



Item 03 – GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change – Proposed members for Technical Committee

For GSSB Approval

Date	8 March 2023
Meeting	28 March 2023
Project	GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change
Description	<p>The Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) has identified the GRI Climate Change-related Topic Standards review as a priority project. The proposal was approved in the GSSB meeting of February 2023.</p> <p>This paper presents the first list of nominations of members of the technical committee and its subgroups for information and approval by the GSSB.</p>

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.

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1. Background

The GSSB approved the [project proposal for the GRI Topic Standard Project for Climate Change](#) following its meeting on 16 February 2023.

In line with the GSSB's [Due Process Protocol](#), the GSSB confirmed its intention to form a multi-stakeholder technical committee (TC) to provide technical advice for developing the revised Topic Standard.

This document presents the proposed technical committee composition for information and approval by the GSSB. We will present the nominated experts in two batches for approval in the March and April meeting. All the nominated members have confirmed their availability and interest in participating in the technical committee and its subgroups.

2. Selection process and criteria

As per the due process protocol, technical committee members are appointed by the GSSB and should reflect a balance of multi-stakeholder constituencies.

The technical committee will comprise 10 to 15 members responsible for revising GRI climate change-related Standards. With the focus on climate change-related topics, different constituencies will have an equal voice in the technical committee.

The technical committee will be divided into subgroups to develop recommendations on specific topics as part of the standards development. For the subgroup work, technical committee members can second colleagues with specific expertise. All stakeholder constituencies on which GSSB membership is based will have representation in the technical committee or its subgroups. In addition, geographical, gender, and cultural diversity will be encouraged.

In line with the due process protocol, the technical committee will report to the GSSB and seek guidance and advice whenever required to advance the revision project or when they cannot reach a consensus. When the technical committee is satisfied that it has a proposed (set) of draft Standard(s) that is ready for public consultation, the draft(s) are presented to the GSSB for approval.

According to the due process protocol, we aim to have experts from each constituency on which the membership of the GSSB is based: business enterprise, civil society, investment institution, labor, and mediating institution. Furthermore, we would like to ensure topic-specific advice and expertise to support the technical committee and the Standards Division during content development.

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3. Proposed technical committee composition

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Table 1. Proposed technical committee composition

#	Name	Title	Organization	Constituency	Region	Extract of background and experience
1	Dr. Peiyuan (TC Member)	Guo	Syntao Green Finance	Business Enterprise/ Investment Institution (Rating Agency)	Asia	<p>Dr. Guo Peiyuan is Chairman of SynTao Green Finance, a professional service provider of ESG rating, green bond verification, and green finance advisory. Dr. Guo has around 17 years of experience in ESG and sustainability. He has served a number of clients covering financial institutions, corporations, governments, as well as international organizations. Dr. Guo also serves as an ESG committee member for the China Association for Public Companies, the Insurance Asset Management Association of China, and the China Securities Association. He works closely with international organizations and serves as China Advisor to UNEP Financial Initiative and board member for AIGCC. Dr. Guo has strong experience in reporting and climate disclosures. As a GRI Stakeholder Council member (2010-2016), he is familiar with GRI Standards 2021. Dr. GUO supports several Chinese financial institutions in calculating carbon emissions at operational and asset levels. He understands relevant standards such as GHG Protocol, PCAF, TCFD, and ISSB.</p> <p>Dr. Guo holds BS in environmental engineering and a Ph.D. in management from Tsinghua University. He teaches an MBA course, Business Performance and Sustainability, at the School of Economics and Management, Tsinghua University.</p>
2	Christoph (TC Member)	Töpfer	UBA	Mediation Institution (Inter-Governmental Agency)	Europe	<p>Christoph Töpfer is the German Environment Agency's (UBA) corporate sustainability and environmental management expert. His work is currently focused on corporate sustainability reporting, climate change mitigation, and risk management, as well as environmental supply chain due diligence. He advises the German Government, European Commission, and international organizations and has initiated and supervised various research projects in these fields. Christoph brings extensive experience in international standardization, where he chairs a working group to develop a series of environmental management</p>

