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## Participants

### Present:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atilla Yerlikaya</td>
<td>Business Enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Taillant</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evan Harvey</td>
<td>Investment Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy Kuszewski</td>
<td>Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jürgen Buxbaum</td>
<td>Labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Swift</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirsten Margrethe Hovi</td>
<td>Business Enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michel Washer</td>
<td>Business Enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robyn Leeson</td>
<td>Vice-Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stiaan Wandrag</td>
<td>Business Enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulema Pioli</td>
<td>Mediating Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vadakepatth Nandkumar</td>
<td>Mediating Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Ingram*</td>
<td>Investment Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight Justice**</td>
<td>Labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Wilson*</td>
<td>Business Enterprise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Joined the meeting during the morning session on Day 1
**Joined the meeting during the afternoon session on Day 1

### In attendance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anna Krotova</td>
<td>Manager, Standards Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bastian Buck</td>
<td>Director, Standards Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gillian Balaban</td>
<td>Standards Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Miller</td>
<td>Assistant Governance Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Diaz</td>
<td>Policy Coordinator GRI – Session 1.7 at 17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Espinach</td>
<td>Manager, Standards Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Carpio</td>
<td>Senior Coordinator, Governance Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamara Bergkamp</td>
<td>Manager, Standards Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Mohin</td>
<td>Chief Executive GRI (CE) – Session 1.4 at 13.30 and Session 1.5 at 14.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veronica Wachong</td>
<td>Coordinator, Standards Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wim Bartels</td>
<td>Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD)</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>AOB</td>
<td>Any other business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE</td>
<td>Chief Executive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>OHS</td>
<td>Occupational health and safety</td>
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<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>TCFD</td>
<td>Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosure</td>
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Decisions and Action Items summary

DECISIONS

Session 1:

GSSB Decision 2017.20 The GSSB approved the summary of the meeting held 19 July 2017 with no further changes.

GSSB Decision 2017.21 The GSSB approved the resolution for Ernst Ligteringen.

The GSSB resolves to formally acknowledge Ernst Ligteringen’s pivotal contribution and highly respected leadership in pioneering GRI and the practice of sustainability reporting globally.

Ernst led GRI for 12 years, transforming it from a start-up initiative into a globally respected and self-sufficient organization. Under his leadership, GRI established itself as the world’s most widely used sustainability reporting standard-setter.

The GSSB members regret Ernst’s sudden and untimely passing, and extend their condolences and deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

Session 2.4:

GSSB Decision 2017.22 The GSSB resolved to approve the proposed membership for Item 03: GRI Technical Committee on Human Rights Disclosure.

ACTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GSSB</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1.1</td>
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<td>Session 1.2.2</td>
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<td>Session 1.3</td>
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<td>Session 1.7</td>
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**Standards Division**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 1.2</th>
<th>Continue the research project Monitoring Update – First year of application of the GRI Standards and present regular updates to the GSSB at future meetings.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1.2.1</td>
<td>Present the main themes emerging from GRI 403: Occupational Health Safety public consultation during the October GSSB meeting. Present updates on project progress during the November GSSB meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 1.2.2</td>
<td>Present the main themes emerging from GRI 304: Water public consultation in the October GSSB meeting. Present updates on progress in November GSSB meeting. Submit project proposal for the update of the remaining contents of the GRI 306: Effluents Waste to the GSSB for discussion and approval during the November GSSB meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 1.2.3</td>
<td>Include an explanation on the role of the GSSB Sponsor in the Terms of Reference for the GRI Technical Committee on Human Rights Disclosure and in the Terms of Reference for future projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 1.3</td>
<td>Implement GSSB comments on the revised and new Standards FAQs presented in <a href="#">Item 06: Summary of technical enquiries</a>. Consolidate questions received on definitions via the Standards inbox and research the status of definitions in other standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 2.2</td>
<td>Share current membership of the GRI Stakeholder Council with the GSSB. Provide a draft list of key stakeholders to be contacted for a stakeholder survey which will be discussed at a future GSSB meeting. Provide the proposed survey for discussion during a future GSSB meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 2.3.2</td>
<td>Make a proposal regarding future activities on sector content, taking into account implementation and resources. Extend an invitation to CE Tim Mohin for a further discussion on his perspective on credibility mechanisms including assurance, quality of reporting and digital strategy. Brief GSSB members on past GSSB discussions and decisions on the sector program during the October or November GSSB meeting.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Develop a proposal on how to communicate the Standards FAQ and other findings from the first year of implementation of the GRI Standards more widely across different channels.

