

## ASI Standards Committee In-Person Meeting – Discussion Notes

19 June 2025 (Virtual)

### Attendance ([Standards Committee](#)):

Dr. Jasminka Jaksic (alternate Steve Bater)	Olivier Néel
Francesca Fairbairn	Patrick Brading
Gesa Jauck	Penny Laurance
Guilbert Ebune	Piet Wit
Jason Koevoet	Soumah Dominique
Jose Rubio	Vincent Ekka
Louis Biswane	Yuri Herder
Michael Danielson	

### Apologies:

Abiba Diallo	Nicholas Barla
Abu Karimu	Steven Bater (alternate attended)
Judith Pietschmann	Sankon Mohamed
Dr. Marcel Pfitzer	Vishwas Kamble
Marina Wangurra	Dr. Wenjuan Liu

### ASI Secretariat Participants

Cameron Jones, <i>Director of Risk and Assurance</i>	Jessica Pereira, <i>Human Rights Specialist</i>
Chelsea Reinhardt, <i>Standards Director</i>	Laura Brunello, <i>Standards Coordinator</i>
Chinelo Etiaba, <i>COO and Membership Director</i>	Lia Vacheret, <i>Standards Manager</i>
Chris Bayliss, <i>Climate Change &amp; Decarb'n Director</i>	Marieke van der Mijn, <i>Director of Partnerships</i>
Gabriel Carmona Aparicio, <i>Circularity Research Manager</i>	

### Agenda Overview:

1. Opening and progress update (10)
2. Approval of May meeting minutes (10)
3. Discussion on Cross-cutting drafts (30) – *focusing on comments raised by the SC ahead of the call*
  - a. Management systems
  - b. Governance
  - c. Responsible sourcing/ due diligence
4. Options around public disclosure (20 min)
5. AOB and next steps (20 min)

### Item 1: Opening and Progress update

- The ASI Secretariat welcomed the SC members and provided an update on 2 open vacancies – 3 nominees had been received and would be confirmed by the end of June.

- ASI Secretariat gave an update on the 6 Working Groups – all groups have launched, and work on the drafts is progressing. Experts have been commissioned to review content on Nature; Circularity; and Workers’ Rights, as well as mine closure and rehabilitation. There are resources to commission further expert input if needed.
  - One SC member observed that some technical experts are working for many Entities/ initiatives in the sector and it might be good to balance their input with second opinions. This will be taken on board by the ASI team.
- Working Group discussions are going well, with different formats being trialled to build engagement, including breakout groups, interactive whiteboards, and Mentimeter polls. Feedback from SC members who participate in Working Groups is welcomed – how can we make these as effective as possible?
- Other updates from the ASI Secretariat:
  - Public update/ interactive feedback webinar is planned for 24 July
  - Auditability and feasibility reviews will take place over July and August
  - Dedicated input from Chinese members will also be solicited over July – August also (as Chinese Entities are not well represented within working groups)
  - September will be a time for ASI to consider the feedback received.

## Item 2 – Approval of May meeting minutes

- The minutes from the 6-8 May 2025 Standards Committee meeting were approved with no amendments.

## Item 3: Discussion on cross-cutting drafts

### Management Systems/Governance

- ASI team explained that in the latest draft, requirements on Divestments have been moved from the section on facility closures and brought under Mergers and Acquisitions due diligence, as this is more closely related.
  - The group discussed challenges with auditing and how to ensure applicability (e.g. site or corporate level – site contacts may not even know about divestments being planned).
  - It was noted that it not feasible to audit how divestments would be managed in the future; auditors could generally only look at how these processes have been managed in the past.
  - **Action: the SC agreed to incorporate divestments under the due diligence requirement which currently applying to Mergers and Acquisitions and (longer term) to build out more detail in guidance on how this should be audited and expectations for Entities/ auditors**
- On cumulative impacts related to impact assessments:
  - **The SC agreed to leave this as its own requirement and clarify in guidance that it relates to New Projects/ Major changes that are linked to the certifying Entity.**
  - The SC noted that once impacts are understood, there needs to be a plan to manage them.
  - The SC discussed the importance of building guidance in the longer term to help clarify minimum expectations/ how conformance would be assessed.
- It was discussed with the SC that in the proposed new structure for the Performance Standard, requirements on “new projects and major changes” would be brought together in one place; currently they are scattered across the standard.
- **Action - ASI to share with the SC current and any proposed adjusted definitions of New Projects and Major Changes and invite any input from the SC.**

