











# **Sustainability & ESG Reporting:** A Brief Guide to Global Frameworks and Standards by Benchmark Digital Partners

The sustainability management and ESG disclosure landscape comprises many standards, guidelines and reporting frameworks. Aligning with the right framework is essential to meeting your sustainability & ESG program objectives. This document outlines the principal frameworks and provides some guidance on what they do and how they can best be used.

# Global Frameworks & Standards at a Glance

	Sustainability	Climate	Business Risk/Value/ESG
Voluntary	   	 <p>SCIENCE BASED TARGETS DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION</p> 	 <p>G R E S B</p>  
Mandated	 <p>EU Taxonomy</p>  <p>Non Financial Reporting Directive</p>  <p>Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive</p> 	 <p>TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE-RELATED FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES</p>  <p>GREENHOUSE GAS PROTOCOL</p>	

# Purpose and Features: How Global Frameworks & Standards Compare



	Global Reporting Initiative	CDP	Taskforce on Climate Related Financial Disclosure	Sustainability Accounting Standards Board
Primary Objective and Focus	A set of indicators to report sustainability performance to multiple stakeholders	Template for disclosure of GHG emissions performance	A set of recommendations for voluntary climate-related financial disclosures, aimed at all business actors, to provide consistent and transparent information to global markets	Metrics to help businesses and investors develop a shared understanding of enterprise value—how it is created, preserved, or eroded over time
Domain Focus or Scope	Sustainability	GHG	GHG	Sustainability & business risk
Form	A detailed and prescriptive set of metrics with sector supplements	Qualitative and quantitative questionnaire	Recommendations structured around four thematic areas: governance, strategy, risk management, and metrics and targets. Requirements can be met using existing processes and metric content. SASB sustainability accounting standards, and the CDSB Framework for Reporting Environmental Information and Natural Capital, allow companies to integrate climate-related factors into their investor-focused reporting, as recommended by the TCFD	A detailed and prescriptive set of metrics with sector supplements
Number of Users	5,000	14,000	2,600	1,500
Embedded in Benchmark ESG ?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

# Purpose and Features: How Global Frameworks & Standards Compare



	Science Based Targets initiative	International Sustainability Standards Board	World Economic Forum Metrics	EU Taxonomy
Primary Objective and Focus	Methodology and tools to set targets to meet the Paris Agreement objectives	A comprehensive global baseline of sustainability-related disclosure standards that provide investors and other capital market participants with information about companies' sustainability-related risks and opportunities to help them make informed decisions	Metrics and disclosures that can be used to align mainstream reporting on performance against ESG indicators and track contributions towards the SDGs	A classification system establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities to evaluate investment portfolios
Domain Focus or Scope	GHG	Sustainability	GHG	Environmental
Form	Excel tool enabling calculation of targets based on corporate data	A further evolution of the SASB metrics; created by merging the two organisations VRF (SASB, Integrated Reporting Principles) and CDSB	Framework of metrics that coordinates other sources (GRI, SASB) into a standard reporting format	Excel tool enabling calculation of alignment with the taxonomy; corporates will be required to disclose the proportions of turnover, capital expenditure and operating expenditure linked to at least one of the six environmental objectives
Number of Users	1,000	TBD (metrics expected Dec 2023)	50	Begins in 2023
Embedded in Benchmark ESG?	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A

# Purpose and Features: How Global Frameworks & Standards Compare



## Primary Objective and Focus



### Sustainable Development Goals

A set of 17 interlinked high-level global goals designed to be a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all

### Greenhouse Gas Protocol

A comprehensive global standardized framework to measure and manage greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from private and public sector operations, value chains and mitigation actions

### Non-Financial Reporting Directive

EU law requiring large companies to disclose information on the way they operate and manage social and environmental challenges; soon to be superseded by EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive

### EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive

Extending the scope to all large companies and all companies listed on regulated markets; requires the audit (assurance) of reported information, more detailed reporting requirements, a requirement to report according to mandatory EU sustainability reporting standards and digital 'tagging' of the reported information, to be machine readable

## Domain Focus or Scope



Sustainability

GHG

Sustainability

Sustainability

## Form



17 broad subject areas companies choose to focus on, supported by training events and publications

Guidance and GHG emission calculation tools

Environmental matters, social matters and treatment of employees, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and bribery, diversity on company boards (in terms of age, gender, educational and professional background); metrics or format not proscribed

The CSRD envisages the adoption of EU sustainability reporting standards.

