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Enhancing comparability of sustainability reporting: Selection of core indicators for company reporting on the contribution towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Executive summary

This note was prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat to facilitate the deliberations of the thirty-fourth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting concerning the selection of core indicators for company reporting on their contribution towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The note builds on previous deliberations of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on the role of reporting in monitoring implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and how it could be further enhanced by improving quality, consistency, comparability and usefulness of sustainability reporting. It reviews indicator selection principles and criteria, and presents a set of selected core indicators for further discussion. The indicators cover the economic, environmental, social and governance areas, providing a baseline framework for integrating financial and sustainability information at the company level and for the alignment of corporate reporting with the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring mechanism and its metadata guidance on sustainability reporting. The note also suggests some issues for discussion at the thirty-fourth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, with a view to building consensus around the suggested list of core indicators, thereby contributing to greater comparability of sustainability reporting and consistency with financial reporting frameworks.

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I. Introduction

1. Experts at the thirty-third session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting underscored the importance of the private sector's contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the critical role of high-quality financial and non-financial reporting in monitoring implementation of the Goals, enhancing financial stability, strengthening an enabling investment climate, facilitating transparency and promoting good governance. They noted the evolving trend of an increasing role of sustainability reporting in the accounting and reporting agenda and a need to adapt corporate reporting environments to the new demands created by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. The Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts agreed that the Sustainable Development Goals agenda and its monitoring framework could play an enabling role in fostering an integrated approach towards corporate reporting, in improving and harmonizing sustainability reporting, enhancing its usefulness for decision-making and assessing companies' contributions towards implementation of the Goals. The agreed conclusions of the session called on UNCTAD to advance its work, in collaboration with the consultative group on corporate reporting and the Sustainable Development Goals, on the selection of a limited number of relevant core reporting indicators to facilitate harmonization of sustainability reporting in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring framework and its indicators.

3. This note was prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat to facilitate the discussion on selecting core Sustainable Development Goal indicators at the thirty-fourth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts. It was prepared in coordination with the consultative group, which met on 3 and 4 April 2017 in Geneva, and incorporates comments provided by the experts.[1]

4. The note builds on previous discussions by the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on enhancing the role of reporting in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. At its thirty-second and thirty-third sessions, the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts discussed the rationale, principles and overall framework for establishing a set of core company indicators.[2] This note should be considered in conjunction with previous documentation prepared for these sessions.

5. This note considers recent developments in the area of sustainability and Sustainable Development Goal reporting since the thirty-third session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts in 2016. This includes recommendations from the final report of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures of the Group of 20 Financial Stability Board (June 2017)[3] and Guidelines on non-financial reporting (methodology for reporting non-financial information) (2017/C215/01) issued by the European Commission in July 2017, as a follow-up to Directive 2014/95/EU amending Directive 2013/34/EU as regards disclosure of non-financial and diversity information by certain large undertakings and groups[4] of 2014. The Task Force and the Directive both have the potential to become

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[1] Comments and inputs were provided by experts from the following entities: Association of Chartered Certified Accountants; Blue Orchard; CDP; Climate Disclosure Standards Board; Corporate Register; Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Statistics Division; Federal Statistical Office of Germany; Global Reporting Initiative; Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland; International Accounting Standards Board; International Labour Organization; KPMG Switzerland; Ministry of the Environment of Brazil; Netherlands Institute of Chartered Accountants; Statistics Netherlands; UNCTAD, independent consultancy; United Nations Environment Programme; World Bank and World Business Council for Sustainable Development. Note: Comments provided by the experts do not necessarily imply the endorsement of suggested indicators.

[2] See TD/B/CII./ISAR/75 and TD/B/C.II/ISAR/78.

[3] Available at https://www.fsb-tcfd.org (accessed 22 August 2017).

[4] Available at http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32014L0095 (accessed 28 August 2017).

significant drivers of a change in reporting practices at both the country and company levels.

