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# Item 02 – Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 23 March 2021

## For GSSB approval

<b>Date</b>	15 April 2021
<b>Meeting</b>	29 April 2021
<b>Description</b>	This document presents the summary of the GSSB virtual meeting held on 23 March 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).

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## 2 Participants

3 Present:

Name	Constituency
Judy Kuszewski	Chair
Robyn Leeson	Vice-Chair
Loredana Carta	Labor
Peter Colley	Labor
Giulia Genuardi	Business enterprise
Evan Harvey	Investment institution
Joseph Martin	Business enterprise
Jennifer Princing	Business enterprise
Corli le Roux	Mediating institution
Kim Schumacher	Civil society organization
Gustavo Sinner	Mediating institution
Kenton Swift	Civil society organization
Rama Krishnan Venkateswaran	Investment institution
Michel Washer	Business enterprise

4 Apologies:

Name	Constituency
Vincent Kong	Business enterprise

5 In attendance from GRI:

Name	Position
Bastian Buck	Chief of Standards
Laura Espinach	Head of Technical Development
Elodie Chêne	Manager
Mia d'Adhemar	Senior Manager

## 6 List of abbreviations

GSSB            Global Sustainability Standards Board  
SD               Standards Division

## 7 Decisions and action items

### 8 Decisions

9 **GSSB Decision 2021.04** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 01 - Draft summary of the GSSB](#)  
10 [meeting held on 25 February 2021](#).

### 11 Action items

Standards Division	
Session 2 and 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SD to incorporate GSSB feedback into draft of <i>GRI 102</i> and <i>GRI Standards Glossary</i>.</li><li>• SD to propose more detailed timeline for revision of Human Rights related Topic Standards in July 2021.</li><li>• SD to implement changes to GRI Sector Standard format as presented.</li><li>• SD to implement process for managing Sector Standard and Topic Standard development together as presented.</li></ul>

## 12 Session 1: Welcome

13 The Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) Chair Judy Kuszewski (henceforth the Chair)  
14 welcomed the GSSB and presented an overview of the meeting agenda.

15 The GSSB was presented with [Item 01 - Draft summary of the GSSB meeting held on 25 February](#)  
16 [2021](#) for approval.

17 **GSSB Decision 2021.04** The GSSB resolved to approve [Item 01 - Draft summary of the GSSB](#)  
18 [meeting held on 25 February 2021](#).

## 19 Session 2: GRI Universal Standards 20 project

21 **GRI 102: About the Organization, excluding governance**  
22 **disclosures, and the GRI Standards Glossary**

23 The GSSB was presented with [Item 02 - GRI Universal Standards Project – Revised GRI 102](#) and  
24 [Item 03 - GRI Universal Standards Project – Revised Glossary section](#) for discussion.

25 The Standards Division (SD) presented a summary of the GSSB feedback on the content of *GRI 102:*  
26 *About the Organization*, excluding governance disclosures, and solicited further feedback. No further  
27 comments were raised.

28 The SD presented a summary of the GSSB feedback on the *GRI Standards Glossary*, including a  
29 question about whether 'non-guaranteed hours employee' was a sufficiently universal term. A GSSB  
30 member provided background for the term's selection, indicating that the concept is covered by many  
31 different terms worldwide, and that the Workforce Disclosure Initiative chose this term as one that  
32 describes the variety of instances.

33 The SD solicited further feedback on the *GRI Standards Glossary*. No further comments were raised.

34 **Actions:**

- 35 • SD to incorporate GSSB feedback into draft of *GRI 102* and *GRI Standards Glossary*.

36 **Update on the GRI Topic Standards Project for Human Rights**

37 The SD presented an update on the next phase of the GRI Topic Standards Project for Human  
38 Rights, including a public scoping survey which will solicit views on the content gaps in the current  
39 Standards and identify priority human rights issues for GRI Topic Standards development.

