
UNCTAD-ISAR Workshop on the Future Direction of the Corporate Reporting Model

Monday, 13th October 2014
Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Workshop material:

***The role of business and corporate reporting in addressing
major challenges of global development agenda***

Presented by

Robin Edme
President

The Group of Friends of Paragraph 47

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ISAR31



THE FUTURE OF CORPORATE REPORTING MODELS WORKSHOP

The role of business and corporate reporting in addressing major challenges of the global development agenda *Panel*

MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2014 - 10:15 /11:45

Governments have a key role to play in fostering a culture of corporate transparency through the promotion of sustainability reporting

Robin EDME, Chair

Group of Friends of Paragraph 47

Paragraph 47: A call for governments, the UN system and relevant stakeholders to further advance sustainability reporting



RIO+20
United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development

- Corporate Social Responsibility received high attention at
- Paragraph 47 of the Outcome Document, *The Future We Want*, acknowledges importance of corporate sustainability reporting (SR)

47. We acknowledge the importance of corporate sustainability reporting and encourage companies, where appropriate, especially publicly listed and large companies, to consider integrating sustainability information into their reporting cycle. We encourage industry, interested governments as well as relevant stakeholders with the support of the UN system, as appropriate, to develop models for best practice and facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting, taking into account the experiences of already existing frameworks, and paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries, including for capacity building.

- Call for **building on the experience** of existing frameworks
- **Recognition that SR is relevant globally**, and that the needs of developing countries, including capacity building, should be given particular attention

The Group welcomed its 10th member (Argentina) last April...

- Brazil, Denmark, France and South Africa launched 'Friends of Paragraph 47' initiative to take the lead in responding to this call for action