6. The Task Force report provides recommendations on climate-related financial disclosures. It states that there is a growing demand for decision-useful, climate-related information, while inconsistencies in disclosure practices, lack of context for information, use of boilerplate and non-comparable reporting are major obstacles faced by participants in financial markets in making decisions. Inadequate information about risks can lead to mispricing of assets and misallocation of capital and may give rise to concerns about financial stability. The report provides a number of recommendations on how to facilitate disclosure on climate-related issues, including by considering metrics on climate-related risks associated with water, energy, land use and waste management, where relevant and applicable.

7. The Guidelines of the European Commission provide a methodology for reporting non-financial information. The document outlines the key principles of reporting non-financial information – materiality, comparability and consistency, among others. It also discusses key performance indicators as a tool for enhancing the usefulness of non-financial reporting. It states that "users of information tend to greatly appreciate quantitative information as it helps them measure progress, check consistency over time and draw comparisons". The document provides a number of illustrative key performance indicators and encourages companies to disclose key material performance indicators, both general and sectoral, as well as key company-specific performance indicators. Appropriate narratives explaining such indicators are a practical addition to non-financial statements.

8. Another important development that took place during the intersessional period was the release of the final draft of a publication entitled "*Business Reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals: An Analysis of the Goals and Targets*", made available in July 2017.[5] The report is produced by the Global Reporting Initiative and the United Nations Global Compact, with the support of PricewaterhouseCoopers. It facilitates further consolidation of different initiatives in the area of Sustainable Development Goal-related reporting by companies, as it provides a comprehensive compilation of business disclosures aligned with Sustainable Development Goal targets and indicators, and analyses potential disclosure gaps.

9. The report is the outcome of broad consultations, including through a multi-stakeholder advisory committee established by the Global Reporting Initiative and the United Nations Global Compact. The UNCTAD secretariat contributed to this work with a view to ensuring consistency and synergies between the two initiatives. While the project of the Global Reporting Initiative and the consultative group on developing Sustainable Development Goal indicators aims to facilitate companies' reporting on their contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in relevant aspects of their performance, UNCTAD work focuses on selecting a limited number of core quantitative indicators that would be universal and comparable. These core indicators form the baseline metrics for reporting, drawing on existing guidelines to foster enhanced comparability of sustainability reporting across enterprises, industries and geographies.

10. This main purpose of this note is to bring the core indicators project in alignment with the joint work of UNCTAD and the United Nations Environment Programme on developing metadata guidance on sustainability reporting with regard to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The objective of the guidance is to provide Member States of the United Nations with a methodology on measuring the number of companies that publish sustainability reports, a requirement of the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring framework. This guidance provides a new context for the selection of core indicators, as they can play an important role in assisting key stakeholders in building a consensus on minimum requirements that should be met by a reporting entity to qualify the

[5] Available at https://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/publications/Final_Draft_An_Analysis_of_the_Goals_and_Targets_July_2017.pdf (accessed 22 August 2017).

data provided as sustainability reporting. The main points in the draft metadata guidance are outlined below as a basis for discussion by the Group of Experts on the further refinement of the guidance.

11. This note is broken down into the following sections: a discussion of the draft of the Sustainable Development Goals metadata guidance on sustainability reporting, a review of key considerations on selecting core Sustainable Development Goal indicators for companies, suggestions for core indicators and an approach to their measurement, and major challenges in these areas for further deliberation during the thirty-fourth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts.

II. Metadata guidance on the Sustainable Development Goals indicator on the number of companies publishing sustainability reports

12. In 2015, Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which contains 17 Goals and 169 targets. In its resolution 70/1, the General Assembly requested that the goals and targets be followed up and reviewed using a set of global indicators focused on measurable outcomes. Consequently, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators was established to work towards developing a global indicator framework to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Member States will develop their national indicators in line with the principles of the 2030 Agenda, according to which targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each Government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances.[6] Developing the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, including preparing metadata guidance on measurement of these indicators, is work in progress.

13. Goal 12.6 of the 2030 Agenda explicitly encourages companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle; Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.6.1 requires reporting on the number of companies that publish sustainability reports.