**Session 2.3.3**
Rework the Work Program and submit for a formal resolution in the October meeting.

**Section 2.4**
Build a field test or expert roundtable to socialize recommendations before presenting the Human Rights Technical Committee findings to the GSSB

**Session 2.6**
Confirm the dates for the GSSB in-person meetings in 2018.

... Develop a proposal for a code of conduct for Project Working Group and Technical Committee participants for discussion during the October GSSB meeting.

... Invite GRI Chief Network Engagement Officer Alyson Slater to present the Service Portfolio overview of GRI in a future meeting.

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**D A Y O N E – 2 0 S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 7**

**Session 1: Welcome and approval of meeting summaries**

Judy Kuszewski, the GSSB Chair (henceforth “the Chair”) welcomed the GSSB and attending GRI Secretariat staff to the meeting and presented an overview of the meeting agenda.

The GSSB approved the summary of the meeting held on 19 July 2017 by consensus.

The GSSB approved the resolution for Ernst Ligteringen by consensus.

The GSSB resolves to formally acknowledge Ernst Ligteringen’s pivotal contribution and highly respected leadership in pioneering GRI and the practice of sustainability reporting globally.

Ernst led GRI for 12 years, transforming it from a start-up initiative into a globally respected and self-sufficient organization. Under his leadership, GRI established itself as the world’s most widely used sustainability reporting standard-setter.

The GSSB members regret Ernst’s sudden and untimely passing, and extend their condolences and deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

**Action:** GSSB members to provide any remaining comments on summary format to the Standards Division.
Session 1.2: Overview of the current Standards Division activities & context

The GSSB was presented with the most current activities and context for the Standards Division.

**Action:** Standards Division to continue the research project Monitoring Update – First year of application of the GRI Standards and present regular updates to the GSSB at future meetings.

Session 1.2.1: Project Update: Occupational Health and Safety

The GSSB was presented with an update on the Public Comment Period activities around the exposure draft of the GRI 403: Occupational Health and Safety Standard and an overview of comments received to date.

**Actions:**
- Standards Division to present the main themes emerging from GRI 403: Occupational Health Safety public consultation during the October GSSB meeting.
- Standards Division to present updates on project progress during the November GSSB meeting.

Session 1.2.2: Project Update: Water

The GSSB was presented with an update on the Public Comment Period activities around the exposure draft of the GRI 303: Water Standard and an overview of comments received to date.

**Actions:**
- GSSB members to provide recommendations on leads to contact in the waste, materials or circular economy area to the Standards Division.
- Standards Division to present the main themes emerging from GRI 303: Water public consultation in the October GSSB meeting.
- Standards Division to present updates on progress in November GSSB meeting.
- Standards Division to submit project proposal for the update of the remaining contents of the GRI 306: Effluents Waste to the GSSB for discussion and approval during the November GSSB meeting.

Session 1.2.3: Project Update: Human Rights

The GSSB was presented with an update to the Human Rights review.
The GSSB was first presented with Item 03 - Proposed Membership for GRI Technical Committee on Human Rights Disclosure.

Members argued that the business constituency has limited representation.

The GSSB discussed that if a new business representative was to be appointed, a new civil society nomination must also have to be made, based on the criteria agreed by the GSSB earlier on which aimed to balance these two constituencies. After discussion, the GSSB concluded that it would be difficult to find an additional business representative.

Members agreed to park the approval for membership to the Technical Committee and return to it on Day 2 in Session 2.4: Any Other Business (AOB).

The GSSB was then presented with Item 04 - Terms of Reference for GRI Technical Committee on Human Rights Disclosure.

The GSSB agreed with the new guidance develop on how Technical Committee members should communicate about their participation in the Committee. The GSSB asked to add one sentence in the Terms of Reference on the role of the GSSB Sponsors.

The GSSB was presented with Item 05 - Consultation with reporters on the GRI human rights disclosures.

The GSSB acknowledged the findings and debated reasons why human rights reporting is comparably underdeveloped.

**Action:** Include an explanation on the role of the GSSB Sponsor in the Terms of Reference for the GRI Technical Committee on Human Rights Disclosure and in the Terms of Reference for future projects.

**Session 1.2.4: Project Update: Tax and payments to government**

The GSSB was given an update on the Disclosures on tax and payments to government project.

The Technical Committee members have been confirmed and the project will commence with meetings in Q1 2018.

**Session 1.2.5: Project Update: Review of economic topics in the GRI Standards**

The GSSB was given an update on progress on the Review of economic topics in the GRI Standards project.

