

ASI Standards Committee Virtual Meeting – Discussion Notes

11 and 18 June 2024 (parallel sessions)

Attendance ([Standards Committee](#)):

Abu Karimu (11 Jun)	Louis Biswane (18 Jun)	Patrick Brading (11 Jun)
Alexander Leutwiler (11 Jun)	Mamadou Kindy Diallo (18 Jun)	Penny Laurance (11 Jun)
Andy Doran (18 Jun)	Marcel Pfitzer (18 Jun)	Piet Wit (18 Jun)
Francesca Fairbairn (18 Jun)	Marina Wangurra (11 Jun)	Sankon Mohamed (11 Jun)
Gesa Jauck (18 Jun)	Margriet Biswane (18 Jun)	Steven Bater (11 Jun)
Guilbert Ebune (18 Jun)	Michael Danielson (18 Jun)	Vincent Ekka (18 Jun)
Jose Rubio (18 Jun)	Nicholas Barla (18 Jun)	Wenjuan Liu (18 Jun)
Judith Pietschmann (11 Jun)	Olivier Néel (18 Jun)	Yuri Herder (18 Jun)

Apologies:

Jason Koevoet
Soumah Ibrahima Dominique

ASI Secretariat

Chelsea Reinhardt, *Standards Director*
Chris Bayliss, *Climate Change and Decarbonisation Director [11 June]*
Laura Brunello, *Standards Coordinator*

Mark Annandale, *Director of Research and IPAF Advisor [11 June]*
Jessica Patterson de Oliveira Pereira, *Human Rights Specialist*

Agenda:

Topic	Time (min)	Agenda/ Objective
1. Welcome, Introduction & Apologies, approval of minutes	30	Obj: Members get their voices into the meeting (cameras on) and start to get to know each other
2. Overview of the Standards Committee	30	Obj: SC understands the importance of their role, the expectations for the group, and the ways of working, including consensus and decision-making processes.
3. 2024-26 Work Planning	10	Obj: Share high level 2-3 year plan with the SC so they get a sense of the timings and expectations around standard revision
4. Agenda for September	20	Obj: Discuss agenda for September and take comments/ suggestions on what to prioritise. Use of Mentimeter to capture feedback
5. Close and next steps	5	Looking ahead to next meetings and feedback after the session

Discussion Notes:

- Introductions/ approval of minutes
 - **Decision:** Minutes from 2 April meeting were approved during both meetings (11th of June and 18th of June). These will be published on the ASI Website.
- Standards Committee (SC) overview – including remit and role of the SC