14. UNCTAD and the United Nations Environment Programme have been working on developing metadata guidance on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.6.1. The objective of this work is to enable countries to report on this indicator and collect data on companies' sustainability performance and impacts in a comparable and consistent manner. The guidance is expected to provide the following information:

(a) Definition of sustainability reporting;

(b) Method of computation (key criteria to be met by a report in order to be computed as sustainability reporting of an entity);

(c) Rationale and interpretation;

(d) Sources and data collection;

(e) Disaggregation requirements;

(f) Global monitoring data;

(g) Other.

A. Definition of sustainability reporting and its key criteria

15. The current draft of the metadata guidance on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.6.1 defines sustainability reporting and its key criteria.

[6] E/CN.3/2016/2.

16. Corporate sustainability reporting communicates information that is relevant for understanding a company's long-term economic value and contribution towards a sustainable global economy by taking account of its economic, environmental, social and governance performance and impacts. Such information is provided in the form of quantitative and qualitative data as part of a company's reporting process. Key performance indicators comprise the quantitative data; an example of qualitative data can be found in the description of a company's sustainability strategies and reporting policies.

17. For the purpose of measuring indicator 12.6.1, sustainability reports must meet minimum reporting requirements. Such reports must contain the following information to be computed:

(a) A clear description of the approach followed by the organization concerned to determine the content of the report;

(b) Information on the company's performance, position and impact of its activity on sustainable development over time, tracking annual progress made to meet the company's strategy and means of implementation, possible challenges to improve performance and any other relevant information to support strategic decision-making processes; such information should also include economic, environmental, social and corporate governance or institutional matters;

(c) A statement of assurance (under discussion).

18. Sustainability reports can be published as stand-alone documents or integrated within an organization's annual report.

B. Data collection and disaggregation

19. The draft guidance offers suggestions on data availability, collection and disaggregation.

20. With regard to data collection, initial findings of the mapping of data sources and data collection systems indicate that a robust system would need to be developed to integrate the aforementioned sustainability reporting requirements. Additional research focusing on data collection systems at the national level will be carried out, in particular on the following points:

(a) National repositories of sustainability reports. Examples include the portal of the Government of France (info-financiere.fr), the database of the Corporate Social Responsibility Centre of Pakistan (www.csrcp.com) and the Netherlands-focused website, International Portal for Sustainability Reporting (sustainability-reports.com). The German Sustainability Code Database houses companies' declarations of conformity with the German Sustainability Code, some of which provide direct links to their sustainability reports;

(b) Sector-specific initiatives (national, regional or international), including by industry and business associations. Industry-specific examples include the sustainability reports of member companies of the Cement Sustainability Initiative or the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association;

(c) National statistical offices that collect data from companies on environmental issues and labour-related statistics;

(d) Financial market authorities or other monitoring authorities that require companies to provide them with annual reports on a regular basis, which could also include sustainability information.

21. With regard to disaggregation, national data collection systems should disaggregate indicators by economic sector and type and size of reporting organization. With regard to the former, it is recommended that the definition of economic sectors by the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities be applied. With regard to the latter, it is recommended that a distinction be made between listed companies, public

interest companies, non-listed companies, and small and medium-sized enterprises. At the national level, categorization of companies by size is also recommended.

22. The draft guidance refers to a number of challenges concerning data availability and limitations of existing systems that collect information on corporate sustainability reporting. These include limited quality control, irregular geographic representation and lack of comparability.

23. In this regard, the following issues should be addressed for further refinement of the metadata guidance on sustainability reporting:

(a) Is the definition of sustainability reporting acceptable?

(b) Should there be any additional requirements to be met for data to be computed as sustainability reporting?

(c) Should reference be made to minimum core indicators to facilitate comparability and quality of sustainability reporting by companies?[7]

(d) What issues should be addressed in developing national and global data collections systems on sustainability reporting?

(e) What reliable sources can be used to collect data on companies' sustainability performance and impacts?

