

MINUTES
HYDROPOWER SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING #34 (video conference call)
30 June 2021 (12:00-13:30)

Attendees – 17	Apologies
<p>Ashok Khosla (Chair, HSGC)</p> <p>Jian-hua Meng (Chair, Environmental or conservation organisations)</p> <p>Jiwari Abdullah (Chair, Social impacts/project affected communities)</p> <p>Stéphane Brabant (Alternate, Social impacts/project affected communities)</p> <p>Daniel Menebhi (Chair, Advanced economy country governments)</p> <p>Kimberly Lyon (Chair, Financial institutions)</p> <p>Xiao (Jianliang) Elisa (Alternate, Financial institutions)</p> <p>Debbie Gray (Chair, Hydropower owners, operators)</p> <p>Pedro Sirgado (Alternate, Hydropower owners, operators)</p> <p>Jürgen Schuol (Chair, Hydropower consultants, suppliers)</p> <p>Knut Sierotzki (Alternate, Hydropower consultants, suppliers)</p> <p>Sunil Poudel (Observer)</p> <p>Eddie Rich (Management Entity (ME))</p> <p>Joao Costa (ME)</p> <p>Alain Kilajian (ME)</p> <p>Amina Kadyrzhanova (ME)</p> <p>Bénédicte Nsalambi (ME)</p>	<p>James Dalton (Alternate, Environmental or conservation organisations)</p> <p>Mwape Chikonkolo Mwewa (Chair, Emerging economy country governments)</p> <p>Shi Guoqing (Alternate, Emerging economy country governments)</p> <p>Geir Yngve Hermansen (Alternate, Advanced economy country governments)</p>

Agenda Item	Minutes
HSGC 34.1 Welcome and apologies	The Chair reminded HSGC members of housekeeping rules.
34.2 Agenda	The agenda was approved by members.
34.3 Status of actions from last meeting	The Chair mentioned that ME is developing a Decisions and Actions Register which would be posted on Basecamp and updated regularly after each meeting. The Chair invited members to flag any issues.

<p>34.4 Standard recommendation from the Global Standard Working Group</p>	<p>The ME presented the HS Standard and HS Assurance system, which were recommendations from the Standard Working Group. They reminded that performance requirements were not under consultation as those were based on the Hydropower Sustainability Tools.</p> <p>The Chair stated that this Standard was the first sustainability standard for the renewable energy and applauded the initiative. The Chair added that HSGC members should review what was presented with a fine-tooth comb and provide adequate comments. The Chair also said that the HSGC and ME would have the opportunity to present the Standard at COP26 in Glasgow and that it will have a significant impact.</p> <p>A Committee member asked to clarify whether there were differences between requirements in the existing tools and the Standard. The ME responded that there were no differences in requirements.</p> <p>Another Committee member said that they noticed advanced requirements to get to Silver and Gold and asked what they referred to. The ME answered that, whilst good practice was a binary pass/fail, anything above good practice was on the silver/gold scale.</p> <p>HSGC members congratulated the ME on the documents. A Committee member asked if there was room for minor edits before the documents went for consultation. The ME responded that typos can be fixed, and that the member should send remarks after the meeting so that the ME could notify the designer. The member also recognised that the consultation period was happening in a time when some people would go on vacation, and that the ME and HSGC should make hard efforts to gather comments.</p> <p>A Committee member asked if there were references on legal obligations such as FPIC, Human Rights, UNGPs, Social License among others in the Standard for companies.</p> <p>The ME noted that the FPIC requirement was embedded in the Standard and that legal references were present in the guidance documents.</p> <p>The member reminded that FPIC, especially in Africa, did not just apply to Indigenous People and that it was a sensitive issue. The ME added that companies had to meet national legislation at the very least.</p> <p>Another Committee member noted that topics that have already been covered and closed should not be commented on, and that this should be clarified for the consultation.</p> <p>The Chair concluded by saying that the bulk of the work had been done and that we were now in a fine-tuning phase.</p> <p>Decision 1: HSGC members approved the HS Standard and HS Assurance system for the second public consultation.</p>
<p>34.5 Second Standard Consultation</p>	<p>The ME introduced the Second Standard Consultation process that would take place from 1 July to 2 August 2021. They added that HSGC members were encouraged to submit one response per Chamber or that Chamber members could respond individually through the online feedback form. They added that feedback from the first consultation would be published on the website on 1 July.</p> <p>A Committee member asked to clarify whether a detailed list of respondents and their feedback from the first consultation would be available. The ME confirmed that such a list would be posted on Basecamp.</p>



The Chair asked if we were reaching NGOs and other stakeholders that could have a stake in this process, whose views could be enriching, that were not on Basecamp, and who had not been a part of this process so far.

A Committee member explained that some organisations had voluntarily restrained from answering the first consultation.

