

## **UNCTAD Webinar Series on SDG Reporting by companies, including MSMEs**

### ***The adaption of “Guidance on core indicators for entity reporting on contribution towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (GCI)” for the LATAM region***

Language: Spanish

Date: 4 June 2021, 4:00 pm to 5:30pm CET (Central European Time)

## **Summary Report**

### **1. Attendance**

The event took place online using Microsoft Teams on June 04<sup>th</sup> 2021. It was attended by 55 participants from 14 countries in the LATAM region. The full list of participants is attached in the Appendix section.

### **2. Objectives and agenda**

The objective of the webinar on the GCI delivered on 4 June 2021 for the LATAM region was to provide information on the main aspects of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) reporting and the GCI, highlight findings from case studies conducted, and discuss further steps on the GCI implementation in the Latin American region, including in the MSME sector.

This initiative is part of UNCTAD activities implemented within the framework of the UN Development Account project “Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector” (MSME surge project) and its Cluster of ‘Improving Access to Finance’. The initiative aims to strengthen the capacity and resilience of MSMEs in developing countries and economies in transition to mitigate the economic and social impact of the global Covid-19 crisis to seize the opportunity to build a greener and more inclusive economy.

The webinar was conducted following the agenda shown below:

<b>Time (CET)</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
4:00 - 4:05pm	Moderator	Debora Ponce, vice chair ISAR 37
4:05- 4:10pm	Opening remarks	Richard Bolwijn, Officer in charge of the Enterprise Branch, UNCTAD
4:10– 4:20pm	Sustainability/SDG reporting and measurement of the contribution of the private sector to the implementation of the SDGs	Isabel Garza Rodriguez, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD
4:20 – 4:40pm	Application of the GCI for companies in Latin America, including MSMEs	Juan Pablo Morataya, Executive Director CentraRSE and focal point DA Project in Guatemala  Wilmar Franco, President of the Technical Council on Public Accounting in Colombia
4:40 – 5:10pm	GCI case studies conducted in the region	Colin Banning, UNCTAD Resource person  Felipe Jánica V., EY Partner, Assurance Managing Partner LATAM North Region
5:10 – 5:25pm	Questions and interactive discussion	Debora Ponce, vice chair ISAR 37
5:25 – 5:30pm	Closing remarks	UNCTAD

The webinar began with opening remarks by Mr. Richard Bolwijn, Officer in charge of the Enterprise Branch at UNCTAD. He welcomed the attendees and emphasized the importance of the MSME sector worldwide as contributors to the economy, employment, self-employment and as drivers for innovation and development. He introduced UNCTAD's program on enterprise and accounting reporting which is carried out through the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR). Moreover, he highlighted UNCTAD's work on enhancing the role of enterprise reporting in assessing the private sector's contribution to the SDG implementation, and mentioned recent international developments in this area such as a consultation paper suggesting the creation of an International Sustainability Standards Board under the governance of the IFRS Foundation and the adoption of a proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive by the European Commission which will amend its existing Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD). He stressed the urgency and importance of transparent measurement and disclosure of sustainability information.

Mr. Bolwijn said that the objective of the webinar was to provide information on the main aspects of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) reporting and UNCTAD's Guidance on core indicators (GCI), highlight findings from GCI case studies conducted in the region, and discuss further steps on the GCI implementation in Latin America, including in the MSME sector.

Ms. Isabel Garza Rodriguez, Economic Affairs Officer (UNCTAD), gave a presentation on Sustainability/SDG reporting and measurement of the contribution of the private sector to the implementation of the SDGs. She further elaborated on current developments in the sustainability reporting area and on the GCI core indicators, its training manual and the importance of the application of these tools in order to achieve high quality reports to measure the contribution of companies to the SDGs. Then, she provided information about the GCI case studies that UNCTAD has developed in the last years, its main objectives, focus and a summary of the companies that have participated globally.

Subsequently, Mr. Juan Pablo Morataya, Executive Director of CentraRSE and focal point of the Development Account Project in Guatemala, spoke of the importance of SDG reporting and the GCI as a model for these reports. He also provided an analysis of the corporate reporting trends and its applicability in Guatemala and the LATAM region. He emphasized that the GCI is a practical tool applicable to all companies regardless of size or industry. He said that the GCI facilitates sustainability reporting and promotes comparability and verifiability of such information. In addition, it supports the collection of data by governments on the contribution of the private sector to the implementation of the SDGs.