III. Core Sustainable Development Goal indicators for company reporting

A. Selecting core Sustainable Development Goal indicators: Key considerations

24. Key considerations in selecting core Sustainable Development Goal indicators were discussed at sessions of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts in 2015 and 2016, as described below.

25. The selection of indicators is based on existing sustainability reporting initiatives, requirements and company practice. The objective is not to propose new requirements, but to encourage the use of existing approaches and methodologies in a consistent and comparable manner.

26. The initiative aims to identify a limited number of core Sustainable Development Goal reporting indicators that will be universal – relevant to all corporations and single companies, regardless of their type of business, industry or geography. This is a challenging task, given the diversity of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda and related company activities. However, the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring framework and its indicators reflect a consensus reached by Member States of the United Nations on what constitutes universal requirements for sustainable development; this could be a good starting point for identifying relevant universal sustainability indicators in company reports. While this note focuses on the indicators as a quantitative benchmark and their consistent methods of measurement, it also acknowledges that the contextual or narrative information would be needed to enhance their usefulness for stakeholders; other industry- and company-specific disclosures will be important as well.

27. The selection of core indicators is based on common needs of the main users of Sustainable Development Goal reporting, such as investors, government and civil society. In addition, such a selection provides a framework that enables consensus-building in this

[7] For example, the European Union Guidelines on non-financial reporting state that material information on certain categories, explicitly reflected in Directive 2014/95/EU, should be a minimum disclosure requirement. Such information includes issues related to the environment, society, employees, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and bribery. The document also provides specific key performance indicators as examples.

specific area. This rationale reflects the context of financial reports, for which different users share common needs.

28. In this regard, a key consideration is the application of the materiality principle. As discussed during the thirty-third session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts, materiality has taken on a new dimension in the context of Sustainable Development Goal reporting. As noted in a recent report, "where sustainability matters are concerned, everything is material to someone, which begs the question: From whose perspective should materiality be identified?"[8]

29. Adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development required multi-stakeholder consultations, where all parties agreed that certain aspects of economic, environment and social activities were most essential to them. For example, all companies use scarce natural resources, such as water, air, energy, materials, land, which affects availability of these resources for future generations. Use of human resources and development of human capital is another key concern. Therefore, stakeholders should be informed about progress in achieving a rational utilization of such resources.

30. In this regard, the Task Force states in its recommendations on climate-related financial disclosures that "it recognizes that most information included in financial filings is subject to a materiality assessment. However, because climate-related risk is a non-diversifiable risk that affects nearly all industries, many investors believe it requires special attention".[9] It recommends that preparers of climate change-related disclosures provide such disclosures in their mainstream (public) annual financial filings. Some companies with a threshold over $1 billion of annual revenue should consider disclosing such information in other reports when information is not deemed material and not included in financial filings. Furthermore, organizations should provide key metrics used to measure and manage climate-related risks and opportunities, and should consider including metrics on climate-related risks associated with water, energy, land use and waste management, where relevant and applicable. Metrics should be provided for historical periods to allow trend analysis. In addition, where not apparent, organizations should provide a description of the methodology used to calculate or estimate climate-related metrics.

31. Directive 2014/95/EU, article 1(1), introduces a new factor to be taken into account when assessing the materiality of non-financial information by referring to information "for an understanding of the undertaking's development, performance, position and impact of its activity". Furthermore, the European Commission Guidelines state that the materiality assessment should take into account internal and external factors.

32. Another key consideration is an issue of (in)consistency of financial reporting and sustainability reporting, including the applicability of financial reporting principles to sustainability reporting, integration of sustainability information into financial reporting and convergence of the two areas. Increasingly, efforts are being made towards such a conversion. This includes an interim report by the High-level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance of the European Union.[10] The report states that to make further progress in the convergence of financial and non-financial reporting, the European Commission could invite the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group to ask the International Integrated Reporting Council to study how sustainability factors can be captured in dedicated accounting standards, in addition to those for financial reporting. The statement was welcomed by the Advisory Group.

