Item 06 – Code of conduct for the experts participating in the development of GRI Standards

For GSSB approval

Date 22 November 2017

Meeting 30 November 2017

Description This paper sets out the proposed code of conduct for the experts participating in the development of GRI Standards, to guide the work of experts participating in ad hoc Technical Committees and Project Working Groups.

This paper has been tabled for discussion during the GSSB meeting on 26 October. No further comments have been received after the meeting. The version at hand is presented for approval.
About this document

This paper sets out a proposed code of conduct for the development of GRI Standards, to guide the work of experts participating in ad hoc Technical Committees and Project Working Groups. This code of conduct will form an integral part of the Terms of Reference of expert groups.

This paper is presented for approval.

Proposed code of conduct for the development of GRI Standards

Experts participating in the development of the GRI Standards commit to abiding by the principles and good practices outlined in this code of conduct.

Working in the public interest

Experts participating in development of the GRI Standards do so for the benefit of the public, over and above the interests of any individual or organization. They commit to advancing Standards within their agreed scope and to not hinder their development.

Making decisions through consensus

Experts strive to make decisions by consensus, that is, to reach agreement by the majority of participants and to reduce or resolve conflicting arguments. Experts should aim to offer different options or alternative solutions when disagreeing with or challenging issues.

Behaving ethically

Experts commit to respecting others and their opinions and to conducting themselves in a professional manner. Experts should ensure that the views of all (including those whose first language is not English) are heard and understood.

Ensuring confidentiality

Expert meetings are held under the Chatham House Rule: ‘When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.’

Meeting materials are confidential; they can be shared with colleagues for input, but not with outside parties without prior permission from the GRI Standards Division.

Participating actively and effectively in meetings

Experts commit to actively participate in the standard development process (including in all meetings), and to work in accordance with the Due Process Protocol. Experts should aim to be concise and additive when contributing to discussions.