Mr. Wilmar Franco, President of the Technical Council on Public Accounting in Colombia, underscored the importance of high-quality accounting and corporate reports for the SDGs and the development of the LATAM region. He highlighted the fact that the majority of the private sector companies in the region are MSMEs, hence the importance of simple and practical tools in order to improve sustainability reporting and to promote compliance with corporate reporting international standards. He spoke of the

GCI and its training manual and said that through the knowledge and application of these tools, companies can start reporting on sustainability from scratch considering the SDGs or those already reporting can update their current practices.

Mr. Colin Banning, UNCTAD's Resource person, presented the results of the GCI case studies carried out in 3 Guatemalan companies. He stressed that these companies were able to report between 29 and 30 indicators out of the 33 indicators of the GCI. He shared lessons learned and highlighted that the environmental indicators were the most difficult to report for the Guatemalan companies because they lack the systems to collect data needed for their measurement. There were also challenges with some of the social and corporate governance indicators. The conclusions of the case studies focused on the importance of providing training to companies on how to report environmental, social and corporate governance information. Mr. Banning underscored the usefulness of the GCI and its training manual to support companies when preparing the information. He mentioned the importance of promoting collaboration between the public and the private sector. He also stressed the urgent need for a sustainability reporting regulation or framework to ensure consistency and reliability of sustainability reports. Finally, he recommended companies the implementation of an internal mechanism for data collection that allows to produce sustainability reports.

Afterwards, Mr. Felipe Janica V., EY Partner, Assurance Managing Partner LATAM North Region, presented the results of the GCI case study carried out in a Colombian company. The case study showed that Promigas reported on most indicators and had challenges in reporting 5 GCI indicators. Mr. Janica highlighted the need for verification manuals that can be used by both external and internal personnel to reduce errors in the reported data. He stressed that the accounting systems need to adapt and become integrated in order to be able to trace the information. He said the GCI is useful because it provides explanations and information on the methodology to calculate the indicators, and its training manual also contains a list of references and examples. He commented that the GCI could become baseline information applicable to all type of entities regardless of sector or size. Mr. Janica also spoke of the need for regulation to promote sustainability reporting, as well as the need for assurance of such reports. He addressed the role of the local governments in adapting and integrating all these requirements and standards into their legal frameworks in order to achieve consistency in SDG corporate reporting practices in the LATAM region.

The moderator, Ms. Debora Ponce, vice chair ISAR 37, then addressed the comments and questions made by the audience in the chat and opened the floor for further comments, questions and interactive discussions. After the discussion, UNCTAD informed participants about the 38<sup>th</sup> session of ISAR which will take place in November 2021 and will also deal with sustainability/SDG reporting.

### **3. Comments and questions from participants**

The comments and questions were collected using the chat and also through discussions during the webinar, some of the key ones are as follows:

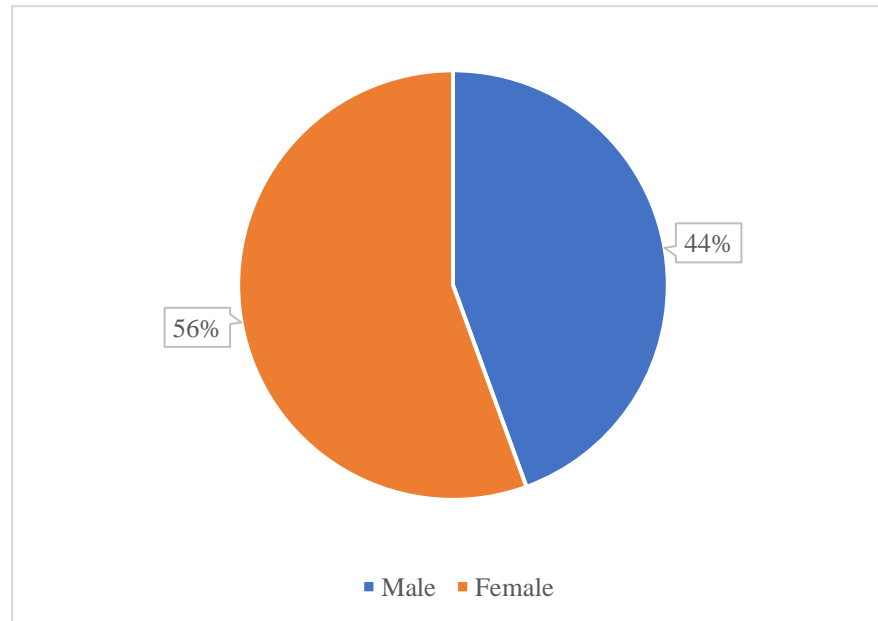
- In Argentina we are currently working with SDG12, especially regarding Circular Economy.
- It is my opinion that, without a regulation, preparing the sustainability reports will be a challenge for the region.
- Regarding the indicator on the audit committee, I think that the problem is not the number of meetings and their attendance rate, but what is reported to them and what actions the committee does to monitor compliance with corrective actions.
- Should sustainability reports be prepared only by a professional accountant?
- What is the difference or connection between the GRI and the GCI?