33. The suggested core indicators are considered suitable for both consolidated accounts and legal entity reporting. During the intersessional period, discussion continued on whether sustainability reporting and core indicators should be used at a corporate

[8] Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and Climate Disclosure Standards Board, 2016, *Mapping the Sustainability Reporting Landscape: Lost in the Right Direction* (London).

[9] See footnote 3.

[10] European Commission, 2017, Financing a sustainable European economy, available at https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/170713-sustainable-finance-report_en.pdf (accessed 7 September 2017).

consolidated level or at a legal entity level. Given that the impact of companies is realized at the local level, some experts argue that data should be provided by a legal entity of a home county. However, it is also important to consider that group-level consolidated sustainability reporting is critical as a means to align corporate behaviour and business models with the 2030 Agenda. Consolidated reporting is also a basis for financial decision-making by investors.

34. Some argue that data required for reporting on core indicators are not available at the legal entity level or that information regarding a company’s performance and impact on environment and labour issues is already being collected directly by national statistical offices. Others contend that company reporting would not provide new or useful information that would be sufficient or that consolidated data broken down for purposes of country-by-country corporate sustainability reporting is costly, arbitrary and impractical. Yet others maintain that the necessary data are indeed available at a legal entity level because the use of resources is part of an entity’s cost and management accounting. Moreover, if data are provided to national statistic offices, it should not be difficult to make them publicly available in company reports. The reliability of such information and its consistency with financial reporting could be a challenge. Another issue is whether sustainability reporting should be considered a burden or rather a tool to be used to improve efficiency and cut costs. For example, according to a recent publication, there is growing evidence of organizations having successfully reduced operating costs by improving efficiency, in particular energy efficiency and in broader areas such as water and waste management.[11]

35. The suggested methodology intends to facilitate the alignment of core Sustainable Development Goal indicators for companies with Sustainable Development Goal indicators at the national and global levels. Sustainable Development Goals corporate reporting, like accounting and sustainability reporting, is novel and evolving. Therefore, there is a momentum to develop a coordinated approach based on an accounting–statistic nexus to facilitate usefulness of these indicators for a broader range of stakeholders. According to the System of National Accounts, the principles underlying International Financial Reporting Standards are in most cases consistent with its principles, providing a comprehensive, consistent and flexible set of macroeconomic accounts.[12] The System of National Accounts states that there could be areas of difference between the two systems; however, cooperation would be useful with a view to showing a reconciliation between the two positions.

B. Selected indicators and their measurement

36. Suggested core indicators cover the economic, environmental, social and governance areas of company performance (see annex).

37. The following indicator selection criteria would apply:[13]

(a) Indicators should be relevant to at least one Sustainable Development Goal monitoring indicator;

(b) Indicators should be based on existing key initiatives or reporting frameworks and/or should be found in corporate reports;

(c) Indicators should be universal (applicable to all reporting enterprises);

(d) Indicators should facilitate comparability across industries;

[11] United Nations Environment Programme and Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, 2016, *Best Practices and Case Studies for Industrial Energy Efficiency Improvement: An Introduction for Policymakers*, 2016 (United Nations Environment Programme and Technical University of Denmark Partnership, Copenhagen).

[12] European Communities, International Monetary Fund, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations and World Bank, 2009, *System of National Accounts 2008*, (United Nations, New York).

[13] For more details, see TD/B/C.II/ISAR/78.

(e) Indicators should address issues over which a company has control and for which it gathers data (incremental approach);

(f) Indicators should facilitate convergence of financial and non-financial reporting principles and data;

(g) Indicators should be capable of consistent measurement;

(h) Indicators should be suitable for consolidated reporting and legal entity reporting.

38. Therefore, indicators are selected from existing key sustainability reporting initiatives.[14] It includes previous work of UNCTAD in environmental reporting and eco-efficiency indicators, which also provides a methodology on integration of environmental and financial performance at the enterprise level,[15] corporate social responsibility[16] and corporate governance disclosures.[17]

39. More detailed information, including on the relevance of core indicators to the Sustainable Development Goal targets and indicators, measurement methodology and relevant source references, is provided in a conference room paper that will be disseminated during the thirty-fourth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts.

