Summary 25 February 2016 virtual meeting
Meeting summary

Approved by the GSSB on 05 April 2016 during an in-person meeting.

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Participants

Present:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Ingram</td>
<td>Investment Institutions</td>
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<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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<tr>
<td>Dwight Justice</td>
<td>Labor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Hespenheide (Chairman)</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hidemi Tomita</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judy Kuszewski</td>
<td>Mediating Institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jürgen Buxbaum</td>
<td>Labor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirsten Margrethe Hovi</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simeon Cheng</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stiaan Wandrag</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sulema Pioli</td>
<td>Mediating Institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vadakepatth Nandkumar</td>
<td>Mediating Institution</td>
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Apologies:

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robin Edme</td>
<td>Mediating Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Nugent (Vice Chair)</td>
<td>Mediating Institution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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In attendance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bastian Buck</td>
<td>Director, Standards Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Espinach</td>
<td>Manager Reporting Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Carpio</td>
<td>Senior Coordinator, Governance Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maggie Lee</td>
<td>Senior Coordinator, Governance Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tina Nybo Jensen</td>
<td>Governance Relations Coordinator</td>
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List of abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>CEST</td>
<td>Central European Summer Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPP</td>
<td>Due Process Protocol</td>
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<tr>
<td>GSSB</td>
<td>Global Sustainability Standards Board</td>
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<td>SRSs</td>
<td>Sustainability Reporting Standards</td>
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Session 1 Welcome and Objectives for this call

1. Eric Hespenheide, Chairman (henceforth ‘The Chair’) of the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB), welcomed the members of the GSSB and present GRI staff to the meeting. The Chair called the meeting to order at 13h00 CEST and closed the meeting at 15h00.

2. The Chair provided an overview of the meeting’s agenda and thanked the members for providing feedback on the meeting materials beforehand.

3. The Chair proposed that the meeting minutes from the GSSB meeting held on 04 February 2016 be approved. There were no comments from the GSSB and the minutes were approved.

DECISIONS

4. **GSSB Decision 2016.2** The GSSB approved the minutes of the meeting held 04 February 2016.

Session 2 Transition to SRSs: Public Policy and Indirect Economic Impacts

5. Laura Espinach, Manager Reporting Standard, presented this session. Agenda items 2 – Draft SRS 615: Public Policy and 3 – Draft SRS 403: Indirect Economic Impacts were circulated and considered as read. Espinach thanked members for their feedback provided prior to the call. Espinach provided
Use of instructive verbs

The GSSB discussed and agreed to:

- Delete methodology item 2.2.2 in Disclosure 615-1 as it duplicates Disclosure requirement 615-1-b.
- Change Aspect-specific guidance in Agenda items 2 – Draft SRS 615: Public Policy (lines 93-96) and 3 Draft SRS 403: Indirect Economic Impacts to should-statements.
- Review the definitions of political contributions and political causes in SRS 615: Public Policy to ensure clarity.

Use of sub-headings

The GSSB were divided on the approach for sub-headings (Disclosure requirements, Methodology) and agreed to the proposal that the Standards Division mock up solutions to share with the GSSB for an offline review prior to the April in-person meeting. The GSSB were invited to share any ideas for consideration in the next couple of weeks.

Other changes

GSSB members provided minor changes to the Standard which will be incorporated in the next iteration of these drafts.

ACTION ITEMS

Standards Division

- Delete methodology item 2.2.2 in Disclosure 615-1.
- Change Aspect-specific guidance in Agenda items 2 – Draft SRS 615: Public Policy (lines 93-96) and 3 Draft SRS 403: Indirect Economic Impacts to should-statements.
- Review the definitions of political contributions and political causes in SRS 615: Public Policy to ensure clarity.
- Create mock-ups that present different solutions to the use of sub-headings and share with GSSB immediately after the meeting.
- Implement suggestions for minor changes received from individual GSSB members.

Session 3 Transition to SRSs: General Disclosures

Bastian Buck, Director Standards Division, presented this session. Agenda item 4 – Draft SRS 201: General Disclosures was circulated and considered as read. Buck presented a summary of the comments collected from GSSB members prior to the meeting and the preliminary actions the Standards Division proposed to take based on the comments. The GSSB was then asked to respond to the preliminary actions and/or provide further feedback.

GSSB members discussed several items in the SRS, including:

- The need for clarity or precise definitions for terminology such as “collective bargaining”, “region”, “employment contract”, “employment type”.

