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# Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 21 October 2021

## For GSSB approval

<b>Date</b>	27 October 2021
<b>Meeting</b>	18 November 2021
<b>Description</b>	This document presents the summary of the GSSB virtual meeting held on 21 October 2021.

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).

# 1 Contents

Participants.....	3
List of abbreviations .....	3
Decisions and action items .....	4
Session 1: Welcome .....	4
Session 2: GRI Sector Program update.....	4
Session 3: GRI Topic Standard project for biodiversity .....	6
Session 4: Any other business and close of meeting.....	6

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## 2 Participants

3 Present:

Name	Constituency
<b>Judy Kuszewski</b>	Chair
<b>Robyn Leeson</b>	Vice-Chair
<b>Loredana Carta</b>	Labor
<b>Peter Colley</b>	Labor
<b>Giulia Genuardi</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Joseph Martin</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Jennifer Princing</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Corli le Roux</b>	Mediating institution
<b>Gustavo Sinner</b> (joined at 13.15)	Mediating institution
<b>Kenton Swift</b>	Civil society organization
<b>Michel Washer</b>	Business enterprise

4 Apologies:

Name	Constituency
<b>Evan Harvey</b>	Investment institution
<b>Vincent Kong</b>	Business enterprise
<b>Kim Schumacher</b>	Civil society organization
<b>Rama Krishnan Venkateswaran</b>	Investment institution

5 In attendance from GRI:

Name	Position
<b>Bastian Buck</b>	Chief of Standards
<b>Elodie Chêne</b>	Manager
<b>Miguel Perez Ludena</b>	Research Lead Sector Program
<b>Gillian Balaban</b>	Sr. Coordinator Governance Relations

## 6 List of abbreviations

GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
GSSB	Global Sustainability Standards Board
SD	Standards Division
TC	Technical Committee

## 7 **Decisions and action items**

### 8 **Decisions**

9 As there were insufficient members present to reach a quorum, approval was done by electronic  
10 voting. The GSSB resolved to approve the following:

11 **GSSB Decision 2021.20** [Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 17 June](#)

12 **GSSB Decision 2021.22** [Item 02 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 23 September 2021](#)

13 **GSSB Decision 2021.23** [Item 03 - GRI Sector Standards project for food – draft project proposal](#)

14 **GSSB Decision 2021.24** [Item 04 - GRI Sector Standards project for textiles and apparel – draft  
15 project proposal](#)

16 **GSSB Decision 2021.25** [Item 05 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 1 July 2021](#)

## 17 **Session 1: Welcome**

18 The Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) Chair Judy Kuszewski (henceforth the Chair)  
19 welcomed the GSSB and presented an overview of the meeting agenda. The GSSB was presented  
20 with the following items:

21 [Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 17 June](#)

22 [Item 02 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 23 September 2021](#)

23 [Item 03 - GRI Sector Standards project for food – draft project proposal](#)

24 [Item 04 - GRI Sector Standards project for textiles and apparel – draft project proposal](#)

25 [Item 05 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 1 July 2021](#)

26 [Item 06 - GRI Topic Standard Project for Biodiversity - Proposed members for the technical committee](#)

27 [Item 07 - GRI Topic Standards Project for Biodiversity - Technical committee terms of reference](#)

## 28 **Session 2: GRI Sector Program** 29 **update**

30 The GSSB was presented with two project proposals for Sector Standards, namely: GRI Sector  
31 Standard for food and GRI Sector Standard for textiles and apparel. Miguel Perez Ludena raised the  
32 following points regarding the GRI Sector Standard for food:

- 33 • The Sector Standard for food was prioritized based on its sustainability impacts and synergies  
34 with the Sector Standard for agriculture, aquaculture, and fishing.
- 35 • The scope of this sector covers manufacturing and retail activities. It excludes primary  
36 producers, which the Sector Standard for agriculture, aquaculture, and fishing covers.
- 37 • Restaurants will not be included in the scope of this sector project proposal. A separate  
38 Sector Standard for restaurants will be developed at a later stage.
- 39 • Retailers are recommended to be in the scope of this sector. The rationale is that food  
40 retailers like supermarkets already report on many food-specific sustainability impacts. These  
41 impacts can include food waste, food safety, and animal health and welfare.
- 42 • Tobacco and alcoholic beverages are proposed to be included in the scope of this sector. The  
43 rationale is that they are part of the same industrial structure and share similar sustainability  
44 impacts. However, there may be different perceptions from stakeholders.
- 45 • A decision needs to be taken regarding the inclusion of tobacco and alcoholic beverages in  
46 this sector. Stakeholder consultation could clarify the decision.

47 The following points explain the proposed Sector Standard project for textiles and apparel:

- 48 • The scope of the project is to focus on manufacturing and retail. It includes textiles, apparel,  
49 and footwear.
- 50 • The reason for the choice in scope is the high degree of vertical integration between  
51 manufacturing and retail, particularly in the apparel sub-sector.

52 Table 1. Summary of questions, comments, and recommendations by GSSB members.

Question / Comment	Answer	Recommendation
Is this only about human food?	The sector includes animal food.	Unclear if it includes animal food. Clarity is required.
Comment on the inclusion of alcohol and tobacco.	N/A.	Leave open for further discussion. To be included in the scope for now.
If restaurants and catering are not included here, where are they included?	There is a proposed Sector Standard project for restaurants and catering.	Project structure to continue as it is for now.
Regarding consultation with stakeholders related to tobacco and alcohol, are these within the stakeholder council and the board, or are different consultations taking place?	Consultation with stakeholder council and the board will take place. Given the topic, consultation may have to be broader; external consultation will be required at this stage.	A decision based on a standard setting perspective will need to be made. A list of key stakeholders will have to be consulted for this matter.
A high level of vertical integration, is it about brand names?	The apparel sector has a high level of outsourcing. Brands control the design and marketing of their products.	It is recommended to include retail in the scope of the textiles and apparel sector.

53 No further questions were raised regarding the proposed sector projects.

54 A short update regarding the mining sector project concluded the presentation. The following points  
55 explain the update:

- 56 • The process to interview potential members of the working group is underway.
- 57 • Many applications were received, and the quality of the applicants was generally high.
- 58 • The proposed members' list will be finalized by mid-November. This list will be discussed and  
59 approved by GSSB in early December.

## 60 **Session 3: GRI Topic Standard** 61 **project for biodiversity**

62 Elodie Chêne presented the GSSB with the project update of the revision of *GRI 304: Biodiversity*  
63 *2016*. The following points were highlighted:

- 64 • An interim TC composition was presented. However, discussions are still underway with  
65 potential candidates to assess their skills and availability.
- 66 • More candidates for the TC need to be considered to ensure a balance between views and  
67 expertise. This is the reason why more time is required to identify potential members.
- 68 • SD will provide the final nominations to the GSSB once the selection is completed. GSSB will  
69 vote electronically within a week to finalize the TC composition.

70 A GSSB member asked if the TC were to provide recommendations to existing Sector Standards or  
71 those still being drafted. The response was that the TC would look at possibly three Sector Standards  
72 already published and whose content may be outdated based on the content of the new biodiversity  
73 Standard.

## 74 **Session 4: Any other business and** 75 **close of the meeting**

76 No other business was raised, and the Chair closed the public meeting at 14.41 Central European  
77 Summer Time (CEST).