The ME responded that they had deployed a proactive marketing and communications strategy. The ME added that they would do a stakeholder mapping for the second consultation, and that they would also be able to have bilateral meetings. They concluded by saying that the least consulted groups were Project Affected Communities and Indigenous Peoples. The ME added that consulting these groups was a requirement of ISEAL, and that their interactions with these groups would be documented.

A Committee member asked if the ME was sure on consulting the public regarding branding, design and labels, and that the ME should not get too far away from what already existed with the tools. The member recommended to send the Standard documents to Council members directly. The ME responded that there was a need to hear from people in terms of trends and that this information would be useful for their designer. The label was important as it would shape public perception.

Another Committee member commented on the logo saying that they were not against consulting on it. They noticed that the colour scheme was still blue and green and asked about the gold and silver scheme. They also requested ME to provide technical support in organising a Chamber consultation meeting.

A Committee member added that they did not oppose a public consultation on the logo and design but wondered how to use the resulting information as it was up to the HSGC to give its final decision. They asked the ME to give clarification on label choices that are to be made. They added that they were not unhappy with the blue or green scheme for the 'Certified' level.

A Committee member said that all these nuances stroke different emotions with different people, and that a green logo would not resonate well, particularly with some environmental groups. They added that the consultation would be important to gather all these feelings.

The ME added that a board with wording and different versions for the design could be made for the public consultation. They added that on the basis of design considerations, including the comments received, they would propose a short-list to the HSGC, which would then make the final decision.

A Committee member asked how changes and adaptations would be included in the Standard. The ME clarified that the technical requirements would only be updated in five years' time but that, in the lifetime of the Standard, comments could be taken anytime and would be recorded. As for the ad-hoc update of the Assurance system, it would have to go through the multi-stakeholder group.

Another Committee member commented that ME should try its best to reach out to NGOs and civil society. On the label and branding, they said that it should be done inhouse and be in line with SDGs and IHA.

Action 1: The ME to upload on Basecamp the list of respondents from the first public consultation and their feedback.

Action 2: The ME to conduct a stakeholder mapping for second consultation and reach out to Project Affected Communities and Indigenous Peoples.



	<p>Action 3: The ME to decide on whether to consult the public on Standard label graphics or not and notify HSGC members.</p>
<p>34.6 Standard launch</p>	<p>The ME presented the Communications strategy for the Standard launch. They mentioned that the ME was developing an FAQ.</p> <p>A Committee member said that they sent the Communications strategy to SECO's internal Communications team and that they would provide comments within 2 weeks. They added that they would like to work on it with the ME as well.</p> <p>Another Committee member mentioned that they also shared it internally with their Communications team and said that it was possible to provide more spokespeople.</p> <p>The ME said that they could coordinate and that a contact person would be designated for all Communications related matters.</p> <p>Action 4: The ME to coordinate with SECO and Hydro-Québec regarding the communications of the Standard launch and designate a contact person for all communications related matters.</p>
<p>34.7 Any other business</p>	<p>A Committee member flagged that they had an unsuccessful call for proposals for the HESG Fund, and that they would like to launch another call during the Congress to use the created momentum. Another Committee member asked them why they thought the call was not picked up. The member responded that they believed Covid had a lot to do with it.</p> <p>The ME added that they had had meetings with consultants and Accredited Assessors, and that Covid and travel restrictions were the main issue. They added that the South Africa remote assessment was the only one that had been conducted from last year's recipients, and that one remote assessment was starting in Indonesia.</p> <p>The ME mentioned the General meeting of the Council to take place on 20 or 21 July and invited HSGC members to introduce themselves there. They added that a biennial Activity Report was in preparation.</p> <p>The Chair notified that they would attend the July IHA Board Meeting to explain the roadmap to independence of HSGC which would give the sector the credibility it deserved.</p> <p>A Committee member asked if there would be two General Council meetings, as the meeting usually happened at Congress. The ME explained that the virtual nature of the Congress and the opportunity to get them excited before Congress were the reasons why only one meeting was scheduled ahead of Congress. The member recommended to have a second meeting during Congress as not everyone would attend the July meeting.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the Vice Chair and closed the meeting.</p> <p>Action 5: The ME to send a doodle poll for the Council General meeting to take place on 20 or 21 July.</p>
<p>34.8 Summary of decisions and actions</p>	<p>Decision 1: HSGC members approved the HS Standard and HS Assurance system for the second public consultation.</p> <p>Action 1: The ME to upload on Basecamp the list of respondents from the first public consultation and their feedback.</p> <p>Action 2: The ME to conduct a stakeholder mapping for second consultation and reach out to Project Affected Communities and Indigenous Peoples.</p>



Action 3: The ME to decide on whether to consult the public on Standard label graphics or not and notify HSGC members.

Action 4: The ME to coordinate with SECO and Hydro-Québec regarding the communications of the Standard launch and designate a contact person for all communications related matters.

Action 5: The ME to send a doodle poll for the Council General meeting to take place on 20 or 21 July.