Summary 23 June 2016 meeting
Meeting summary – Approved by GSSB on 21-07-2016

Table of Contents

Participants ........................................................................................................................................... 2
List of abbreviations ............................................................................................................................ 2
Meeting summary ................................................................................................................................. 3
Session 1: Review and approve meeting summary from 16-17 May 2016 GSSB meeting ................. 3
Session 2: Review and approve GSSB high-level Work Program 2017-2019 for public consultation commencing in June 2016 ................................................................................................. 3
Session 3: Discuss initial findings from public consultation period .................................................. 4
Session 4: Overview of GSSB timeline for July-September 2016 ..................................................... 4
Session 5: Any other business ........................................................................................................... 4
Decisions and Action Items ................................................................................................................ 4
Participants

Present:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Russell</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Taillant</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwight Justice</td>
<td>Labor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Hespenheide (Chairman)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hidemi Tomita</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy Kuszewski</td>
<td>Mediating Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirsten Margrethe Hovi</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>Simeon Cheng</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stiaan Wandrag</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulema Pioli (joined at 14.15)</td>
<td>Mediating Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vadakepatth Nandkumar</td>
<td>Mediating Institution</td>
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Apologies:

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<tr>
<td>Daniel Ingram</td>
<td>Investment Institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jürgen Buxbaum</td>
<td>Labor</td>
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In attendance:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bastian Buck</td>
<td>Director, Standards Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea Reinhardt</td>
<td>Deputy Director, Standards Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pamela Carpio</td>
<td>Senior Coordinator, Governance Relations</td>
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<td>Tina Nybo Jensen</td>
<td>Senior Coordinator, Governance Relations</td>
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List of abbreviations

GRI: Global Reporting Initiative  GSSB: Global Sustainability Standards Board
Meeting summary

Please see a list of decision and action items deriving from the meeting on pp. 4-5.

Session 1: Review and approve meeting summary from 16-17 May 2016 GSSB meeting

The Chairman (henceforth “the Chair”) of the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) welcomed everyone to the meeting. An overview of the meeting was presented and the Chair moved for the approval of the Agenda item listed below.

- *Item 01 - Summary 16-17 May 2016 in-person meeting*

The GSSB unanimously approved the meeting summary without any changes.


*Agenda Item 02 – Work Program 2017-2019* was circulated and considered as read. The GSSB was informed that the document has been amended following the initial discussions during the May 2016 meeting. The GSSB was informed that it will be posted for a 90-day public comment in the last week of June.

The GSSB discussed:

- That it should be clearly indicated that priority work areas are not listed in order of priority, and that the GSSB reserves the right to make amendments to the Work Program based on the available funds and other developments that might affect the priorities at any given time.
- To ask a question during the public comment on whether work on human rights-related Standards should be considered a priority for 2017.
- In Item 02, section b) *Review and update GRI Standards on a regular basis*, to refer to ‘review’ rather than ‘review and update’, since reviews don’t necessarily have to lead to an update, but the term ‘review’ is generally understood to include the option to update contents.
- In Item 02, section c) *Develop additional topic-specific Standards on a regular basis*, to include a reference to an omnibus exposure in 2017 and 2018 that cuts across the different Standards, to address language and unintended consequences that affect more than one Standard.
- The need to add language related to credibility and trust mechanisms, indicated as a key activity in Item 02, section j) *Initiate collaborations and projects to improve the quality of reporting*.
• Include specific requests for stakeholder input during the public comment on section G

Collaborate with key partners to reduce the burden on reporters and increase the uptake of the GRI Standards and section J) Initiate collaborations and projects to improve the quality of reporting (Item 2 pp. 7 and 8)

The GSSB agreed to provisionally approve the Work Program 2017-2019 for public exposure, subject to the agreed modifications noted in this summary under action items (pp. 4-5). The Standards Division will circulate the final version to the GSSB before publication.

Session 3: Discuss initial findings from public consultation period

The GSSB was presented with an update on the current and upcoming activities related to the Public Consultation on the full set of draft GRI Standards, as well as the initial findings.

Session 4: Overview of GSSB timeline for July-September 2016

The GSSB was presented with the timeline for GSSB activities and related objectives from July to September 2016. The GSSB was asked to contact the Standards Division directly in case of any timing issues.

Session 5: Any other business

The Chair closed the meeting at 2:35 PM CEST.

Decisions and Action Items

DECISIONS

Session 1

GSSB Decision 2016.014 The GSSB approved the summary of the meeting held 16-17 May 2016.

Session 2

GSSB Decision 2016.015 The GSSB provisionally approved the Work Program 2017-2019 for public exposure, subject to the agreed modifications noted in this summary.
**ACTIONS**

**Standards Division**

**Session 2**

- Include a disclaimer in Item 2 – Work program 2017-2019 specifying that the work areas are not listed in order of priority, and that the GSSB reserves the right to make amendments to the Work Program based on the available funds and other internal or external events that might affect the priorities at any given time.

- Include a question for public comment on whether human rights-related Standards are a priority, under Standards currently identified for review in 2017 (Item 2 p. 5), and ask for input on the priorities.

- Refer to ‘review’ instead of ‘review and update’ in b) Review and update GRI Standards on a regular basis (Item 2 pp. 4-5)

- Include under section c) Develop additional topic-specific Standards on a regular basis (Item 2 pp. 5-6) the option to develop an omnibus exposure that covers different standards to address language and unintended consequences that affect more than one Standard.

- Add language related to credibility and trust mechanisms in section j) Initiate collaborations and projects to improve the quality of reporting (Item 2 p.8)

- Include specific requests for stakeholder input on section G) Collaborate with key partners to reduce the burden on reporters and increase the uptake of the GRI Standards and J) Initiate collaborations and projects to improve the quality of reporting (Item 2 pp. 7 and 8)

- Circulate the finalized version of Item 2 – Work program 2017-2019 to the GSSB members before publication for public comment, including a deadline for feedback on major flaws.

**GSSB members**

**Session 2**

- Notify the Standards Division in a timely manner if they find any major flaws in the final version of Item 2 – Work program 2017-2019.

**Session 4**

- Contact the Standards Division directly in case they have timing issues related to the scheduled GSSB activities for July-September 2016.