
**Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International
Standards of Accounting and Reporting
(ISAR)**

**42nd SESSION
12 – 14 November 2025**

Wednesday, 12 November 2025

**Agenda item 3. Review of developments in harmonization of
sustainability reporting requirements and their practical
implementation**

Presented by

Harold Pauwels
Director of Standards
Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

*This material has been reproduced in the language and form as it was provided.
The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.*



GRI

Updates GRI

12 November 2025

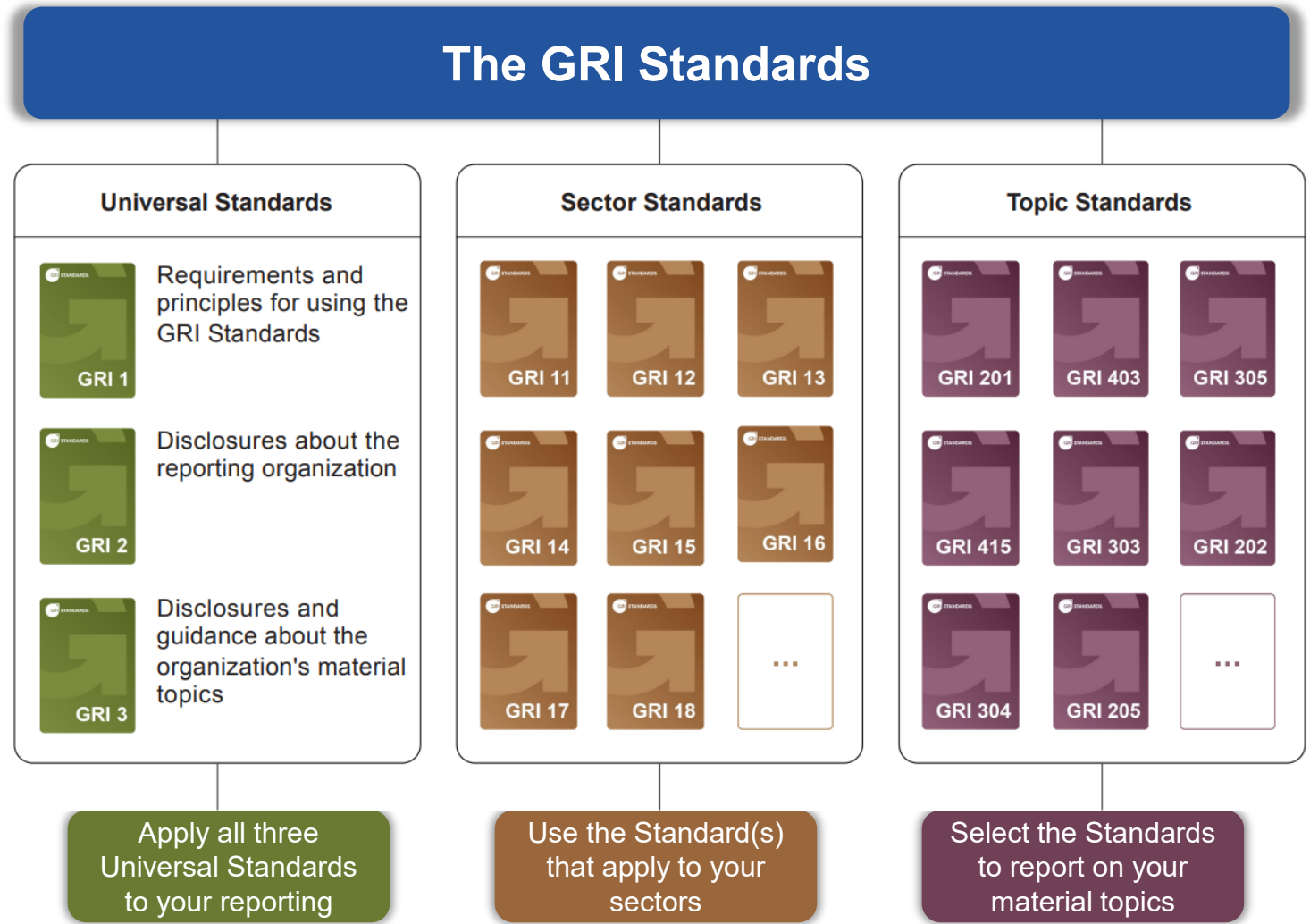
Harold Pauwels

Who we are

- GRI is an **independent, international** organization providing the **global common language** for corporate transparency.
- We help businesses and other organizations understand and communicate their **sustainability impacts**.
- We provide the **GRI Standards**, the world's most widely adopted sustainability reporting framework – which is **freely available** as a **public good**.
- GRI is a **not-for-profit** organization, and our activities are funded by services we deliver and by governmental and other funders that support our work.