## Due Diligence/Responsible Sourcing

- Since the SC meeting in May the ASI team has drafted out due diligence requirements following the 'Option 2' presented at the May meeting – this option has separate criteria for due diligence related to the UNGPs and the OECD Guidelines, to emphasize ASI's alignment with both key frameworks
- The SC discussed this draft and noted that there is a fair amount of duplication as both criteria follow the five-step process. It was noted that this duplication could negatively impact auditability.
- It was discussed whether ASI could also develop a matrix or auditor guidance to help address this issue, as with either option there would still be some duplication with the current 9.8 section on CAHRA due diligence (which will remain separate due to LME alignment).
- The SC noted that it is important to clearly call out any areas of duplication so that Entities and auditors have visibility into any overlaps
- **Action** - ASI Secretariat to develop an updated draft following the 'Option 1' discussed at the May SC meeting; which will merge the UNGP and OECD guideline sections, keeping the current CAHRA due diligence separate. This draft will be shared with the SC for review and input
- The SC **agreed** for now to keep the level of content shown in the criteria and requirements (not yet moving the requirement level of content into guidance)

## Item 4: Options around public disclosures

- The ASI Secretariat summarized current disclosure requirements in the Performance Standard (PS); there are two main types – information likely to be part of a sustainability report (e.g. water withdrawals) and more ASI specific requirements (e.g. disclosure of a management plan for water). Disclosures in most cases might be considered less critical than performance expectations, but in the current PS there is no distinction in terms of non-conformances
- The ASI team shared 3 potential options on how to structure public disclosures going forward:
  - a) Adding a new requirement in the Governance section, requiring disclosure in line with requirements in the thematic areas. This would be in addition to leaving disclosures in the thematic (content areas), but perhaps with a different designation. Under this option, non-conformances related to public disclosure would be raised against this one centralized criterion, rather than multiple times throughout the PS
  - b) leaving disclosures scattered throughout content areas in the PS (as in current state, but with a clear symbol to make it less likely they are skipped over,
  - c) Introducing a new cross-cutting section, including all disclosures together.
- SC members agreed that disclosure requirements in general need to be reviewed through the lens of materiality (are they material? do they add value?)
- A couple of members preferred the option of putting the disclosure requirements in one place, others thought that leaving them in thematic areas made it easier for different internal leads to work on a specific set of requirements (e.g. water)
- **Action** - ASI to mock up the Option A approach for a specific thematic area, to share this back with the SC at a future meeting.
- **Action** - ASI together with Working Groups to revisit current disclosures with a materiality lens and sense check which ones are critical to maintain vs which ones could be removed or moved to guidance

## Item 5: AOB and next steps

- Next Standards Committee call: 17 July 2025, 13:00, CEST (this will include breakout session to revisit thematic content areas in subgroups, plus a plenary to discuss CoC/ Claims updates and differentiation)
- SC member raised a point about ASI's commitment to publish audit dates for high- risk audits. ASI Secretariat aims to deliver this by end 2025/ early 2026 in line with release of the updated Elemental

system. As an interim approach the audit enquiry form has been developed on the ASI website: <https://aluminium-stewardship.org/audit-enquiry>

- Late September - 3 Workshop sessions to go through feedback from auditability/feasibility reviews and WG feedback on the drafts.