ARGENTINA



BRAZIL



COLOMBIA



FRANCE



SOUTH AFRICA



AUSTRIA



CHILE



DENMARK



NORWAY



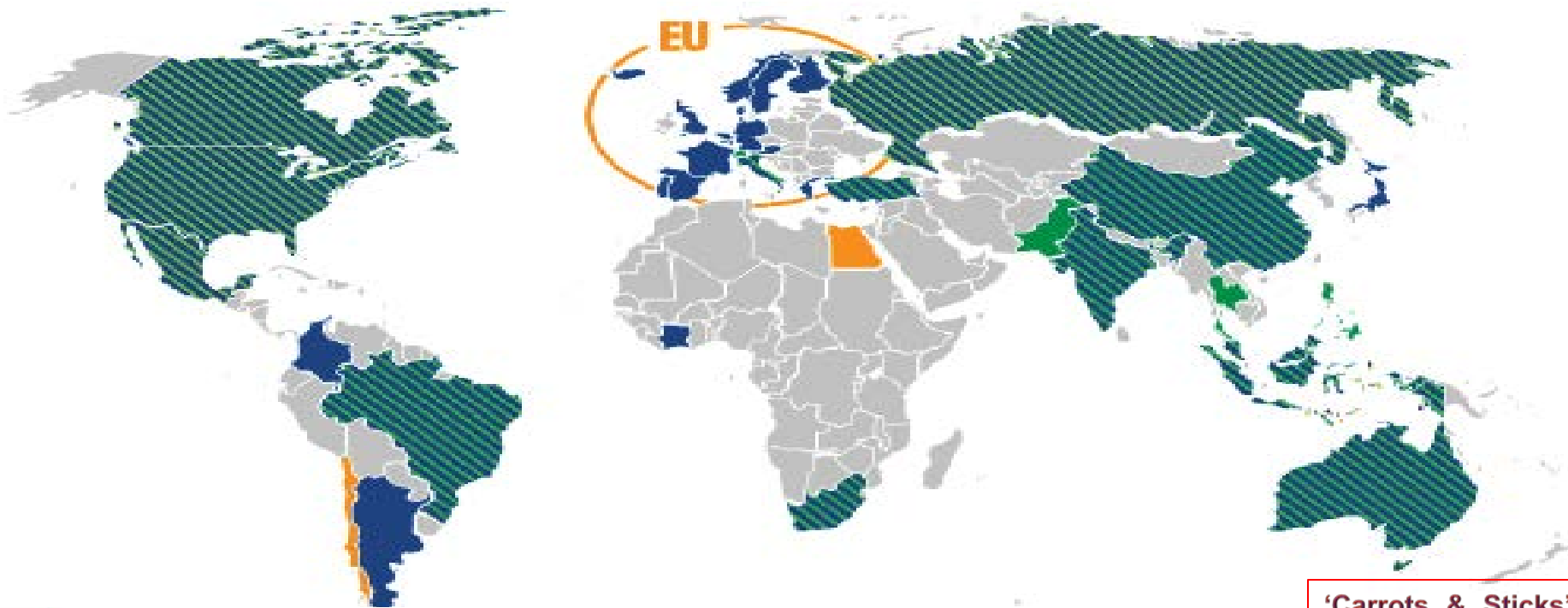
SWITZERLAND

- UNEP and GRI provide support in a Secretariat capacity



... and we expect to double our membership by 2017 to achieve a geographical balance in line with the SR playing field

Worldwide initiatives



**'Carrots & Sticks',
GRI & UNEP, 2013**



Sustainability reporting requirements/recommendations on the rise

Market regulators: Sustainability reporting listing requirements/recommendations/guidance for certain companies in place

Governments: Sustainability reporting policy/regulation for certain companies and/or certain KPIs in place

Market regulators & Governments: Sustainability reporting requirements/recommendations in place

Our objective: To strengthen the role of governments in fostering a culture of corporate transparency through the promotion of sustainability reporting [SR]

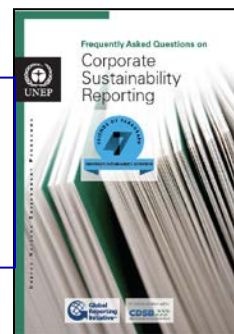
- The Group's **common understanding**

Corporate transparency and accountability are key elements in enhancing the private sector's contribution to sustainable development

- Key points in our **Charter**

- **Governments play an essential role** in positively influencing corporate behaviour and moving society towards a sustainable model of development;
- **SR should become a widespread practice** to allow for a transparent, well-functioning market economy;
- Bringing Governments together to **share experiences, promote & develop best practice models** of SR policy/regulation, building upon existing reporting guidance;
- Giving particular consideration to the **needs of developing countries and small and medium enterprises.**

