



# Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 16 May 2023

## For GSSB approval

<b>Date</b>	1 June 2023
<b>Meeting</b>	15 June 2023
<b>Description</b>	This document presents the summary of the GSSB virtual meeting held on 16 May 2023.

This document has been prepared by the GRI Standards Division and is made available to observers at meetings of the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB). It does not represent an official position of the GSSB. Board positions are set out in the GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards. The GSSB is the independent standard setting body of GRI. For more information visit [www.globalreporting.org](http://www.globalreporting.org).

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# Participants

Present:

Name	Constituency
<b>Carol Adams</b>	Chair
<b>Jeff Robertson</b>	Vice-Chair
<b>Loredana Carta</b>	Labor
<b>Peter Colley</b>	Labor
<b>Chulendra De Silva</b>	Mediating institution
<b>Giulia Genuardi</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Corli le Roux</b>	Mediating institution
<b>Anna Nefedova</b>	Mediating institution
<b>Deborah Ng</b>	Investment Institution
<b>Jennifer Princing</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Kim Schumacher</b>	Civil society organization
<b>Gangaa Charan Sharma</b> (joined at 13.10)	Business enterprise
<b>Galya Tsonkova</b>	Business enterprise

Apologies:

Name	Constituency
<b>Vincent Kong</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Joseph Martin</b>	Business enterprise

In attendance from GRI:

Name	Position
Bastian Buck	Chief of Standards
Harold Pauwels	Director Standards
Margherita Barbieri	Manager Standards
Gillian Balaban	Sr. Coordinator Governance Relations

## List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full name
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board
SD	Standards Division
WG	Working group
TC	Technical committee

# Decisions and action items

The GSSB resolved to approve the following:

GSSB Decision	Item number
2023.12	01 – <a href="#">Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 28 and 29 March 2023</a>
2023.13	02 – <a href="#">Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 20 April 2023</a>
2023.14	03 – <a href="#">GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change – Proposed members for Technical Committee</a>

## Session 1: Welcome

The Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) Chair Carol Adams (henceforth the Chair) welcomed the GSSB. The Chair presented an overview of the meeting agenda. A quorum was established, and the above items were presented to the GSSB for approval.

## Session 2: Update Standards Division

Chief of Standards, Bastian Buck, provided an update on Topic and Sector Standard projects and the ongoing collaboration with EFRAG and the ISSB.

In the previous GSSB meeting, a first draft text was presented for discussion. This text could form the basis for changes to the GRI Standards when describing the landscape and the relation with other crucial standard-setting developments in the sustainability reporting space. In particular, the work of the ISSB and the regulatory mandate at EFRAG to bring about the ESRS. The following points describe the latest developments on this matter:

- Discussions have continued with colleagues at ISSB and EFRAG, including a full-day meeting with an ISSB Board member to discuss standard-setting endeavors that can contribute to the draft work program.
- On the ESRS front, and with EFRAG, the focus is on the linkage and interoperability of the still-developing ESRS and GRI Standards.
- The collaboration will continue to find ways to explain interoperability to market participants, and GRI will endeavor to provide technical assistance.

22 **Session 3: Topic Standard Project for**  
23 **Climate Change – Updated TC**  
24 **membership**

25 Margherita Barbieri, Manager Standards, presented the following points for consideration and  
26 approval by the GSSB:

- 27 • This is the third and final group of TC members submitted for approval by the GSSB.
- 28 • The TC comprises 13 members. It currently includes four mediating institutions, two  
29 investment institutions, three business enterprises, and two civil society organizations.
- 30 • Today’s nominees include one labor constituency representative and one civil society  
31 organization from the Africa region.
- 32 • Though a potential member from Latin America could not join, the substantial network of peer  
33 reviewers will be sufficient to fill the gaps in regional representation.

GSSB members raised the following points for consideration:

- 34 • GSSB members suggested separate bilateral meetings about connecting potential peer  
35 reviewers into the network.

36 The GSSB approves the following:

GSSB Decision	Item number
2023.14	03 – <a href="#">GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change – Proposed members for Technical Committee</a>

37 **Session 4: GSSB Work Program 2023-**  
38 **2025 update**

39 Harold Pauwels, Director Standards, provided an update on the GSSB Work Program 2023-2025.

40 Revision of the draft work program is ongoing based on the public exposure period and GSSB  
41 discussions. The final draft work program will be submitted for approval in the June GSSB meeting.

42 The final draft work program addresses connections through the mapping between the new GRI Topic  
43 Standard for climate change and ESRS and ISSB standards versions. It also includes future work on  
44 guidance documents to help reporters understand the interoperability between the new GRI Topic  
45 Standard for biodiversity and those provided by TNFD and ESRS. The work program further explores  
46 new initiatives, such as International Humanitarian Law, and how this could be aligned with the  
47 Universal Standards, labor, and other social standards.

48 In response to comments and questions from the GSSB, the SD clarified the following points:

- 49 • The preamble was expanded from the previous version to incorporate the bigger purpose  
50 beyond accountability for impacts to promoting activities consistent with the transformation  
51 towards sustainable development.
- 52 • The Universal Standards address the entire value chain, which includes the supply chain, so  
53 this is a higher-level view. The supply chain is a focus of the projects.

## 54 **Session 5: Close of public meeting**

55 No other business was raised, and the Chair closed the public meeting at 13.45 Central European  
56 Summer Time (CEST).

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