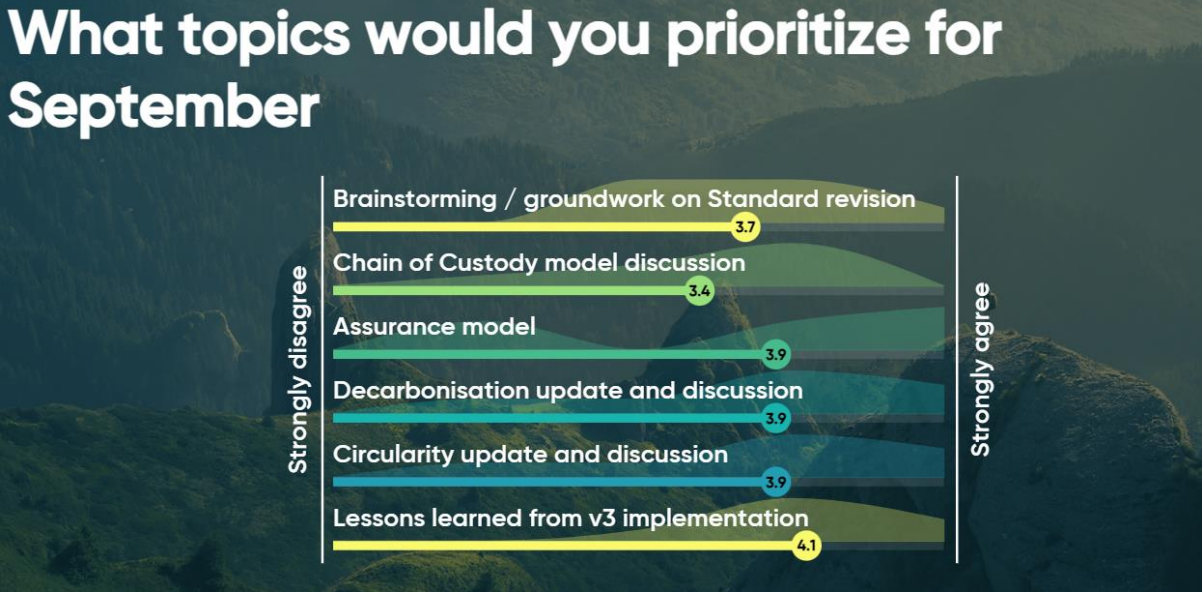
- ASI team shared some context on the role of the SC. This included the key areas of responsibility, and why the role of the SC is critical in the upcoming revisions
- ASI team discussed the challenges in ‘setting the bar’ for the ASI standards at the right level, and explained how this is the outcome of many rounds of stakeholder discussion and consultation
- Standards Committee members raised several relevant comments, including:
 - View that the current Performance Standard is probably about the right ‘level’, but the auditing needs to be more consistent and robust
 - View that current Performance Standard is too management system-based and a preference to see it shift more towards performance (outcome or threshold measures as we have now for GHGs) in future revisions
- On the topic of auditor accreditation, it was clarified that this area does sit under the remit of the SC. Members of the SC expressed that this is an important area to include in September
 - ASI team responded that this is within remit of the SC and we can make space under the assurance model discussion in September.
 - The ASI team also noted that in the future we may consider having several SC representatives follow the process of Auditor accreditation and work with the ASI Assurance team, and report that work back to the full Committee at a higher level.
 - Several participants noted that assurance in general should be a priority
- On the role of working groups – it was noted that current WGs are not always engaged, members may not pay attention or participate. The group discussed different views of the role of WGs – e.g. being more of a stakeholder ‘sounding board’ to feed back on proposals developed by the Secretariat and SC (or sub-groups of the SC), rather than directly feeding into content.
 - Action – ASI team to re-table the discussion on WGs for Sept meeting
- Summary of Standards Committee 121 feedback - Ways of working and content points
 - ASI team shared back feedback and key points from 121 SC member calls ahead of this meeting
 - In-person meetings seen as very valuable for building rapport and engagement
 - Several members suggested we consider extending the meeting length e.g. considering the carbon footprint to travel from Australia. It was also suggested to consider multiple in person meetings during peak periods.
 - A suggestion was made to consider the ‘double materiality’ approach that many companies are already going to be looking at for CSRD and explore how this could be aligned with the ASI standards
 - It was noted as very important for the SC to have ‘feedback’ on how the standard is being implemented in practice, lessons learned from auditing, etc.
 - The ASI team explained this will feature heavily in September but we can also look at more regular ‘feedback’ updates to the SC via periodic meetings
 - The importance of effective auditing and clear compliance expectations were also supported as a key theme
- Timeline for Standards Revision
 - ASI team explained the reasons for having a technical review of the current ASI Claims Guide, in light of new EU legislation (and the connection between claims and credible Chain of Custody models). One downstream SC member noted that their company is currently hesitant to make any sustainability claims as they need to be very ‘bulletproof’, especially with regulation increasing in this space
 - SC members asked about the benchmarking process revision. ASI team explained this is a review/update of our current benchmarking procedure. SC members noted this is a key priority to reduce the need for duplicate standards/ certification

- ASI team acknowledged this point; it was discussed that often the challenge is in trying to align or recognise standards that are similar but slightly different (need to accept compromises) and asked for SC members to help identify standards to prioritise for benchmarking or recognition