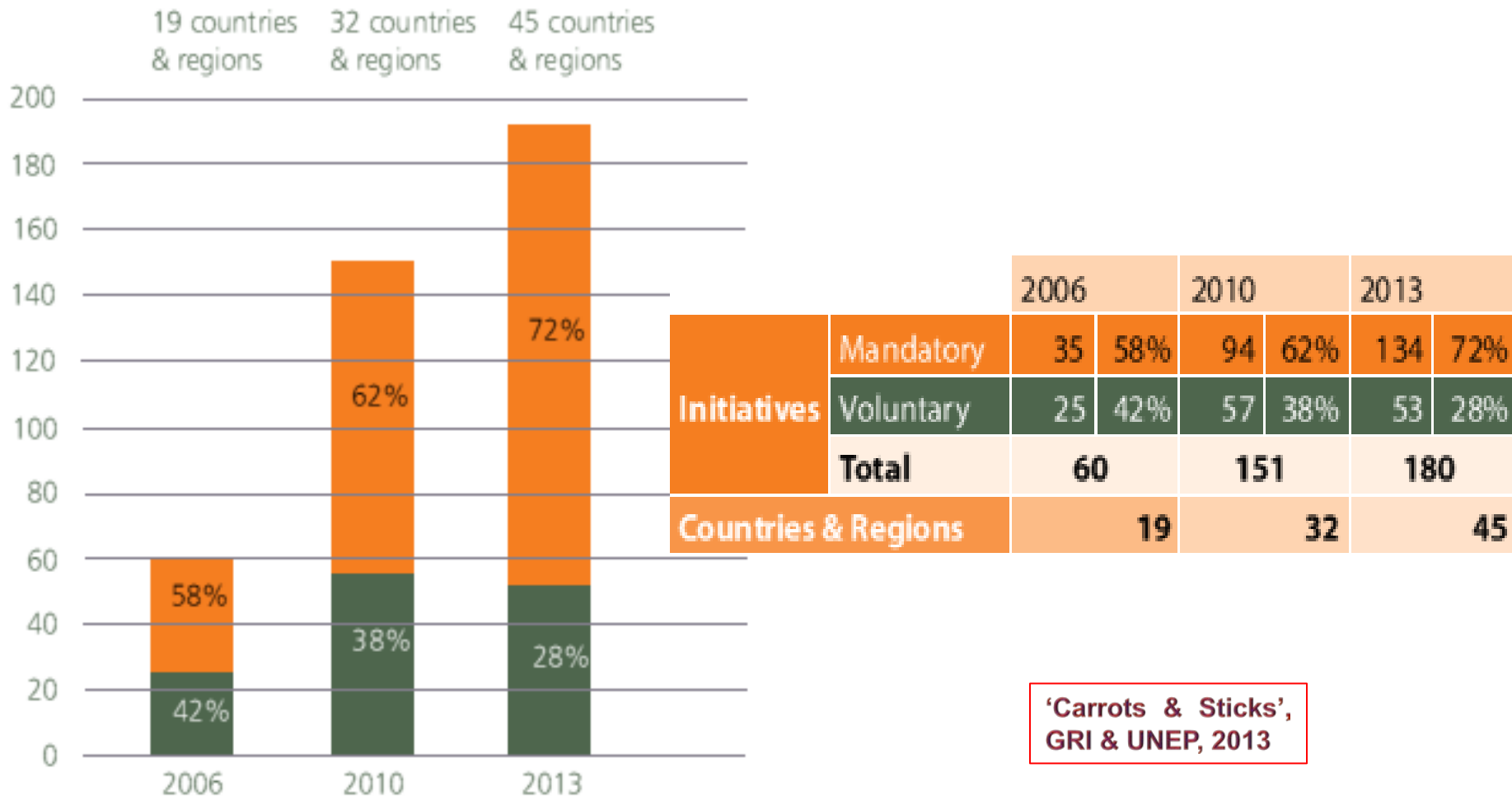
- **Background to SR and what it is**
- **Overview of current SR policies, practices and initiatives**
- **Opportunities identified by GoF47 and others, serving as a focus for their work to develop corporate SR further**



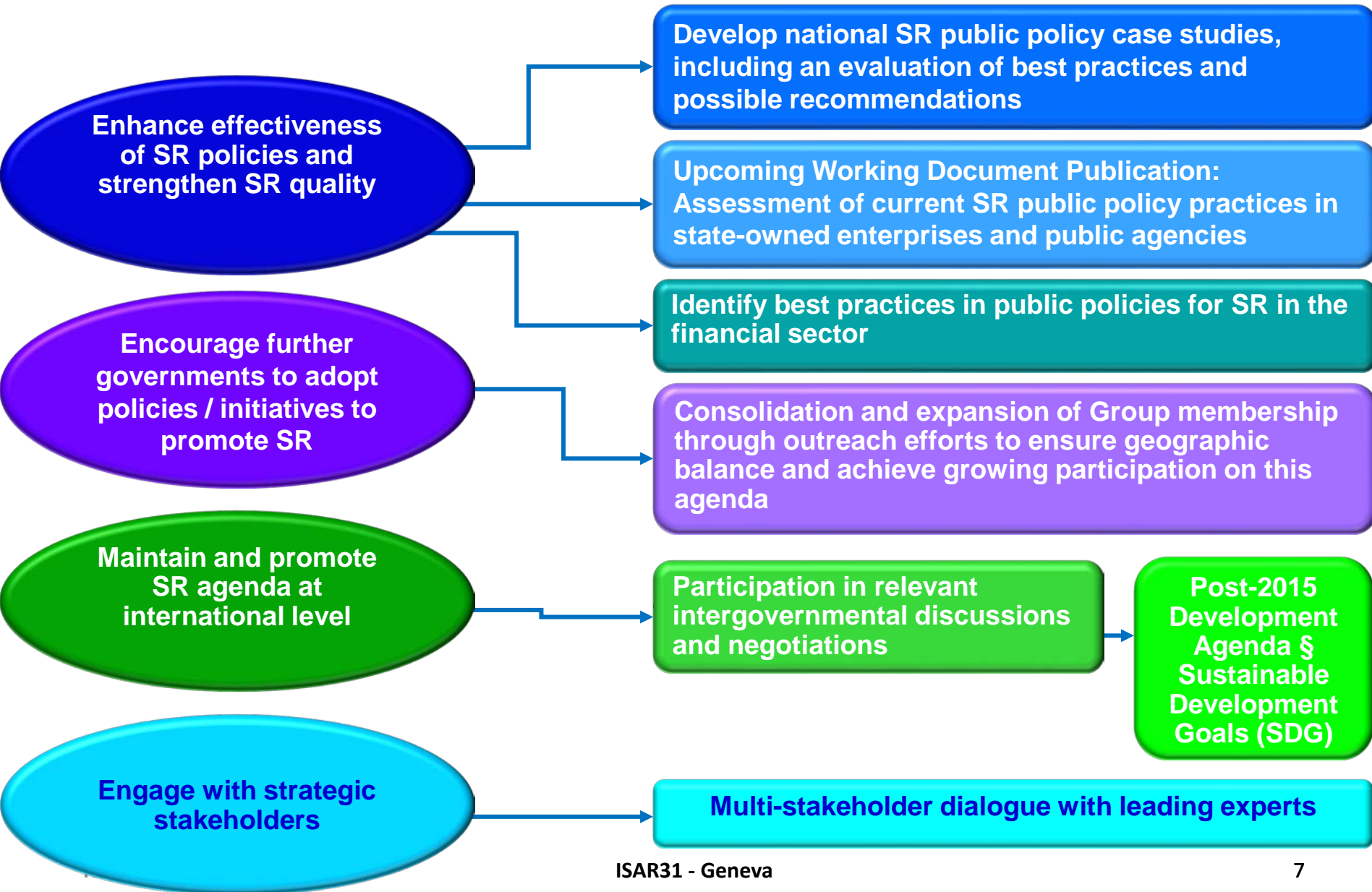
**Frequently Asked Questions on
Corporate Sustainability Reporting**