Work on this project has not commenced due to staffing limitations. The Standards Division informed that it aims to start this project in Q2 2018.
Session 1.3: Monitoring Update: First year of application of the GRI Standards

The GSSB was provided with monitoring updates during the morning and afternoon of Day 1.

The GSSB discussed Item 06: Summary of technical enquiries.

The GSSB members discussed the FAQ questions and additional commentary/wording suggestions were invited by email.

Question 2: Reviewing or verifying report content.

Standards Division commented that it is important to explain very clearly that the GSSB is not involved in judging the outcome of reports. The GSSB suggested to delete the following sentence: “An organization can use a variety of approaches to check whether all criteria are met for being in accordance with the Standards.”

Question 5: Reasons for omission for topic-specific management approach disclosures?

Standards Division explained that due to there now being a single Standard in place for management approach, there is more uncertainty about omissions. This topic is clearly set out in the Standard.

The GSSB suggested to change the wording in the first sentence of the last paragraph of the response to “Reasons for omission cannot be applied to Disclosure 103-1.

The GSSB discussed the status of the definitions in the GRI Standards Glossary.

Actions:

- GSSB members to provide any additional wording changes to Item 06: Summary of technical enquiries responses to the Standards Division.
- Standards Division to implement GSSB comments on the revised and new Standards FAQs presented in Item 06: Summary of technical enquiries.
- Standards Division to consolidate questions received on definitions via the Standards inbox and research the status of definitions in other company standards.

The GSSB was presented with Item 07 - Monitoring Program – First year of application of the GRI Standards.

The GSSB welcomed the research and requested the Standards Division to continue the Monitoring Program and update the GSSB regularly.

Session 1.4: CE Update: GRI Strategy Refresh

This was a private session.
Session 1.5: CE Update Tim Mohin – Input to GSSB Work Program Review

Tim Mohin, Chief Executive, GRI (henceforth “the CE”) presented the GSSB “CE Update – Input to GSSB Work Program Review”.

The CE reflected on current activities of the GRI Secretariat. Four specific areas were highlighted:

- the continuation of Standards and the need to invest and expand these activities;
- the undertaking of work with other standard setters and frameworks to see harmonization in reporting;
- the reduction of reporting burden and working together with consumers to understand their needs and help formatting reporting to meet their needs;
- the commented on areas which may affect the GSSB are reporting quality, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and emerging issues in transparency.

Session 1.6: TCFD: Presentation, Recommendations & Discuss Collaboration Opportunities

The GSSB was given an overview of the TCFD recommendations by Wim Bartels, member of the TCFD.

The GSSB discussed with Wim Bartels how the implementation of the TCFD recommendations could be supported by the GSSB through its activities.

Session 1.7: Regulations and Policy: Governments / Stock Exchange Update

This session was presented during Day 1 and Day 2.

The GSSB was presented with an overview of the Policy within GRI by Karen Diaz, Policy Coordinator, GRI.

The GSSB was presented with an update on stock exchanges developments by Evan Harvey, GSSB member.

The GSSB was invited to visit websites mentioned during this session for more information:

- UN Sustainability Stock Exchange Initiative
- WFE Sustainability Working Group

Action: GSSB member Evan Harvey to share document that formed the basis of this presentation with all GSSB members and the Standards Division.
Session 1.8: Discussion GSSB Members – Perspective on Updates

This session was discussed at the beginning of Day 2.

Session 1.9: Summary of Day 1 / Close of public meeting Day 1

The Chair remarked that the GSSB needs to keep in mind the current set of activities the Standards Division is implementing, as well as the wider context, including the GRI strategy, TCFD and issues raised during the monitoring uptake.

The GSSB discussed the GRI training offering, but was reminded that training is not within the GSSB portfolio.

The GSSB also remarked that the Human Rights project may take more time than originally planned.

The Chair closed Day 1 at 17.30.

Session 2.1: Welcome and review of agenda of Day 2

The Chair welcomed the GSSB members to Day 2 and reviewed the agenda for Day 2.

Session 2.2: Review Proposal – Project Prioritization

The GSSB was presented with an overview of project prioritization within the Standards Division.

Standards Division invited two or three members to form a committee dedicated to developing a survey approach together with the Standards Division. The purpose of this would be to help standardize engagement with stakeholders, cover open questions and present findings of these discussions to the GSSB.

GSSB members Sulema Pioli, Vadakepatth Nandkumar and Daniel Ingram stepped forward for this committee.

