some of the answers seemed odd, in relation to the rest of their answers.

Member independence Policy
GSSB members were requested to return a completed and signed Item 05 – GSSB Independence Policy, for the past 12 months of activity by 21 December to the Secretariat.

Decisions and Action Items

DECISIONS

Session 1

GSSB Decision 2016.47 The GSSB approved the summary of the meeting held 23 November 2016 with no further changes.

The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.

Session 2

GSSB Decision 2016.48 The GSSB agreed to the Project Proposal for Review of GRI 303: Water with the amendments noted in this summary.
The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.

**Session 5**

**GSSB Decision 2016.49** The GSSB decides to formally thank David Russell, Hidemi Tomita, Michael Nugent, Simeon Cheng and Robin Edme for serving as GSSB members.

The GSSB supported the decision by consensus.

**ACTIONS**

**Governance:**

**Session 7**

- Enquire on the reasons for odd responses on the GSSB Self-Evaluation with the concerned GSSB members.
- Circulate the final GSSB Independence Policy for 2016 in the following day or two of the present meeting.

**Standards Division**

**Session 2**

- Perform the language edits received regarding Item 02 - Project Proposal for Review of GRI 303: Water as noted in this summary and circulate the final document to the GSSB.

**Session 3**

- Follow-up with the contacts and organizations provided by GSSB members and engage in scoping discussions.

**GSSB members**

**Session 3**

- The GSSB members are to suggest organizations and related contact details for the OHS and Water proposals directly to the Standards Division for them to contact.

**Session 7**

- Complete and sign p.4 of the GSSB Independence Policy and return to GRI’s governance team by 21 December 2016.