#### 4. Feedback results

The participants were asked to complete a feedback questionnaire in order to assess the materials and development of the webinar. 18 surveys were collected. The results are the following:

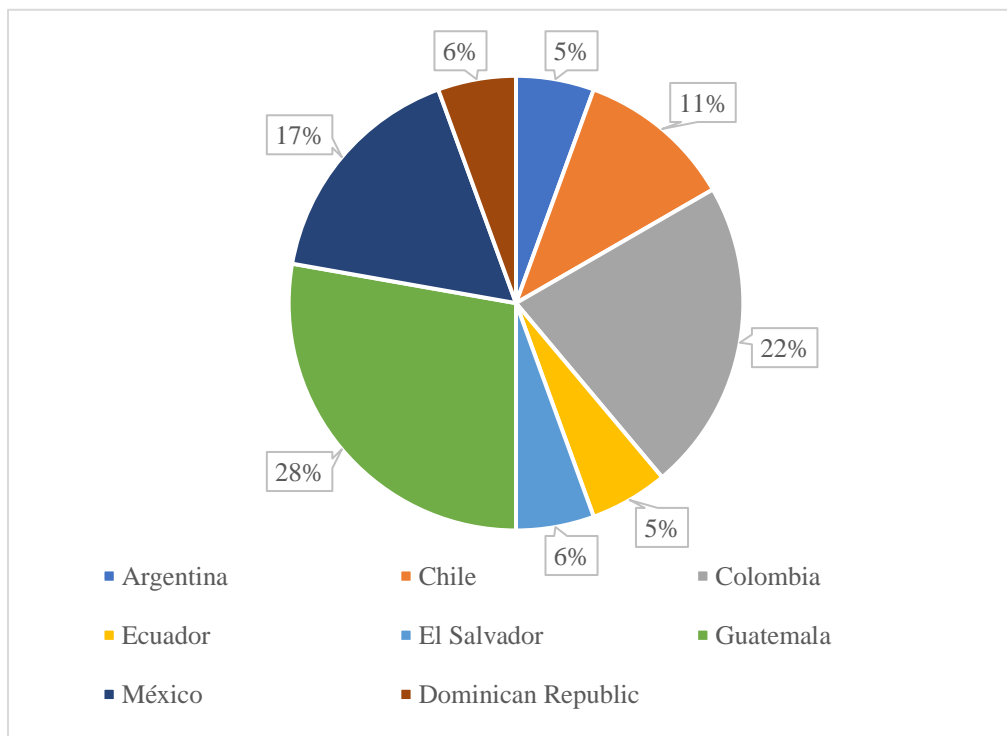
##### 1) *Gender-composition*

Male	8
Female	10



2) *Country*

Argentina	1
Chile	2
Colombia	4
Ecuador	1
El Salvador	1
Guatemala	5
Mexico	3
Dominican Republic	1