The spectacular growth of mandatory SR, on a comply or explain basis, aligns to and reinforces our objective



Achieving our objective through 4 workstreams



Our deliverables: Leading by Example through State Owned Enterprise / Public Agency Reporting

The 1st publication of GoF47 Background Working Paper Series

- Overview of key national-level initiatives [GoF47 members as well as China & Sweden]
- Status of SR within state-owned enterprises and public agencies in GoF47 countries & 2 others
- SR by state-owned enterprises and public agencies provides **positive results to the general sustainability reporting landscape**

Download @:

<http://www.unep.org/resourceefficiency/Business/SustainableandResponsibleBusiness/CorporateSustainabilityReporting/GroupofFriendsofParagraph47/PoliciesandInitiatives/tabid/106380/Default.aspx>





Our deliverables: Policy action at global level

A strong and successful mobilisation during the SDGs process

- GoF47 countries have been actively engaged in the negotiation process of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
- The final proposal of the Open Working Group includes SR as a target within Goal 12 (Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns):

“Encourage companies, especially large and trans-national companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle” (Target 12.6)

Clarifying the debate: 'To whom is Corporate Sustainability Reporting *material*' is the key question



Joining the GoF47...

The benefits

- **Technical expertise and support** of leading sustainability reporting experts;
- **Peer-to-peer learning** about the development and implementation of policies and initiatives on SR, potentially leading to recommendations and technical assistance;
- Information regarding **emerging trends and high-level stakeholders** active in the domain of SR, at national, regional and international levels;
- Broader opportunities opened up through the **GoF47 network**, such as in-kind technical support;
- **International recognition** as a leader on this agenda.

Some simple criteria are required...

1. A declaration that they **share the GoF47 values & objectives**;
2. An indication of **policies in place that promote SR** (or a public commitment to develop such policies);
3. Commitment to **participate in GoF47 activities & formal meetings**.

.... Please contact the Secretariat or any GoF47 member for more information...

**For additional information on the
Group of Friends of Paragraph 47
contact:**

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or visit the website:

www.unep.org/GoFParagraph47

**Find answers to many questions on sustainability reporting through
our interactive drop-down FAQ:**

<http://www.unep.org/OnlineFAQsonSustainabilityReporting/>