



GSSB Global
Sustainability
Standards Board

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Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 15 September 2020

For GSSB approval

Date	8 October 2020
Meeting	22 October 2020
Description	This document presents the summary of the GSSB virtual meeting held on 15 September 2020.

This document has been prepared by the GRI Standards 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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This document does not represent an official position of the GSSB

10 Participants

11 Present:

Name	Constituency
Judy Kuszewski	Chair
Robyn Leeson	Vice-Chair
Loredana Carta	Labor
Peter Colley	Labor
Evan Harvey	Investment institution
Kirsten Margrethe Hovi	Business enterprise
Vincent Kong	Business enterprise (left meeting at 14:00)
Joseph Martin	Business enterprise
Tung-Li (Tony) Mo	Civil society organization
Jennifer Princing	Business enterprise
Corli le Roux	Mediating institution
Gustavo Sinner	Mediating institution
Kenton Swift	Civil society organization
Rama Krishnan Venkateswaran	Investment institution
Michel Washer	Business enterprise

12 In attendance:

Name	Position
Bastian Buck	Chief of Standards, Standards Division
Laura Espinach	Head of Technical Development, Standards Division
Gillian Balaban	Team Assistant, Standards Division

13 List of abbreviations

GSSB Global Sustainability Standards Board
SD Standards Division

14 Decisions and action items

15 *Decisions*

16 **GSSB Decision 2020.17** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB](#)
17 [meeting held on 18 June 2020](#).

18 **GSSB Decision 2020.18** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 03 – GRI Topic Standards Project for](#)
19 [Human Rights – Proposed member for technical committee](#).

20 *Action items*

Standards Division	
Session 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SD to provide a timeline for the coal and the agriculture and fishing projects at the next GSSB meeting.
Session 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SD to consolidate the feedback received and finalize the GSSB Work Program 2020-2022 for GSSB approval at its next meeting 22 October 2020.SD to establish a list of sector priorities for 2021 by the end of 2020.

21 Session 1–3: Private sessions

22 These were private sessions.

23 Session 4: Welcome

24 The GSSB was presented with [Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 18 June 2020](#)
25 for approval.

26 GSSB Chair Judy Kuszewski (henceforth the Chair) welcomed the GSSB to the meeting, extended a
27 welcome to new GSSB member Joseph Martin, and presented an overview of the meeting agenda.

28 **GSSB Decision 2020.17** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 01 – Draft summary of the GSSB](#)
29 [meeting held on 18 June 2020](#).

30 Session 5: Standards Division update

31 The Standards Division (SD) presented an update of its activities regarding ongoing projects,
32 including a brief overview of the numbers and types of responses received for the draft Universal
33 Standards, and progress on the public comment period for the draft Oil and Gas Sector Standard.

34 The SD requested GSSB members to encourage stakeholders to make contributions to the draft Oil
35 and Gas Sector Standard.

36 The SD presented the GSSB with statistics of Standards downloads till August 2020, highlighting the
37 significant growth observed year on year and a trend for continued interest during the summer
38 months.

39 **Approval of proposed member for Human Rights Technical Committee**

40 The GSSB was presented with [Item 03 – GRI Topic Standards Project for Human Rights – Proposed](#)
41 [member for technical committee](#) for approval.

42 The Chair called for comments or questions regarding the proposal. No comments or concerns
43 were raised. The GSSB approved the proposed member by consensus.

44 **GSSB Decision 2020.18** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 03 – GRI Topic Standards Project for](#)
45 [Human Rights – Proposed member for technical committee](#).

46 **Actions:**

- 47 • SD to provide a timeline for the coal and the agriculture and fishing projects at the next
48 GSSB meeting.

49 Session 6: GSSB Work Program 2020– 50 2022

51 **Overview of public comment submissions**

52 The SD presented the GSSB with an overview of public comments received on the draft GSSB
53 Work Program 2020-2022.

54

55 **GSSB response to public comment overview**

56 One GSSB member commented on the range of new ideas offered by the feedback but pointed to a
57 current lack of budget to implement them. The member further commented that data ethics and
58 privacy were a major issue for a range of businesses and required consideration.

59 Another GSSB member requested information on the approach being used to respond to the
60 diverse range of feedback. The SD explained that it has responded to the receipt of all feedback and
61 communicated to stakeholders that the GSSB will take the comments into consideration as part of
62 its work program. Individual stakeholders were contacted on a case-by-case basis depending on the

63 relevance of their feedback to ongoing or future projects. There is no plan for public response to all
64 feedback, but this can be done if the GSSB requests it.

65 The Chair added that though there is no formally set threshold for the GSSB response, the GSSB is
66 aware of the need to make clear to the Due Process Oversight Committee that it has taken public
67 comments into consideration when making decisions regarding project prioritization in its work
68 program.

69 A GSSB member commented that there should be clear communication to stakeholders on how
70 sectors were prioritized in the Sector Program. The Chair suggested revisiting the basis for the
71 existing sector prioritization and presenting a robust rationale that can be communicated to
72 stakeholders. The SD is currently looking at how to scale up the Sector Program and identifying
73 priorities and will take the GSSB as well as public comments on board.

74 The SD presented the next steps for consolidating the feedback received and finalizing the GSSB
75 Work Program 2020-2022 for GSSB approval. The work program will include a prioritization of
76 projects for 2021 based on financial realities, as well as set out a sequence by which to take on
77 projects should more budget become available. The SD will establish a plan for scaling up the Sector
78 Program together with a list of sector priorities before the end of the year.

79 **Actions:**

- 80 • SD to consolidate the feedback received and finalize the GSSB Work Program 2020-2022
81 for GSSB approval at its next meeting 22 October 2020.
- 82 • SD to establish a list of sector priorities for 2021 by the end of 2020.

83 Session 7: Any other business and close of 84 meeting

85 No other business was raised and the Chair closed the meeting at 14:38 CEST (Central European
86 Summer Time).