The standards will be tailored to EU policies, while building on and contributing to international standardisation initiatives.

The first set of standards would be adopted by October 2022

## Number of Users



8,550

Global

12,000

50,000

## Embedded in Benchmark ESG ?



N/A

Yes (SR)

Yes

TBD

# Purpose and Features: How Global Frameworks & Standards Compare



	Climate Disclosure Standards Board	Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark	ISO 20006
Primary Objective and Focus	Framework to help companies report climate change and environmental information in the mainstream (annual) corporate reports to provide consistent and comparable information to investors; will continue as part of ISSB	Validated ESG performance data and peer benchmarks for investors and managers to improve business intelligence, industry engagement and decision making	Guidance enabling assessment of an organization's commitment to sustainability and its overall performance
Domain Focus or Scope	Natural, human and social capital	ESG	Social responsibility
Form	Framework for reporting built on international accounting practices and standards comprising 7 principles and 12 reporting requirements; no metrics, matrix cross-reference to other metrics sets	Detailed metrics in Excel tool addressing ESG factors for infrastructure and real estate assets	A set of standards and guidelines to inform best practice; does not have a certification status
Number of users	374	271	Global
Embedded in Benchmark ESG?	Yes	TBD	Through reporting

# When and How Should Frameworks Be Used?

	SDG	GRI	SASB	CDP	CDSB	TCFD	GHG Pro	WEF Metrics	SBT	EU Taxon	NFRD	ISO 20006
Principles	✓				✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Goals	✓					✓			✓			
Strategy					✓			✓				✓
Metrics		✓	✓	✓								
Methodology							✓		✓	✓		

Your Purpose	Reference Framework
Develop Scope using materiality assessment and other business planning	SDGs, TCFD, NFRD
Select metrics and other measures, and collect necessary data	GRI, SASB, CDP
Undertake necessary calculations	SBT, GHG Protocol, EU Taxonomy
Create disclosures and reports in accordance with commitments	GRI, SASB, CDP
Create cross-reference matrix to demonstrate	CDSB, WEF Metrics

# Benchmark Gensuite: Committed to Industry Support and Collaboration



## Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

- Benchmark Gensuite-Certified Partner (Completion Jan 2022)
- GRI Standard integrated in Benchmark Director



## CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project)

- Benchmark Gensuite Gold Partner
- CDP Questionnaire integrated in Benchmark Director



## Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures

- Benchmark Gensuite Official Supporter
- TCFD Metrics integrated in Benchmark Director



## Value Reporting Foundation

- Benchmark Gensuite Alliance Member
- SASB Materiality Map and reporting taxonomy integrated in Benchmark Director



## SCIENCE BASED TARGETS NETWORK GLOBAL COMMONS ALLIANCE

### Science Based Targets Network

- Benchmark Gensuite: Corporate Engagement Program Member to align ESG Director with SBT methodology
- Benchmark Digital Partners has committed to set Science Based Targets, and supports the UN Net Zero program



### Register for the ESG Executive Collaboration Forum

- Global ESG thought leadership & insights from ESG practitioner, investment, and NGO communities
- Corporate ESG best practices

[Learn More & Register](#)

### Be Part of Our ESG Director Subscriber Advisory Board

- Provide feedback on solution development
- Engage teams to pilot real-life use cases

[Learn More](#)

### Join Our ESG Executive Collaboration Forum Group on LinkedIn

- Repository of ESG-related resources
- Digital meeting place for discussion and collaboration

[Join the Discussion](#)

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