GSSB summary of the meeting held on 10 December 2019

Approved by the GSSB on 6 February 2020
Contents

Participants ................................................................................................................................................. 3
List of abbreviations .................................................................................................................................. 3
Decisions and action items .......................................................................................................................... 4
Session 1: Welcome ..................................................................................................................................... 4
Session 2: Update Review of GRI waste disclosures ................................................................................. 5
Session 3: Update on Oil, Gas and Coal Sector Project ................................................................................. 5
Session 4: Project proposal for the development of a Standard for the agriculture and fishing sector 7
Sessions 5-7: Private sessions .................................................................................................................... 8
Participants

Present:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corli le Roux</td>
<td>Mediating institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evan Harvey</td>
<td>Investment institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gustavo Sinner</td>
<td>Mediating institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Princing</td>
<td>Business enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy Kuszewski</td>
<td>Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Swift</td>
<td>Civil society organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michel Washer</td>
<td>Business enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Colley</td>
<td>Labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rama Krishnan Venkateswaran</td>
<td>Investment institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robyn Leeson</td>
<td>Vice-Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tung-Li (Tony) Mo</td>
<td>Civil society organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vincent Kong</td>
<td>Business enterprise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Apologies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Julia Wilson</td>
<td>Business enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirsten Margrethe Hovi</td>
<td>Business enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loredana Carta</td>
<td>Labor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In attendance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anna Krotova</td>
<td>Manager, Standards Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bastian Buck</td>
<td>Chief of Standards, Standards Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gillian Balaban</td>
<td>Assistant, Standards Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Miller</td>
<td>Coordinator, Governance Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margarita Lysenkova</td>
<td>Manager Sector Program, Standards Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mia d'Adhemar</td>
<td>Senior Manager Sector Program, Standards Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah-Jayne Dominic</td>
<td>Senior Manager, Standards Division</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List of abbreviations

- GSSB: Global Sustainability Standards Board
- PWG: Project Working Group
- SD: Standards Division
Decisions and action items

Decisions

GSSB Decision 2019.20 The GSSB resolved to approve Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 21 November 2019.

GSSB Decision 2019.21 The GSSB resolved to approve Item 03 – Proposal for temporary replacement of membership for GRI Project Working Group for Oil, Gas, and Coal.

GSSB Decision 2019.22 The GSSB resolved to approve Item 04 – Project Proposal for an Agriculture and Fishing Sector Standard.

Action items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GSSB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Session 4 | • GSSB to send the SD recommendations for recruiting members to the expert group for the Sector Standard for agriculture and fishing.  
• GSSB to send the SD feedback for any changes to be implemented to the Terms of Reference for Sector Standard expert groups. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standards Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Session 1: Welcome

GSSB Chair Judy Kuszewski (henceforth the Chair) welcomed the GSSB and presented an overview of the meeting agenda.

The Chair congratulated the SD on the launch of the Tax Standard.

The GSSB was presented with Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 21 November 2019 for approval.

GSSB Decision 2019.20 The GSSB resolved to approve Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 21 November 2019.

The Chair presented the finalized GSSB meeting dates for 2020. The Standards Division (SD) has sent out the meeting invites to GSSB members and will be following up with technical information for joining the meetings.
**Actions:**

- SD to send the GSSB an update on the launch activities and media coverage of the launch of the Tax Standard.

**Session 2: Update Review of GRI waste disclosures**

The draft Standard on waste has been revised following feedback received during the public comment period. The revised draft Standard contains two management approach disclosures and three topic-specific disclosures. The SD presented a brief overview of significant changes implemented under each disclosure.

The revised draft Standard is currently undergoing an editorial review and will subsequently be sent to the project working group (PWG) for their last review and sign-off. The SD expects to finalize the draft and present it to the GSSB for approval in March.

The Chair asked the GSSB if there were any concerns that the draft may need to be re-exposed.

The SD informed that it has recently completed a peer review with targeted stakeholders drawn from the public comment period respondents. The peer review participants have validated the implemented changes and acknowledged that these changes resolve the key concerns they raised during the public comment period.

A GSSB member asked about consensus among PWG members in relation to the content and inquired if there are any issues likely to come up.

The SD responded that there has been technical discussion on waste management operations. However, this has been resolved.

GSSB sponsor on the project, Michel Washer, explained that there was already good consensus among PWG members on the draft Standard before the public comment period. Discussions since then have mainly focused on consistency and accuracy of technical content.

No other concerns were raised.

**Session 3: Update on Oil, Gas, and Coal Sector Project**

The GSSB was presented with Item 02 – Stakeholder submissions and GRI Standard Division responses for information, and Item 03 – Proposal for temporary replacement of membership for GRI Project Working Group for Oil, Gas, and Coal for approval.

The SD presented the progress on the oil, gas, and coal project, including the PWG meetings held, the content being discussed and developed, and the challenges encountered in relation to the purpose, structure, and elements of the Sector Standard.
The PWG has identified approximately 20 topics that are likely to be material for most reporting organizations in the oil, gas, and coal sector. Throughout the process, the PWG has flagged that climate change is the most material issue for the sector, and it needs to be prominently reflected in the Sector Standard.

The SD is working on the reporting advice to be included in the Standard. Sector Standards will be substantially different from the G4 Sector Supplements. The SD intends to provide information that is useful to reporting organizations, but that does not create a complex system of reporting next to the existing GRI Standards.

The SD presented the planned 2020 timeline for the project. The GSSB review and approval of the exposure draft of the Sector Standard for oil, gas, and coal is currently scheduled to take place in April 2020.

