Sustainability data: The nuts & bolts of a sustainable global economy

Alyson Slater
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“Standards ... enabled the markets to act more rationally & efficiently, with an increased level of cooperation.”

- BSI: The first hundred years
Success factors:

- Standardization & harmonization
- Reporting in context
- Activate the user base & digitize reporting
Standardization and harmonization

To what end?

Move beyond disclosure and reporting, towards performance and results that advance sustainable development

Tim Mohin, CE, GRI
GRI’s Sustainability Context Principle

Present performance in the wider context of sustainability:

Tests

- Understanding of sustainable development
- Reference to broader sustainable development conditions and goals
- Communicate impacts in appropriate geographic contexts
- Relate performance to long-term strategy, risks, opportunities and goals.
Reporting sustainability in context

14% made reference to some form of wider ‘context’ (e.g. national goals) informing their targets

8% referenced ‘Sustainability Context’ in their latest sustainability report

37% cited the SDGs in their latest sustainability report

*Planetary Boundaries and Social Thresholds: How do companies measure up?*, Article 13, 2016
Shaping the future of SDG reporting

SDG reporting will be:

• Straightforward  ➔ Relevant Indicators
• Easy to understand  ➔ Guidance for Business Practitioners
• Simple to execute  ➔ Alignment/merging GRI Standards & UNGC Communication on Progress
• Accessible to all users  ➔ Aggregation of data
Taking the pulse of the private sector on poverty

Fig. 7: reality gap: current reporting on poverty vs future aspirations
Activate user base & digitize

Accountholders

• The technology is here, time to create the market and demand
• Users need reliable, usable information in a format they can easily access
Thank you

info@globalreporting.org
www.globalreporting.org

GRI
Barbara Strozzilaan 336
1083 HN Amsterdam
The Netherlands