Summary Feedback from Mentimeter *(see Annex for full download)*

- Most items were considered important for September agenda. Some views that we could spend less time on decarbonisation as previously covered in depth
- Other areas to cover: auditor feedback/ auditor competency, roles of working groups, summary of external risks, brief history of SC successes and shortcomings, 'feedback from external stakeholders' (e.g. SC members sharing what pressures/ feedback they are hearing from customers and others – could be built into 'lessons learned from v3.0' session), also Human Rights Due Diligence, plans related to reporting schemes such as CSRD, TNFD, SBTN, etc., involvement of affected communities, consideration of non-material aspects (such as cultural values)
- Feedback on current expertise/ experience of SC members – weakest areas are human rights/ labour rights, claims, and COC/ traceability (based on 11 June feedback), and Nature/Biodiversity and Sustainability claims and labelling (based on 18th of June).
- Feedback on areas in which SC member would appreciate more training or knowledge: biodiversity and environmental aspects, social topics (HRIA, FPIC), Displacement, Circularity, ISEAL, mass balance/ traceability, just transition, ISEAL, ASI's role in the aluminium industry, and other standards

ANNEX- Feedback from Mentimeter – 11 June and 18 June, in order



*One SC member indicated by chat they wanted to see the CoC discussion prioritised

Are there any topics you think could be deprioritised?

10 responses

all should remain priorities

Decarbonisation, if anything

All are important topics, but an outcome I think we need to focus on as well is where do we need working groups and what we expect these groups to add to the SC

no, all are priorities

decarbonisation, we've spent a lot of time on it already & new pathway out

I think decarbonisation is important, given how it could significantly impact certified entities over the coming years

Dancing

Auditor competency

discussion with auditors

Would build as well on the working group, where are they needed

Are there any topics you think could be deprioritised?

No

None

No

No

No

No

AGENDA FOR SEPT

Is anything missing from the September meeting that we need to add?

4 responses

Dancing

Risks to ASI credibility (external stakeholder perspectives, overview of criticisms, real or perceived

further work on definitions and real world examples eg Associated Facilities, Areas of Influence, Affected peoples etc

Would we be interested into a benchmark with other association/certification to understand how detailed they may are?

Anything MISSING from the agenda? Any other suggestions?

No	Always fascinating to have a site visit	No	human rights due diligence
Maybe the role of the SC regarding the implementation of the standard?	Plans related to reporting schemes: CSRD, TNFD, SBTN, etc.	Involvement of affected communities	Decarbonization progress measurement and achievement

Anything MISSING from the agenda? Any other suggestions?

consideration of non-material aspects, cultural values for instance

Any other suggestions for the September meeting?

3 responses

Risks to ASI credibility (external stakeholders, criticisms/complaints)	A brief history / overview of success and shortcomings from past SC meetings and revision processes	Feedback from external stakeholders (getting all of our experiences)
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Please estimate your knowledge/ expertise in these areas:



Please estimate your knowledge/ expertise in these areas:



What other expertise do you have that could benefit the SC?

9 responses

Chris knows how to brew beer

Site based experience with mining, refining, smelting, casting

managment sytems, e.g. ISO 14001

Disclosure

Implementation of all ASI standards

Lenders convenants (IFC, EBRD etc)

Investor relations

LME Responsible Sourcing, ISO14001, 45001, ICMM PE, TSM

other material expertise like fiber or paper pulp to compare

What other expertise do you have that could benefit the SC?

GHG calcs	ISEAL	Circularity	Just transition
Traceability			

*One member indicated by chat that their expertise is around Climate Change/Decarbonisation

In which areas would you appreciate more training or knowledge ?

4 responses

Biodiversity	Social topics (HRIA, FPIC)	Displacement (social)	The cut off vs burden conundrum
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In which areas would you appreciate more training or knowledge ?

Mass balance approach	ISEAL	Circularity	ASI's role in aluminum industry
Environmental side of things, but I imagine I will get that in Amsterdam. Ditto re auditing in general	Just transition	Traceability	

*One member indicated by chat that they wanted more knowledge on other standards.