40 A GSSB member questioned when the revision of Human Rights related Topic Standards were  
41 expected to occur. The SD responded that the results of the scoping survey will inform the scope of  
42 the future revision. It stated that there will be a better understanding of the potential scope of the  
43 project by Q3 2021, and that a proposal is expected in July 2021.

44 No further comments were raised.

45 **Session 3: GRI Sector Standards**  
46 **program**

47 **Public comment feedback on GRI Sector Standard format and**  
48 **approach**

49 The GSSB was presented with [Item 04 - Public comments on Sector Standards collected during the](#)  
50 [exposure period for the Oil and Gas Sector](#) for discussion.

51 The SD presented a summary of public comment feedback on the GRI Sector Standard format and  
52 approach. The Chair inquired about any general lessons from this pilot Sector Standards project. The  
53 SD discussed the need to balance the level of connection with other reporting frameworks, refine the  
54 narrative about how the Sector Standards are to be used in relation to the GRI Standards, and find a  
55 balance between including reference material in the Sector Standards and referencing external  
56 material.

## 57 **Overview of revisions to GRI Sector Standard format and approach**

58 The SD then presented an overview of the revisions to the GRI Sector Standard format, as well as  
59 revisions to the approach to the use of the Sector Standards that will be built-in via the Universal  
60 Standards. Key format changes included reordering and revising content in the Sector Standard  
61 format to be more user friendly, alignment of the Sector profile section with the GRI 103; Material  
62 Topics, and potentially including a sector classification key to aid in mapping to other reporting  
63 frameworks.

64 A GSSB member commented that in light of the recent convergence of some reporting frameworks in  
65 the sustainability reporting space, it is important to evolve toward a common definition of sectors, or  
66 risk becoming marginalized. The Chair stated that the issue of sector definition and classification had  
67 previously been discussed extensively and asked the SD for a refresher on where these discussions  
68 had landed.

69 The SD stated that there are a number of different sector classification systems for different users,  
70 ranging from investors to academics to governmental agencies (like the UN), and that each has a  
71 different need and use case. However, none completely covers all GRI Sector Standard use cases  
72 and thus the Sector Standards classification system has been designed to be useful to a broad range  
73 of users, and have some interoperability in a number of use cases. The SD reiterated that a sector  
74 classification key that provides comparison between the different classification systems is sufficient  
75 for navigating the connections with various classification systems.

76 The GSSB discussed the potential marginalization of GRI with the consolidation of other reporting  
77 frameworks, and a potential shift from reporting under GRI to reporting under SASB or others  
78 because organizations perceive that this is what investors prefer. A GSSB member also stated that  
79 although this perception does exist with reporting organizations it does not seem to reflect what  
80 investors actually want. Further discussion on this topic was deferred to a private session.

## 81 **Interaction between GRI Topic Standard and GRI Sector Standard** 82 **development**

83 The SD then presented updates to the process for managing both GRI Sector Standard and GRI  
84 Topic Standard development together. They first reviewed how the Sector Standard project would  
85 inform Topic Standard development, including bringing feedback raised during the Sector Standard  
86 Development to appropriate Topic Standard projects. The GSSB emphasized the importance of  
87 establishing a clear relation between the Sector Standards and the Topic Standards.

88 The SD also discussed the need to update the Sector Standards when Topic Standards are updated  
89 or newly developed and clarified that identifying necessary Sector Standard updates would be part of  
90 the Topic Standard project mandate.

91 The GSSB expressed support for the updated Sector Standard format and the planned developments  
92 and next steps for the Sector Standard project. A GSSB member also expressed an opinion that the  
93 Sector Standards could also be complimented by other reporting standards such as SASB. No further  
94 comments were raised.

95 **Actions:**

- 96 • SD to implement changes to GRI Sector Standard format as presented.
- 97 • SD to implement process for managing Sector Standard and Topic Standard development  
98 together as presented.

99 **Session 4: Any other business and**  
100 **close of public meeting**

101 No other business was raised, and the Chair closed the meeting at 14.25 CET (Central European  
102 Time).