Introduction to Sustainability Reporting & GRI

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Agenda: 18 September 2017

- 16:00 – 16:30: Small Business, Big Impact – SME Sustainability Reporting: From vision to action
- 16:30 – 17:00: How to get started with reporting?
The sustainability challenge

How can business be profitable and contribute to sustainable development at the same time?
Sustainability reporting is an organization’s practice of reporting publicly on its economic, environmental, and/or social impacts, and hence its contributions – positive or negative – towards the goal of sustainable development.
Sustainability reporting

• Helps to set goals, measure performance and manage change
• Includes most significant impacts
• Makes abstract issues tangible and concrete
• Helps organizations develop sustainability related strategies and activities
• Is stakeholder-focused, performance-bridging and marks continuous improvement.
Small Business, Big Impact – SME Sustainability Reporting: From vision to action
The UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
From global policy to local implications

GLOBAL POLICY
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Adopted by 190 world leaders

NATIONAL POLICY
- National country priorities
- New policies and regulations
- Incentives and disincentives for business

YOUR BUSINESS
- Responsible business practices
- License to operate
- Resilient business models for the emerging context
What is the business case for sustainability and reporting?
Business case for sustainability and reporting: Exercise

Exercise (20 minutes):

- Which are the main benefits of sustainability reporting for your organization? List your top five benefits (10 minutes)
- Each table nominates a representative to share the most important benefits in a plenary (5 minutes)
- Compare your organization’s benefits with the ones mentioned in the *Small Business Big Impact* publication- which benefits did you miss? (5 minutes)
What is the business case for sustainability and reporting?

INTERNAL BENEFITS

VISION & STRATEGY

MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

STRENGTH & WEAKNESS

EMPLOYEE MOTIVATION

EXTERNAL BENEFITS

VALUE OF REPORTING

REPUTATION & TRUST

ATTRACTING CAPITAL

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE
How to get started with sustainability reporting?
About GRI

Who we are
Who we are

We are an international independent organization committed to sustainable development
Our work

We help businesses, governments and other organizations understand and communicate the impact of business on critical sustainability issues.
Our vision

“

A future where sustainability is integral to every organization’s decision-making process

"
Our mission

To empower decision makers everywhere through our sustainability standards and multi-stakeholder network, to take action towards a more sustainable economy and world.
Our history
Our history

- 1997: GRI
- 2000: 50 organizations in 14 countries
- 2002: 280 organizations in 37 countries
- 2006: 700 organizations in 50 countries, 350 core supporters
- 2013:
  - More than 10,000 organizations in over 110 countries - 39 sectors
  - Network: 27,000 practitioners
  - 4,500 organizations in 90 countries
  - Network: 14,000
  - 580 core supporters
- 2016: 4,500 organizations in 90 countries
- 2017: 550 core supporters – 68 countries

GRI STANDARDS
More than 43,000 Reports in our Database*
Reporters in over 110 countries

Number of reports per country since 1999**

1 - 100
101 - 250
251 - 500
501 - 1000
1001 - 1590

*Data retrieved: 4 September 2017
**Data retrieved: 4 January 2017
Credible, consistent and high quality sustainability reporting
GRI Standards

- GRI Standards are a set of interrelated reporting standards, enabling organizations to report publicly on their economic, environmental and social impacts and contribution towards sustainable development.

- The Standards represent global best practice for reporting sustainability information – enhancing its comparability and quality.
The set of GRI Standards includes:

- **3 universal Standards**, applicable to all organizations
- **33 topic-specific Standards**, organized into Economic, Environmental, and Social series

Organizations select and use only the relevant topic-specific Standards, based on their **material topics**.
Sustainability reporting with the GRI Standards

Reference: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LkrhalW1Mc
Thank you