Temporary replacement of PWG member

The SD provided a status update on engagement with PWG members. Some PWG members have remained inactive in the Sector Standard development process. The SD has reached out to these members and has revived contact with one of them, from the labor constituency. The other member, from the business constituency, has been asked to reconfirm his membership in the PWG. The SD will update the GSSB on any follow-up actions needed once it receives a response from this member.

The SD requested approval for temporary replacement of PWG member Rebecca Collacott from the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), who is going on maternity leave. The recommended replacement candidate, Helen Murphy, is also from IPIECA and has vast experience in sustainability reporting and sustainable development, as well as knowledge of the project.

No concerns were raised and the GSSB agreed with the proposed temporary replacement.

GSSB Decision 2019.21 The GSSB resolved to approve Item 03 – Proposal for temporary replacement of membership for GRI Project Working Group for Oil, Gas and Coal.

Stakeholder submissions

During its meeting on 24-25 September, the GSSB discussed stakeholder concerns about grouping oil and gas with coal into one Sector Standard. The SD has received two additional stakeholder submissions since the September meeting flagging similar concerns.

Item 02 presents the responses to these stakeholder concerns drafted by the SD. As mentioned during the September meeting, the SD will continue its work on the project as it is currently scoped out. The SD will present this issue to the PWG for consideration and will bring it back for discussion with the GSSB at the time of approval of the exposure draft.

A GSSB member asked whether separating coal from the Sector Standard later on, if needed, will generate any problems given the way the content is currently being developed.

The SD explained that the difference between the two sectors appears to lie in the source of the impact, for instance, a specific activity that occurs in only the oil and gas sector. The SD has taken this into account when developing content. Impact descriptions have been drafted in a holistic manner to include oil, gas, and coal, but the source of the impacts have been discussed separately. This should support the possibility of separating the coal-specific content in the future, if needed.
Another GSSB member re-emphasized that though this grouping could be considered novel by some stakeholders, several oil and gas companies have been coal producers in the past.

The GSSB will keep this stakeholder feedback under advisement and will take this up for consideration when the content of the Standard has been developed.

**Actions:**
- SD to send the drafted responses on the scope of the oil, gas, and coal Sector Standard to stakeholders.

---

**Session 4: Project proposal for the development of a Standard for the agriculture and fishing sector**

The GSSB was presented with **Item 04 – Project proposal for an Agriculture and Fishing Sector Standard** for approval, and **Item 05 – Terms of Reference: Project Working Group for the Agriculture and Fishing Sector Standard** for discussion.

Agriculture, being a high-impact sector, was previously selected by the SD and the GSSB for the second pilot project under the Sector Program. The project proposal for the Agriculture Sector was discussed at the GSSB meetings on 7 February and 26 March 2019. The proposal was subsequently sent to the GRI Board and Stakeholder Council for feedback.

Based on feedback from the Stakeholder Council, fishing has been added to the project title to clarify its inclusion in the scope of the project. It was noted that fishing was included in the scope of the project proposal since its inception. The differences between agriculture and fishing mainly relate to environmental impacts and the source of these impacts.

The SD has also explored expanding the scope of this project to cover the full value chain. There is high risk in moving towards including food retail and consumption activities, because agriculture products and services are inputs to other sectors. The sector scope has therefore been confined to upstream activities of production and aggregation of agriculture and fishing products. Both food-related and non-food related agricultural activities are included in the scope.

The SD has adjusted the sector description to highlight the relevance of this Standard to companies that undertake food processing, food distribution, food retail, or other business activities that include agriculture and fishing in the supply chain, to report on their upstream impacts. The proposed timeline for the project has also been adjusted to reflect the new schedule.

**Discussion on scope**

A GSSB member queried what is meant by the term ‘aggregators’ and asked for clarification on why they have been included in the scope of the project.

The SD clarified that the term aggregators is used to refer to all those that purchase from farmers and further supply to food processors, such as co-operatives. Aggregation is the mechanism by which agriculture products get from the primary producer to the next sector, i.e. processing. In the context of the full value chain, aggregators are better grouped with production rather than processing.
The GSSB asked whether others in the sector, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), take a similar view. The SD confirmed that the terms are borrowed from the terminology used by the FAO. However, the SD noted that other international organizations articulate agricultural impacts along the full value chain. This includes impacts related to nutrition and food waste, for example. Covering the full value chain is inconsistent with the way the Sector Program is designed. It would potentially lead to issues when working on other Sector Standards, such as textiles and apparel, where either the full value chain would have to be covered again or there would potentially be a gap in the upstream activities for the sector. This is the rationale for covering production and aggregation under the current scope of the project.

A GSSB member pointed out that there are other frameworks in the agriculture sector that use the term aggregator in a different way, for example, to refer to data aggregators. Providing a clear definition of the term in the context of the Sector Standard is important. The GSSB agreed that this does not require a specific edit to the project proposal but is something that should be addressed in the course of draft development. GSSB Decision 2019.22 The GSSB resolved to approve Item 04 — Project proposal for an Agriculture and Fishing Sector Standard.

Actions:

- GSSB to send the SD recommendations for recruiting members to the expert group for the Sector Standard for agriculture and fishing.
- GSSB to send the SD feedback for any changes to be implemented to the Terms of Reference for Sector Standard expert groups.

Sessions 5-7: Private sessions

No other business was raised and the Chair closed the public sessions of the meeting at 2.09 p.m. CET (Central European Time).

The GSSB meeting to be held on 12 December is a private meeting.

The next public meeting of the GSSB is scheduled for 6 February 2020.