40. Several issues would require further discussion by the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts, including the following:

(a) Do the selected indicators in the economic, environmental, social and institutional areas form a universal core set of indicators that is appropriate for enhancing the role of reporting in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals?

(b) Does the suggested list of indicators meet the objective of data consistency and comparability?

(c) Are suggested indicators suitable for consolidated reporting and a legal entity's reporting?

(d) How to ensure consistent measurement of the indicators, particularly those considered in the International Financial Reporting Standards?

(e) How to facilitate alignment with statistic methodology where appropriate?

IV. Conclusion and the way forward

41. This note presents a limited number of core indicators for corporate reporting on their contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is expected that these indicators will be refined, in accordance with the evolution of the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring framework, as well as of initiatives by sustainability reporting stakeholders. As such, they form a living document and a baseline for sustainability reporting and measurement of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 12.6.1 on the number of companies publishing sustainability reports.

42. In addition to the topics outlined above, the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts may wish to consider the following issues for discussion:

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[14] See para. 8, footnote 5 of this note.

[15] UNCTAD, 2000, *Integrating Environmental and Financial Performance at the Enterprise Level: A Methodology for Standardizing Eco-Efficiency Indicators* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.II.D.28, New York and Geneva); UNCTAD, 2004, *A Manual for the Preparers and Users of Eco-efficiency Indicators* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.II.D.13, New York and Geneva).

[16] UNCTAD, 2008, *Guidance on Corporate Responsibility Indicators in Annual Reports* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 08.II.D.8, New York and Geneva).

[17] UNCTAD, 2006, *Guidance on Good Practices in Corporate Governance Disclosure* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.II.D.12, New York and Geneva).

(a) What areas present the biggest challenges for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals at this stage? What best practices can be considered to address these challenges?

(b) Sustainable Development Goal 12.6 states that companies should be encouraged to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle. How could this be facilitated, and should additional indicators be developed to measure progress in this area?

(c) What could be the next steps in developing guidance on implementation of core indicators that can be useful to policymakers, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition?

(d) How can global forums such as the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting further contribute to consensus-building on these core indicators, and more generally to enhancing the role of corporate reporting in the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring mechanism?

Annex

Selected core Sustainable Development Goal indicators

.	*Area*	*Indicators*	*Measurements*[a]	*Relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicator*
A	**Economic area**			
A.1	Revenue and/or (net) value added	A.1.1: revenue	International Financial Reporting Standard 18	8.2.1
		A.1.2: value added	Revenue minus cost of goods and services purchased	8.2.1, 9.b, 9.4.1
		A.1.3: net value added	Revenue minus purchase of goods and services minus depreciation	8.2.1, 9.b
A.2	Payments to government	A.2.1: taxes and other payments to government	Total taxes paid and payable for reporting period, including tax penalties; royalties, license fees and other payments to government, not including payments for government assets and penalties for non-compliance unrelated to tax payments	17.1.2
A.3	New investment/expenditures	A.3.1: green investment/products	To be determined	7.b.1
		A.3.2: community investment	See D.2.	17.17.1
		A.3.3: total expenditures on research and development	International Accounting Standard 38	9.5.1
A.4	Total local supplier/purchasing programmes	A.4.1: percentage of local procurement	Total amount of local purchasing presented as absolute figure and as percentage of total purchasing. Percentages must be based on invoices or commitments made during reporting period, using accruals accounting.	9.3.1