**Actions:**

- Standards Division to share current membership of the GRI Stakeholder Council with the GSSB.
- Standards Division to provide a draft list of key stakeholders to be contacted for a stakeholder survey which will be discussed at a future GSSB meeting.
**Session 2.3: Review Work Program – 2017-2019**

The GSSB was presented with the work program for years 2017-2019, which was approved in November 2016.

The GSSB acknowledged that the project portfolio related to the review and continuous improvement of the GRI Standards is well underway.

The GSSB remarked that the development of sector-specific contents remains a priority.

**Session 2.3.1: Review and reprioritization current projects**

This session was discussed in Session 2.3.3: Review proposed additional projects.

**Session 2.3.2: Review proposed additional projects**

The GSSB was presented with the review of proposed additional projects.

The GSSB discussed:

- Sector contents must be a higher priority than at present, with some sector expectation to have specific guidance being strong.
- The topic of assurance remains controversial with the topic of report quality and the report of assurance being different as assurance covers a broad range of topics.

The Chair commented that at present there is no budget allocation to pursue sector content in more depth. If the GSSB wishes to take this matter further, it may be relevant to present the GRI Board of Directors with a more specific and detailed overview.

Standards Division raised the topic of future collaborations with key partners, such as TCFD and how this should actively evolve. The GSSB asked the Standards Division to work directly with the TCFD on a joint communication.

**Actions:**

- Standards Division to make a proposal regarding future activities on sector content, taking into account implementation and resources.
- Standards Division to brief GSSB members on past GSSB discussions and decisions on the sector program during the October or November GSSB meeting.
Standards Division to develop a proposal on how to communicate the Standards FAQ and other findings from the first year of implementation of the GRI Standards more widely across different channels.

**Session 2.3.3: Approve revised Work Program for public consultation**

The GSSB was presented with the revised Work Program for public consultation.

Standard Division summarized the proposed activities:

- a) Support the implementation of the GRI Standards. This will not be highlighted due to its conclusion.
- b) Review GRI Standards on a regular basis. This should be more specific to commitments already made, reiterating that we do not anticipate adding to these projects.
- c) Develop additional topic-specific Standards on a regular basis. This should be more specific to commitments already made, reiterating that we do not anticipate adding to these projects.
- d) Develop sector-specific content. Prepare for discussion a more focused approach on feedback received, build an efficient program and accumulate more evidence from the market regarding what is required.
- e) Issue authoritative interpretations and guidance. Continue to provide and respond to technical enquiries, continue to build the FAQ and communicate more widely across channels on observations and content.
- f) Participate in initiatives and projects to improve the quality of reporting. More discussion on this topic is needed with the CE to be invited to join this discussion.
- g) Develop new guidance for specific groups of reporters. Further monitoring is needed, no specific group identified.
- h) Collaborate with key partners to reduce the reporting burden and increase the uptake of the GRI Standards. Specific activities relating to TCFD to be introduced.
- i) Provide technical input on programs, products and services developed by GRI (ongoing). Update the GSSB on activities that are covered under this topic and guidance that the Standards Division may require.
- j) Carry out monitoring on the use of GRI Standards and emerging reporting practice (ongoing). Monitoring underlies many activities, this should not be made as an activity, but continue to do this research to help inform decision-making.

The revised Work Program will be revisited at the October meeting.

**Actions:**

- Standards Division to extend an invitation to the CE for further discussions.
Session 2.4: AOB – Due process relevant matters

The topic of the proposed membership for the GRI Technical Committee on Human Rights Disclosure which was discussed during Session 1.2.3: Project Update Human Rights on Day 1 was raised.

The Chair called for a vote on Item 03 - Proposed Membership for GRI Technical Committee on Human Rights Disclosure and sought consensus on approving the membership. Members approved with the understanding that Standards Division would build a field test or expert roundtable, to which a broad group of experts and reporting companies would be invited, with the aim to socialize the recommendations before presenting to the GSSB.

**Action:** Standards Division to build a field test or expert roundtable to socialize recommendations before presenting the Human Rights Technical Committee findings to the GSSB.

Session 2.5: Close of Public Meeting Day 2

The Chair thanked the GSSB members, Standards Division, technical support and the GRI Secretariat and closed Day 2 of the public meeting at 15.10 CET.

Session 2.6: AOB – Administration Matters / Background Briefings

This was a private session.

Session 2.7: Summary of Day 2 / Close of Meeting Day 2

The meeting concluded at 15.30.