A summary of the feedback received and where applicable, the Standards Division’s proposed response and action items for discussion and approval.
GSSB members also discussed the level of detail of Disclosure 201-8 and the status of its methodology.

A rationale for replacing existing terminology “primary activities… (lines 165-166) with “core activities”.

GSSB members recognized that the work of the ad hoc technical committee on employee/worker terminology could influence this and several others of the disclosures being discussed. The GSSB agreed that where applicable, the GSSB’s concerns are to be communicated to the committee and to wait for the outcomes before deciding.

The GSSB agreed to change General Disclosure 201-9, methodology item 1.13 to a shall-statement and combined with the disclosure requirement.

The GSSB agreed to leave G4-18 (in Agenda item as General Disclosure 201-44) in SRS 201: General Disclosures.

Content Index

The GSSB agreed that the content index shall prescribe content but not format.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Standards Division

- Take the GSSBs concerns on General Disclosure 201-8, methodology item 1.10 to the ad hoc technical committee on employee/worker terminology.
- Clarify the purpose of Disclosure 201-20 on collective bargaining.
- Change General Disclosure 201-9, methodology item 1.13 to a shall-statement, combined with the disclosure requirement.
- Explore possibility of replacing terminology “primary activities” with “core activities” in General Disclosure 201-9, and adding “core activities” to Disclosure 201-2.
- Change General Disclosure 201-13, methodology item 1.10 to a should-statement and explore option of requiring organizations only to provide a list of the main memberships at the organizational level.
- Retain former G4-18 in the SRS: General Disclosures.
- Explore options for the Content Index that indicates minimum disclosure requirements and allows reporting organizations flexibility on format.

**Session 4 Transition to SRSs - Proposal to Discontinue 4 Aspects**

Laura Espinach, Manager Reporting Standard, presented this session. Agenda item 5 – Proposal to discontinue 4 Aspects was circulated and considered as read. Espinach presented a summary of the comments collected from GSSB members prior to the meeting and the preliminary actions the Standards Division proposed to take based on the comments. The GSSB was then asked to respond to the preliminary actions and/or provide further feedback.

The GSSB agreed to the proposals relating to the Overall and Transport Aspects as outlined in Agenda item 5– Proposal to discontinue 4 Aspects.
The Standards Division agreed to work with individual GSSB members who raised concerns about the proposal for the Investment and Products and Services Aspects.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Standards Division**

- Implement changes to Overall and Transport as outlined in Agenda item 5 – *Proposal to discontinue 4 Aspects*.
- Consult with individual GSSB members to relocate content in the Investment and Products and Services Aspects, specifically for Indicators G4-HR1, G4-HR2 and G4-EN27.

**Decisions & Action items**

**DECISIONS**

- **GSSB Decision 2016.2** The GSSB approved the minutes of the meeting held 04 February 2016.

**ACTION ITEMS**

- Delete methodology item 2.2.2 in Disclosure 615-1.
- Change aspect-specific guidance in Agenda items 2 – *Draft SRS 615: Public Policy* (lines 93-96) and 3 *Draft SRS 403: Indirect Economic Impacts* to should-statements.
- Review the definitions of political contributions and political causes in SRS 615: *Public Policy* to ensure clarity.
- Create mock-ups that present different solutions to the use of sub-headings and share with GSSB immediately after the meeting.
- Implement suggestions for minor changes received from individual GSSB members.
- Take the GSSBs concerns on General Disclosure 201-8, methodology item 1.10 to the ad hoc technical committee on employee/worker terminology.
- Clarify the purpose of Disclosure 201-20 on collective bargaining.
- Change General Disclosure 201-9, methodology item 1.13 to a shall-statement, combined with the disclosure requirement.
- Explore possibility of replacing terminology “primary activities” with “core activities” in General Disclosure 201-9, and adding “core activities” to Disclosure 201-2.
- Change General Disclosure 201-13, methodology item 1.10 to a should-statement and explore option of requiring organizations only to provide a list of the main memberships at the organizational level.
- Retain former G4-18 in the SRS: *General Disclosures*.
- Explore options for the Content Index that indicates minimum disclosure requirements and allows reporting organizations flexibility on format.
- Implement changes to Overall and Transport as outlined in Agenda item 5 – *Proposal to discontinue 4 Aspects*.
- Consult with individual GSSB members to relocate content in the Investment and Products and Services Aspects, specifically for Indicators G4-HR1, G4-HR2 and G4-EN27.