						standards. As part of EFRAG's Task Force for developing Draft European Sustainability Reporting Standards, Christoph co-led the work on the climate reporting standards ESRS E1. Christoph is a trained economist and holds master's degrees in sustainable development and technical business management. Before his time at UBA, he was a sustainability and quality engineer in the German photovoltaics industry.
3	Pankaj (TC member)	Bhatia	World Resources Institute	Mediation institution	North America	Pankaj Bhatia is the Acting Director of WRI's Climate Program and Director of GHG Protocol. Additionally, Pankaj is a leading expert and authority on the GHG Protocol standards and tools, particularly in the areas of corporate, scope 3, mitigation action, and city accounting. He launched and led the three-year global process that involved more than 2,300 stakeholders in developing the new GHG Protocol Scope 3 and Product Standard released in October 2011. Further, he led GHG Protocol teams to develop new global standards for mitigation goals, policies, and actions in the agriculture sector and cities; supported global initiatives including CDP, SBTi, ISO, and GRI to adopt GHGP standards; and led planning and implementation of national GHG programs in key major economies including China, India, and Brazil. From 1998 to 2000, he was Vice President of Tata Energy & Resources Institute, a not-for-profit research organization based in Arlington, Virginia. From 1993 to 1998, he served TERI, New Delhi, on various projects related to implementing the Montreal Protocol in India and developing environmental policy for technology transfer and capacity building in the Indian industry. He holds a Master's in Process Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and a Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering from the Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India.
4	Michael (Subgroup member)	Macrae	World Resources Institute	Mediation institution	North America	Michael Macrae is a member of WRI's GHG Protocol Secretariat, facilitating the review and update process for the Scope 2 Guidance. Prior to WRI, he led the development of Enel North America's market advocacy and regulatory strategy for the Northeastern United States, ensuring and enabling the growth of distributed energy resources, renewable generation and storage, demand response, and electric vehicle infrastructure. Michael has also worked with Harvard University, managing the University's wholesale and retail electricity market participation and developing energy procurement strategies to meet energy supply, environmental, and sustainability needs. Leadership positions in that capacity included serving as Vice Chair of the NEPOOL

						<p>End User Sector, Vice Chair of the NEPOOL-GIS working group, and a member of the joint nominating committee for the ISO-NE Board of Directors. With Harvard, he also oversaw the University's state and federal regulatory air compliance programs, including permitting a new Combined Heat and Power (CHP) unit and a new District Energy Facility, as well as managing Harvard's voluntary Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG inventory.</p> <p>He serves on his town's Municipal Light Board of Directors and teaches courses on corporate carbon accounting at Harvard University. Michael earned his PhD in Chemistry from the University of California, San Diego.</p>
5	Jesica (TC Member)	Andrews	United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)	Civil Society/ Investment institution (Non-Governmental Organization)	Europe	<p>Jes Andrews is Investment Lead at the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, where she leads the Investment Leadership Programme and focuses on portfolio target-setting with investors in the UN-Convened Net Zero Asset Owner Alliance. She is also a member of the Expert Advisory Group for Science Based Targets Initiative and UNFCCC's Race to Zero Campaign. Prior to working with UNEP FI, she worked on climate change projects with multiple UN agencies, governments, and private firms across some 35 countries in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. She is the author of the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group Paper: High Level Recommendations for Credible Net Zero Commitments and has several times served as an invited reviewer of the UNEP Emission Gap Reports. Simply put, Jes supports financial institutions in understanding climate risk, developing science-based methodologies, and aligning with the UNFCCC Paris Agreement.</p> <p>She graduated summa cum laude from the University of New Mexico with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics and holds a Master of Finance from the University of Cambridge, Judge Business School.</p>
6	Rahnuma (Subgroup member)	Chowdhury	United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)	Civil Society/ Investment institution (Non-Governmental Organization)	Europe	<p>Rahnuma Chowdhury joined UNEP FI in February 2021, specializing in the development and implementation of transition plans for investors, specifically the Investor Climate Action Plans (ICAPs) Expectations Ladder. She sits across UNEP FI's Investment and Climate teams, focusing on developing investor leadership practices in responsible investing and building approaches to track and assess investor performance on net zero commitments. She also acts as ICAPs Manager for the Investor Agenda and is UNEP FI's representative on the ICAPs</p>