The GRI Standards

- A **modular system** of three series: **Universal** Standards, **Sector** Standards and **Topic** Standards
- There are **32 Topic Standards** and a growing range of **Sector Standards**
- An organization selects the Standards for reporting based on their **material topics**
- The GRI Standards are **freely available**, in English plus 10 translations.



Our impact in numbers

90%

of **major companies** that
report on sustainability
use the **GRI Standards**

77%

of the world's **largest
250 companies** report
with GRI

10,000+

learners from **150
countries** have completed
GRI Academy courses

128

countries with **national or
jurisdictional policies** that
reference the **GRI Standards**

700,000+

unique **downloads every
year of the GRI
Standards** since 2022

450+

organizations from **85
countries** are members
of the **GRI Community**

10

language **translations**
of the **GRI Standards**

100+

**GRI Licensed
Software & Tools**
partner companies

100+

training partners in over
50 countries offer GRI
Certified Training

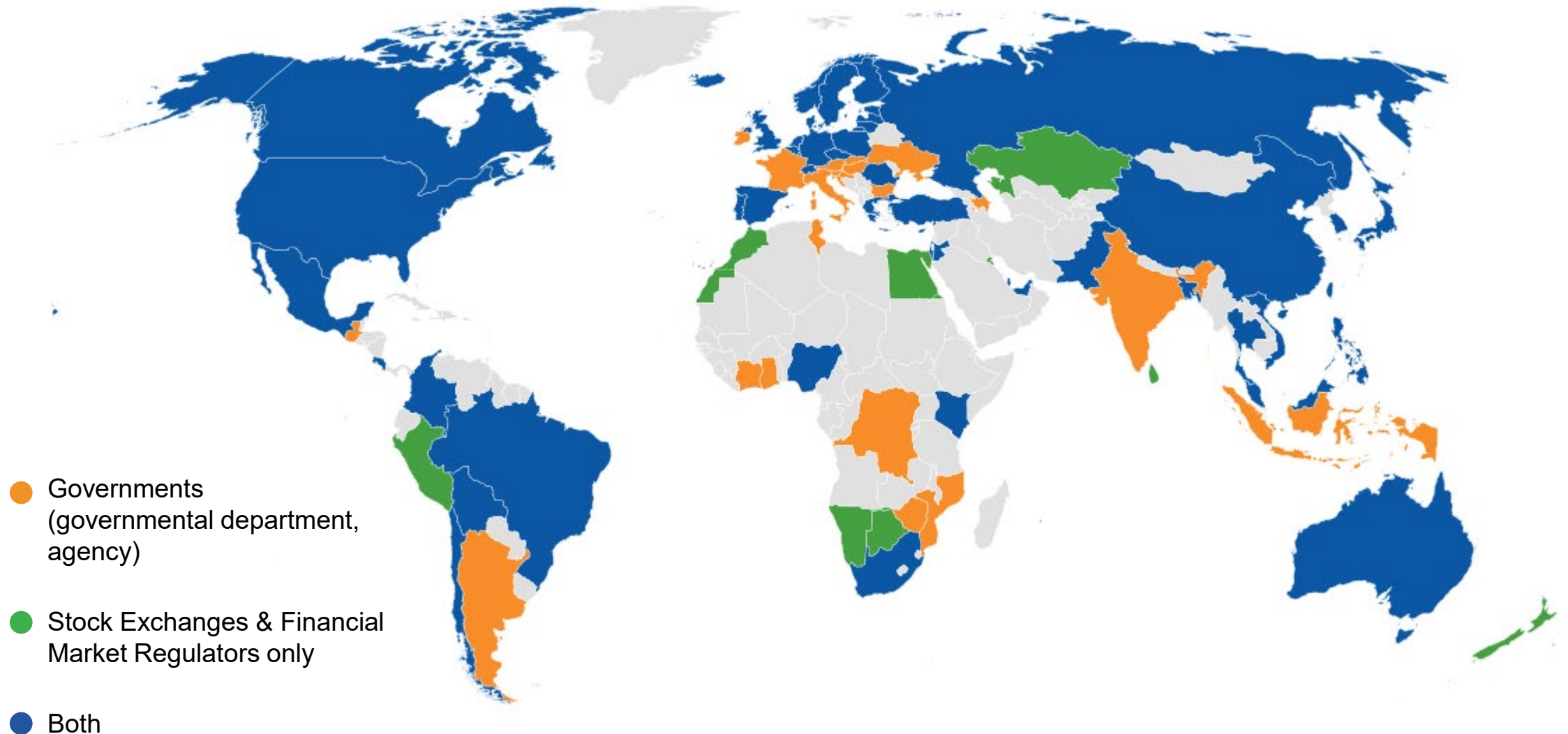
1,500+

**GRI Certified
Sustainability