.	*Area*	*Indicators*	*Measurements*[a]	*Relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicator*
B	**Environmental area**			
B.1	Sustainable use of water	B.1.1: water recycling	Total volume of water recycled and reused as percentage of total water withdrawal	6.3.1
		B.1.2: water use efficiency	Change in water consumption per net value added in reporting period	6.4.1
		B.1.3: water stress	Water withdrawn with breakdown by sources as proportion of available freshwater resources	6.4.2
		B.1.4: integrated water resource management	Degree of integrated water resources management implementation	6.5.1
B.2	Waste management	B.2.1: reduction of waste generation	Change in waste generated per net value added	12.5
		B.2.2: waste recycling	Percentage of recycled input materials used to manufacture organization’s primary products and services	12.5.1
		B.2.3: hazardous waste	Total weight of hazardous waste and proportion of hazardous waste treated	12.4.2
B.3	Greenhouse gas emissions	B.3.1: greenhouse gas emissions (scope 1)	Scope 1 contribution per unit of (net) value added[b]	9.4.1
		B.3.2: greenhouse gas emissions (scopes 1 and 2)	Scope 2 contribution per unit of (net) value added	9.4.1
B.4	Chemicals, including pesticides and ozone-depleting substances		See B.2.3.	12.4.2
B.5	Energy consumption	B.5.1: renewable energy	Renewable energy consumption as percentage of final energy consumption	7.2.1
		B.5.2: energy efficiency	Energy consumption per net value added	7.3.1

.	*Area*	*Indicators*	*Measurements*[a]	*Relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicator*
C	**Social area**			
C.1	Gender equality	C.1.1: proportion of women in managerial positions	Number of women in managerial positions to total number of employees	5.5.2
C.2	Research and development	C.2.1: expenditure on research and development	International Accounting Standard 38	9.5.1
C.3	Human capital	C.3.1: average hours of training per year per employee broken down by employee category	Average number of hours of training per employee per year per category as total hours of training per year per category divided by total employees per category	4.3.1
		C.3.2: expenditure on employee training per year per employee broken down by employee category	Direct and indirect costs of training, including costs such as trainers' fees, training facilities, training equipment and related travel costs	4.3.1
		C.3.3: employee wages and benefits with breakdown by employment type and gender	Wages calculated as total costs of employee workforce; benefits (International Accounting Standard 19)	8.5.1, 10.4.1
C.4	Employee health and safety	C.4.1: expenditures on employee health and safety	Total cost of occupational safety and health-related programmes, plus direct cost of company health-care activities, plus costs on related working environment issues	3.8
		C.4.2: frequency rates/incident rates of occupational injuries	Frequency rates: number of new injury cases by the total number of hours worked by workers; incident rates: number of new cases divided by average number of workers	8.8.1
C.5	Collective agreements	C.5.1: percentage of employees covered by collective agreements	Number of employees covered by collective agreements to total employees	8.8.2
D	**Institutional area**			
D.1	Corporate governance disclosures[c]	D.1.1: number of board meetings and attendance rate	Number of board meetings during reporting period	16.6
		D.1.2: number/percentage of women board members	Proportion of women board members to total board members	5.5.2

.	Area	Indicators	Measurements[a]	Relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicator
		D.1.3: board members by age range	Average age of board members	16.7.1
		D.1.4: number of meetings of audit committee and attendance rate	Number of board meetings during reporting period	16.6
		D.1.5: compensation – total compensation and compensation per board member and executive	International Accounting Standard 24	16.6
D.2	Donations (unspecified) and donations to community projects	D.2.1: expenditures on charitable donations	Actual expenditures on charitable donations and investments of funds in broader community where target beneficiaries are external to company, itemized on accrual basis	17.17.1
D.3	Anti-corruption practices	D.3.1: amount of fines paid or payable due to convictions	Total number of convictions; total amount of fines paid and/or payable for violation of corruption-related laws and regulations	16.5.2.

[a] Due to space constraints, only a general approach to indicator measurement is provided here; a more detailed methodology is presented in a conference room paper that will be distributed at the thirty-fourth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts.
[b] Sustainable Development Goal metadata guidance 9.4.1 suggests carbon dioxide emissions per unit of value added.
See https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-09-04-01.pdf (accessed 28 August 2017).
[c] These indicators are not universal, but they are relevant to publicly listed companies, which are responsible for using a high proportion of natural and human resources. Given the impact of such companies, these indicators are included as core indicators.