

Summary of Meeting Outcomes

Public Standards Board Meeting

July 8, 2021

The following represents a staff summary of the outcomes of a public meeting of the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB). Meeting outcomes may include final decisions made by the Board in accordance with the SASB [Rules of Procedure](#), preliminary Board decisions that are tentative and subject to change until they receive final Board approval, or other outcomes resulting from Board discussions or staff updates.

The meeting recording, materials, and a schedule of upcoming meetings are available online at the [Standards Board Meeting Calendar & Archive](#).

The current SASB Standards are available at [Download Current Standards](#). Information on specific projects can be found on the [Projects](#) page. [Subscribe](#) to receive standards-related updates or [provide input](#) on SASB Standards.

Agenda Planning

- Staff presented an overview of the current project pipeline, including brief updates on ongoing research projects and standard-setting activities.
- Staff provided updates related to sustainability disclosure generally and SASB Standards in particular. This included updates on:
 - The merger of the SASB Foundation and the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) to form the Value Reporting Foundation
 - An update on efforts by the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) to develop EU Sustainability Reporting Standards
 - The SASB Foundation's response to the SEC's recent request for public input on climate-related financial disclosure
 - The Value Reporting Foundation's ongoing participation in the IFRS Foundation's Technical Readiness Working Group

Research Projects

Human Capital

- Staff presented an update on its work to develop project proposals for the priority tranche of Human Capital, including proposals related to industry-agnostic human capital information, as well as diversity and inclusion
- The Board discussed several areas related to the industry-agnostic human capital information, including:
 - The three areas staff recommended continuing to pursue—including workforce composition, workforce costs, and workforce turnover—as well as the areas where staff recommended exclusively an industry-specific focus (e.g., diversity and inclusion)
 - The level of Board support for the three areas staff recommended continuing to advance, with Board members expressing mixed views ranging from support to concerns; some Board members expressed a need to further understand the rationale behind how the three areas are distinct from the other aspects of human capital information
 - The form this workstream may result in, including a Standard, guidance, activity metrics, or other suggestions for consideration provided by Board members
- The Board discussed the preliminary staff proposal related to standard setting on diversity and inclusion. Board members generally supported the staff analysis and view, which centered on the importance of industry-specificity to produce decision-useful information on diversity and inclusion—including the need for a clear articulation of financial impacts based on industry characteristics.
- Several Board members commented on the potential complementarity of industry-agnostic information when combined with an industry-specific approach—an area that staff was encouraged to advance

Standard-Setting Projects

Content Governance in the Internet Media & Services Industry

- Staff presented an update to the Board on the status of the project, including a review of the recent consultation period

- The Board provided the staff with input regarding the potential structure of a revised Standard, including disclosure topics and associated metrics
 - Some Board members supported the staff recommendation to revise the current privacy-oriented disclosure topic and create a new disclosure topic focused on content governance themes, while other Board members raised questions regarding how the topics could best address the concepts of user freedom of expression and government requests for user data
 - The Board was largely supportive of staff moving forward with its proposed approach to metrics development for content moderation, while noting the desire to further deepen market input and how further consultations and an exposure draft may lead to more comprehensive market input on the project.

Plastics Risks and Opportunities in Pulp & Paper Products and Chemicals Industries

- Staff presented an update to the Board on the project as it relates to both the Chemicals and Pulp & Paper Industries. The focus was on key issues where staff sought Board input to help guide next steps in the standard-setting process.
 - Chemicals industry: The Board supported the staff recommendation to incorporate the management of single-use plastics and bio-alternatives into the Chemicals Industry Standard as a distinct, stand-alone topic rather than modifying the existing Product Design for Use-Phase Efficiency topic. Staff communicated its intent to proceed towards development of an exposure draft, with general support from the Board.
 - Pulp & Paper: Board members expressed varying views, but generally supported the staff recommendation to form a recommendation on the merging the Pulp & Paper and Containers & Packaging Standards before proceeding to develop an exposure draft related to the issue of single-use plastics and bio-alternatives.

Renewable Energy in Electric Utilities Industry

- Staff presented key findings from market feedback and research on the disclosure limitations with the current set of metrics related to renewable

energy in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Energy Resource Planning disclosure topic in the Electric Utilities & Power Generators Standard.

- Staff recommended the Board initiate a standard-setting project to improve how the Standard addresses company performance and strategy in the context of the industry's transition to renewable energy as a decarbonization pathway.
- The Board approved the standard-setting project, as recommended by staff. The project scope includes the consideration of new or revised metrics to address the energy transition in the Electric Utilities & Power Generators industry and to enhance international applicability.