Professionals**

GRI influencing global policies



261 national or jurisdictional policies that apply in **128 countries** reference or require the GRI Standards for reporting



The GRI Standards in the reporting landscape



Sustainability-related disclosures

Financial materiality

Financial statements

Information about the reporting entity's assets, liabilities, equity, income, and expenses

Sustainability-related risks and opportunities

Information about sustainability-related risks and opportunities that could reasonably be expected to affect the entity's prospects

useful to primary users of general-purpose financial reports for making decisions about providing resources to the reporting entity

IFRS Accounting Standards | IASB

IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards | ISSB

US GAAP | FASB

SASB Standards | ISSB

Impact materiality

Sustainability-related impacts

Information about the organization's most significant impacts on the economy, environment, and people

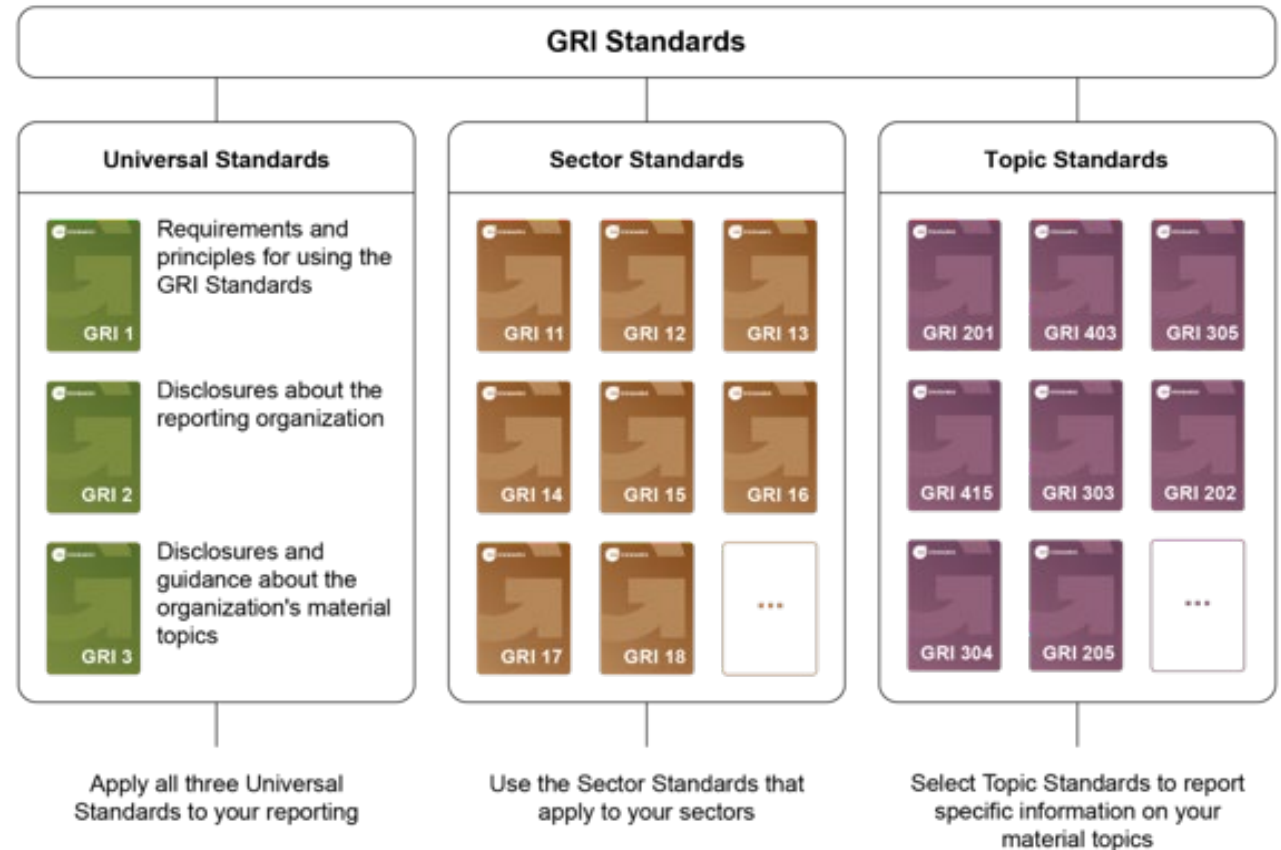
useful to stakeholders in assessing the organization's contribution to sustainable development

GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards



European Sustainability Reporting Standards | EFRAG

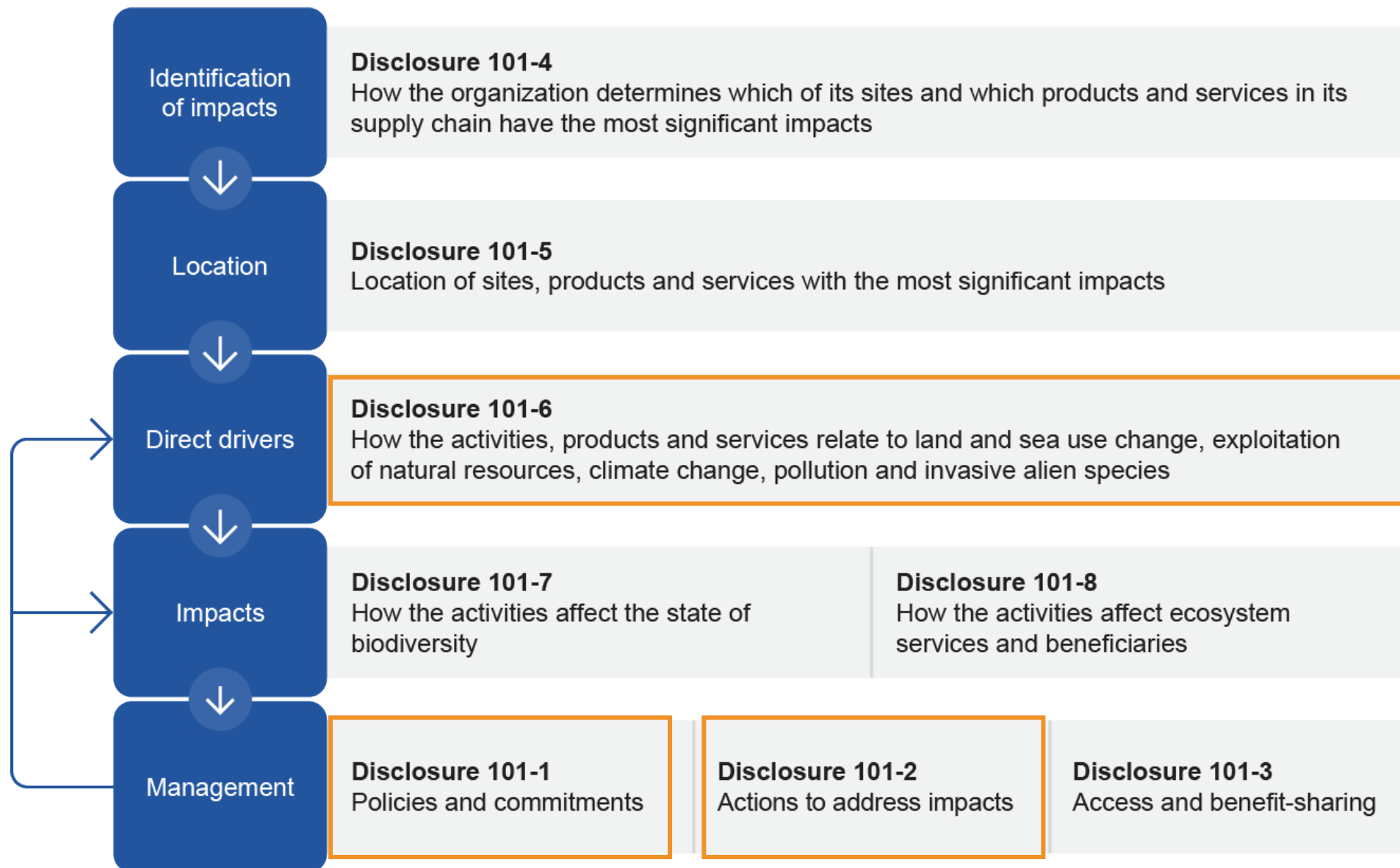
GRI 101: making impacts visible



Key features

- Facilitate reporting impacts across the **supply chain**
- Focus on the **most significant impacts** on biodiversity
- Emphasis on providing **location-specific information** on impacts
- New disclosures and requirements to report on:
 - **direct drivers** of biodiversity loss
 - changes to the **state of biodiversity**
 - **impacts on people** resulting from an organization's impacts on biodiversity
- New biodiversity-specific **management** disclosures
- Consistent and aligned with expectations set in the Global Biodiversity Framework, TNFD and SBTN

Integrated and interconnected reporting



New GRI 102 Climate Change and GRI 103 Energy Standards



GRI 102: Climate Change 2025



Will enable organizations to:



Report on the **human dimension** of climate change through the lens of **just transition**



Focus on climate change and **biodiversity nexus**

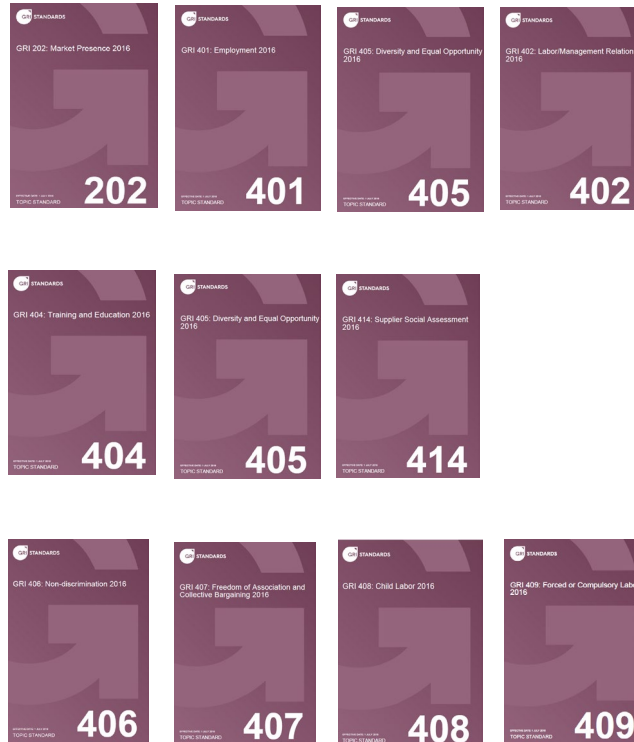


Disclose on the urgent priority to **reduce GHG emissions**

GRI Topic Standard Project for Labor



Project phases



Phase 1 Employment Practices and Conditions

- Employment Topic Standard
- Remuneration and Working Time Topic Standard
- Significant Changes for Workers Topic Standard
- Control of work standard interpretation to GRI 2

Phase 2 Working life and Career development

- Training and Education Topic Standard
- Working Parents and Caregivers Topic Standard
- Diversity, Inclusion and Equal Opportunity Topic Standard

Phase 3 Workers' Rights and Protection

- Child Labor Topic Standard
- Modern Slavery and Forced Labor Topic Standard
- Non-discrimination Topic Standard
- Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining Topic Standard
- Workers in Business Relationships Topic Standard

THANK YOU



www.globalreporting.org



[global-reporting-initiative-gri](https://www.linkedin.com/company/global-reporting-initiative-gri)



[@GlobalReportingInitiative](https://twitter.com/GlobalReportingInitiative)



[@GRI_Secretariat](https://twitter.com/GRI_Secretariat)