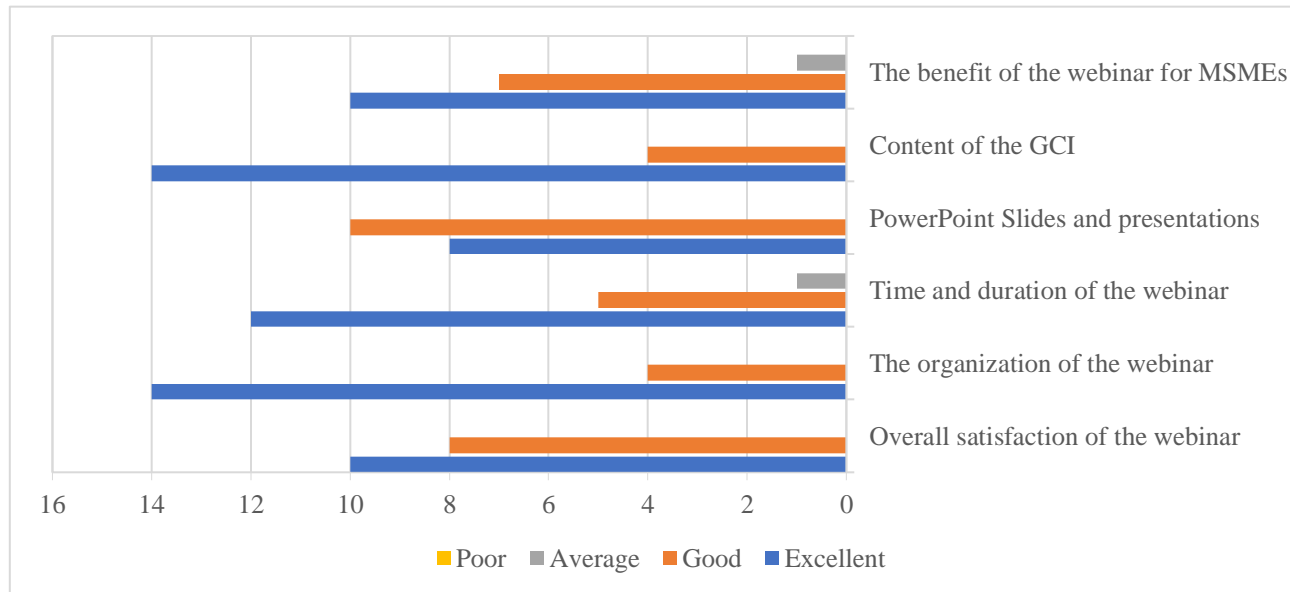


3) *Would you like to be involved in future training workshops on this matter for entrepreneurs/MSMEs?*

Yes	17
Maybe	1
No	0

4) *The overall of the course*

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Overall satisfaction of the webinar	10	8	0	0
The organization of the webinar	14	4	0	0
Time and duration of the webinar	12	5	1	0
PowerPoint Slides and presentations	8	10	0	0
Content of the GCI	14	4	0	0
The benefit of the webinar for MSMEs	10	7	1	0





5) *Specific comments on the webinar, GCI or any other comments?*

<b>Specific Comments</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Cristina Domínguez	I would have preferred all the presenters to use slides. There was very valuable information I missed from a particular presenter who did not use slides.
René Arce	It is important that UNCTAD continues to promote capacity building in the region on how to prepare reports using the GCI.
Arturo Salvador Reyes Figueroa	Please continue with this important effort.
Marta de Jesús Mármol Daza	UNCTAD should continue organizing these events in order to expand the understanding and explain how to use this guidance.
Waldir Contreras	More time is required to cover all the aspects of this important subject.
Cristian Madrid	It is important to make clear how the GCI is linked to indicator 12.6.1. However, I understood this is a very useful tool on how to gather and report data at a national level for this indicator.
Paola Andrea Sanabria González	Is there a GCI summary that we can apply to MSMEs?
Cintia Catota Cruz	All the subjects and details were clear, and the sharing the results of the case studies helped understanding how the guidance can be applied.
Eliza Zaczkowska	Thank you very much for the link to download the GCI in Spanish
María Guadalupe Cárdenas G.	Thank you for all the efforts and coordination to share this valuable information.

<b>Other Comments</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Cristina Domínguez	I believe the entire content of the webinar was excellent and very important in order to promote MSMEs in the region.
Marta de Jesús Mármol Daza	Excellent event.
Paola Andrea Sanabria González	The webinar was useful to understand how to include sustainability in corporate reports.
Cintia Catota Cruz	Congratulations for the webinar's execution. I hope to be able to participate in future activities.
Eliza Zaczkowska	The difference in how the MSMEs are defined in each country may represent a difficulty when applying the guidance.
María Guadalupe Cárdenas G.	UNCTAD should organize more workshops to explain further how to apply the GCI .

