



Jeffrey Hales, PhD  
Chair of the SASB Standards Board  
1045 Sansome Street, Suite 450  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 830-9220  
jeff.hales@sasb.org  
sasb.org

## REPORT OF THE SASB CHAIR

May 28, 2020 to August 28, 2020

---

### Item I: Standard-Setting Activities

#### A. Meetings of the Standards Board

- On June 22 and 23, the Standards Board held public and closed meetings by videoconference. The closed meeting was attended by some members of the Foundation Board. No technical standards setting activity took place during the closed portion of the meeting. A recording of the public meeting is available on SASB's website. At the public meeting, the Standards Board discussed several projects, including the following highlights:
  - The Standards Board discussed a preliminary decision to add a tailings management topic to the SASB standards for the Metals & Mining and Coal Operations industries to build on the existing coverage of tailings facilities in the SASB Standards.
  - The Standards Board discussed a preliminary decision to remove an accounting metric from the Systemic Risk topic in the Asset Management & Custody Activities industry because of regulatory developments.
  - The Standards Board voted to initiate a new standard-setting project to address single-use plastics and bio-alternatives in the Chemicals and Pulp & Paper industries
- The Standards Board will hold public and closed web-based meetings on Sept 17-18 and in New York City on Dec 2.

#### B. Additional Agenda Updates

- On August 28, the Standards Board initiated a joint public comment period for proposed revisions to the *Conceptual Framework* and *Rules of Procedure*. Both exposure drafts are available on SASB's website, and the public comment period will remain open for 90 days.

### Item II: Interaction with the SASB Foundation, Advisory Groups, and Stakeholders

#### A. SASB Foundation Board of Directors

- On June 10, the Chair of the Standards Board attended a web-based meeting of the Foundation Board of Directors.
- On August 17, the Chair of the Standards Board attended a web-based meeting of the Standards Oversight Committee. The meeting was also attended by the CEO of SASB.

#### B. Key Stakeholder Interaction

- On July 20, the Chair of the Standards Board attended a web-based meeting of the Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB) as a member of the CDSB Board.

- On June 18, the Chair of the Standards Board attended the web-based Green Finance/Capital Markets Roundtable organized by the German Marshall Fund.

#### C. Standards Advisory Group

- On June 10, the SASB Outreach Team hosted a webinar regarding the mapping between SASB disclosure topics and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Following the webinar, SAG members were surveyed to understand how they might use the mapping to support their sustainability reporting efforts.
- On July 8, the SASB Research Team, working with the Communications Team, sent out the inaugural SASB Standard-Setting Digest. The Digest is a communication with news and updates related to SASB's research and standard-setting projects that went to over forty thousand individuals, which SASB expects to send on a quarterly basis. This was followed a few weeks later by the SASB Project Alerts, which are project-specific updates on key research questions and phases that went out to the over 100 individuals that signed up for updates on the various project pages.
- In late July, the SASB Research Team hosted a series of webinars on the Standards Internationalization Advancement Project (formerly known as the Globalization Project) to inform SAG members of the project objectives and scope with the goal of preparing them to respond to a questionnaire on certain topics and metrics. Insights from the questionnaire will help technical staff develop standard-setting proposals.
- On July 28, SASB hosted the second in a series of open forum feedback sessions to solicit stakeholder feedback on specific topics within the Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical industry. The second session was focused on gaining stakeholder feedback on issues related to drug pricing transparency and accessibility.
- On August 20, SASB reached out to investor members of the SAG to solicit feedback on the Climate Risk Technical Bulletin, a document that summarizes SASB's thinking on different types of climate risk. Members were asked to tag industry-specific disclosure topic examples with one or more of the three climate risk types captured in the SASB Standards – physical, transitional, and regulatory.
- Research Team project leads have engaged with SAG members as a part of the consultation phase of all research and standard-setting projects.
- Members of the Research Team continue to have conversations with SAG members regarding a series of topics related to challenges and opportunities related to the implementation and use of the SASB Standards, as well as potential research projects.

### Item III: Additional Stakeholder Education and Communications

#### A. Speaking Engagements and Presentations

- Members of the Standards Board and research staff provided support for stakeholder education and communication by speaking at many events. Highlights include the following:
  - UC Berkeley, School of Law: The ESG Beat (May 19, Jeff Hales, Standards Board)
  - SASB Implementation Webinar 201: Getting Prepared: Materiality, Gap Analysis & Benchmarking (June 3, Jeff Hales, Standards Board)
  - UNEP FI Webinar: Developments in Climate Regulation and Disclosures with SASB (June 4, Anton Gorodniuk, SASB Staff)
  - Deutsche Bank Investor Conference (June 8 – 9, Gail Glazerman, SASB Staff)
  - SASB Implementation Webinar 301: Communicating ESG to Mainstream Investors: Where, When, and What to Report (June 16, Marc Siegel, Standards Board)

- UNCTAD ISAR WBCSD Webinar: Assurance on Sustainability Reports (June 16, Jeff Hales, Standards Board)
- A4S / SASB Webinar: The CFO's Role in Sustainable Business (July 9, Kurt Kuehn, Standards Board)
- Society of Corporate Governance Virtual Conference (July 8 – 11, Marvin Smith, SASB Staff)
- Datamaran Webinar on Double and Dynamic: Understanding the New Perspectives of Materiality (July 22, Jeff Hales, Standards Board)
- Cornell University: Data, Disclosure, and Decision Making: Business Education and Research with Impact (July 30, Jeff Hales, Standards Board)
- Stanford Rock Center for Corporate Governance Lecture (July 27, Robert Hirth, Standards Board)
- American Accounting Association (Virtual) Annual Meeting
  - Academics and Policy Makers: How Working Together Can Influence Public Policy (August 11, Jeff Hales, Standards Board)
  - Sustainability Reporting in Business Curricula (August 12, Jeff Hales, Standards Board)
  - Integrating Corporate Governance and Organization Ethics into Business and Accounting Curricula (August 12, Robert Hirth, Standards Board)
- Raymond James Diversified Industrials (August 27 – 28, Gail Glazerman, SASB Staff)