						<p>WG. Rahnuma is an Advisor to the GFANZ Workstream on Financial Institution Transition Plans and the Steering Group for the Act 4 Finance Decarbonising the Transition project. She was also an Expert on the Race to Zero Criteria Consultation for Transition Plans & Immediate Action.</p> <p>Prior to her role at UNEP FI, Rahnuma worked on a number of projects relating to climate change for financial services firms, including developing ESG frameworks, setting climate strategy, and assessing sustainable investments within roles at QBE, PwC, and the Bank of England.</p> <p>Rahnuma holds a BA in Public Affairs and Policy Management with High Honours from Carleton University in Ottawa and an MSc in Development Management from the London School of Economics.</p>
7	<p>Carolin</p> <p>(Seconding Subgroup member)</p>	Gresch	<p>United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)</p>	<p>Civil Society/ Investment institution (Non-Governmental Organization)</p>	Europe	<p>Carolin Gresch is a consultant at the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, where she has dedicated her efforts to the Un-convened Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance. Over the past two years, she has gained substantial expertise in the critical areas of climate target setting and reporting while working within the Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification Track of the Alliance. In addition to supporting the Target Setting Protocols, which are the flagship projects of the Alliance, Carolin manages the Working Groups of the MRV Track.</p> <p>Prior to her work at UNEP FI, Carolin served as a member of the Climate Team of the Principles for Responsible Investment, contributing to various projects focused on financing the transition. She also provided support to the ESG Implementation Team of the Allianz Investment Management SE.</p> <p>Carolin's academic achievements include a Master's in Management and Technology from the Technical University of Munich, focusing on Finance & Accounting, and Mechanical Engineering.</p>
8	<p>Jimmy</p> <p>(TC Member)</p>	Jia	<p>University of Oxford</p>	<p>Mediation Institution (Academic)</p>	Europe	<p>Jimmy Jia is a research associate of Oxford Net Zero, a member of the Oxford Sustainable Finance Group, and a non-stipendiary lecturer at Mansfield College, Oxford. His research focuses on improving the comparability of environmental accounting systems, such that investors can make capital deployment decisions between entities. This helps evaluate climate exposure on asset value, integrates environmental, social, and governance (ESG) indicators into the due diligence process, and aligns corporate strategy with ESG goals. He sits on numerous boards, where he has held positions of Chair, Vice</p>

						Chair, Chair of Strategy Committee, and member of Finance and Executive Committees. He has sat on several CEO hiring committees and regularly works with executives to adopt budgets and create long-term strategies to innovate in competitive markets. Jimmy has published two books, holds five patents, and speaks internationally on topics of energy futurism. He received his BS and MS from MIT in Material Science and Engineering and MBA from the University of Oxford. He is currently a DPhil Candidate at the University of Oxford in Sustainable Finance.
9.	José Luis (Seconding Subgroup member)	Reséndiz	University of Oxford	Mediation Institution (Academic)	Europe	José Luis is a Doctoral Researcher at the Oxford Sustainable Finance Group, specializing in transition finance and business model transformation aligned with a net-zero and nature-positive economy. His research is focused on sustainability-linked finance and transition plans in the power and aviation sectors. In addition to his role at Oxford, he is a Research Fellow at Boston University's Global Development Policy Center and a member of the Secretariat for the UK Transition Plan Taskforce, established by HM Treasury. This taskforce aims to develop the standard for corporate climate transition plans in the UK and inform the FCA. José Luis has provided consultation and policy advisory services on sustainable finance and energy policy to governments and multilateral agencies, including the World Bank and the Government of Mexico City.
10.	Matthew (TC Member)	Brander	University of Edinburgh	Mediation Institution (Academic)	Europe	Matthew is a Senior Lecturer in Carbon Accounting at the University of Edinburgh's Business School. His current research focuses on the development of methods for corporate, product (life cycle assessment), project and policy-level greenhouse gas accounting. He has particular interest in bioenergy, offsetting, electricity accounting, greenhouse gas removal, and the alignment of financial flows with the Paris Agreement. He has served as a member of several technical working groups for the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, and the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), and is on the peer review panel for BEIS/Defra's emission factors publication for company reporting, and the Advisory Board for the Woodland Carbon Code. He also chairs the Climate Advisory Group for abrdn's Multi-Asset Climate Solutions Fund. Prior to his current position Matthew worked for over seven years in carbon management and greenhouse gas assessment at the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Management, and at Ecometrica.