## Appendix 1 – List of participants

Name and Last Name	Country	E-mail	Attendance
Andrea Nallim	Argentina	andreanallim@reciclarg.com	Yes
Andreas Kuestermann	Guatemala	akuestermann@centrarse.org	Yes
Angela Medina Cruzado	Peru	amedina@innovateperu.gob.pe	Yes
Angie Peña	Honduras	serviciosamembresia@fundahrse.org	Yes
Annie Díaz	Guatemala	adiaz@centrarse.org	Yes
Arturo Salvador Reyes Figueroa	Mexico	vp.sempresas.2020-21@imcp.org.mx	Yes
Cintia Catota	Ecuador	ccatota@finanzas.gob.ec	Yes
Cipriano Fernández Maya	México	c.fernandez@aainternational.com.mx	Yes
Claudia Diaz Yánez	Honduras	desarrolloinstitucional@fundahrse.org	Yes
Claudia Gabriela Irula	Honduras	membresiayvinculacion@fundahrse.org	Yes
Colin Banning	Guatemala	cbanning@tgbconsulting.net	Yes
Cristian Madrid	Chile	cmadridl@desarrollosocial.gob.cl	Yes
Cristina Domínguez	Guatemala	contacto@tnba-ca.com	Yes
Débora Ponce	Guatemala	debora.ponce@wtoguatemala.ch	Yes
Diana Enriquez	Guatemala	Denriquezj@gmail.com	Yes
Edgardo Alfredo Peña Recinos	El Salvador	edgardo.penar@gmail.com	Yes
Elena Quiroz	Honduras	desarrolloempresarial@fundahrse.org	Yes
Eliza Zaczkowska	Guatemala	eliza.zaczkowska@gmail.com	Yes
Elizabeth Rodas de Rodriguez	Guatemala	betyrodass@gmail.com	Yes
Erika Guarniz	Peru	eguarniz@innovateperu.gob.pe	Yes
Eutimio Mejía Soto	Colombia	eutimiomejia@uniquindio.edu.co	Yes
Felipe Jánica	Colombia	Felipe.Janica@co.ey.com	Yes
Fernando Rodriguez Henostroza	Perú	frodriguez@innovateperu.gob.pe	Yes
Ginna Marcela Moreno Raigosa	Colombia	gmmorenor@uqvirtual.edu.co	Yes
Jesús Zárate	Guatemala	jzarate@centrarse.org	Yes
Jhoisy Perez	Honduras	directorprogramas@fundahrse.org	Yes

José Carlos Tezó Escobar	Guatemala	jtezo@tezoyasociados.com.gt	Yes
Juan Pablo Morataya	Guatemala	jpmorataya@centrarse.org	Yes
Magdalena del Pilar Vicuña Cevallos	Ecuador	mvicuna@finanzas.gob.ec	Yes
María Alicia Urbaneja	Dominican Republic	m.urbaneja@ecored.org.do	Yes
María Angélica Farfán Liévano	Colombia	m_farfan@javeriana.edu.co	Yes
María Fernanda Pintos	Uruguay	fernandapintos.uy@gmail.com	Yes
María Guadalupe Cárdenas Gutierrez	Mexico	guadalupe.cardenas@crowe.mx	Yes
María Laura Leguizamón	Argentina	leguizamonml@yahoo.com.ar	Yes
María Luisa López Osorio	Chile	mllopez@economia.cl	Yes
María Luisa López Osorio	Chile	mllopez@economia.cl	Yes
Marleny Polanco	Guatemala	mpolanco@bvnsa.com.gt	Yes
Marta de Jesús Mármol Daza	Colombia	martha.marmol@ucc.edu.co	Yes
Mauricio Valdés Cotroneo	Chile	mvaldesc@economia.cl	Yes
Melvin Estuardo Saguach Gómez	Guatemala	msaguach@deloitte.com	Yes
Mónica Lizette Bernal Montero	Colombia	monica.bernal@javeriana.edu.co	Yes
Nathaly Uribe	Dominican Republic	n.uribe@ecored.org.do	Yes
Nydia María Venegas Román	Costa Rica	nvenegas@venegasnexia.com	Yes
Paola Sanabria	Bolivia	psanabria@gmail.com	Yes
René Alberto Arce	El Salvador	rene.arce@sv.ey.com	Yes
Roberto Urbina	Chile	roberto.urbina@jyaauditores.cl	Yes
Rocío Soledad Gutierrez Curo	Peru	rgutierrez@innovateperu.gob.pe	Yes
Rómulo Escobar	Panama	rescobar@ampyme.gob.pa	Yes
Samily Rodríguez	Dominican Republic	s.rodriguez@ecored.org.do	Yes
Sebastián Scherman	Argentina	scherman@empretec.org.ar	Yes
Serafín Ramírez Dajui	Mexico	serafin.ramirez@siapps.mx	Yes
Silvia Delsabio	Argentina	sdelsabio@gmail.com	Yes
Waldir Edenilson Contreras Pedroza	Guatemala	wcontreras@bvnsa.com.gt	Yes
Walter Kirste	Guatemala	wkirste@thermoplastica.com	Yes
Wilmar Franco	Colombia	wfranco@mincit.gov.co	Yes

## Appendix 2 – Photo of participants

