

To the Technical Committee of the AA1000SES:

Thank you for your note. What you request is entirely reasonable and we will be happy to provide you with the information you need.

Let me first address points 1 and 2 in your letter:

1. To the contrary, AccountAbility has every intention of retaining "stewardship and secretariat" of AA1000. In my role as Director of Standards I will be leading the stewardship and secretariat function with additional support from dedicated AccountAbility resources.

2. AccountAbility is firmly committed to independent governance of AA1000. We are actively at work forming a new independent, multi-stakeholder governance structure for AccountAbility as a whole which will have strategic oversight of the Standards function. The new Advisory Council will include prominent representatives from the corporate world, civil society, regulators and academia. We expect to make a formal announcement within the next few weeks.

For those of you who were on the Stakeholder Outreach calls last week, you'll note that our interim plan is to establish a nominating committee made up of four AccountAbility Directors and four independent members to engage with a more inclusive group of stakeholders to serve on five working groups, one of them being charged with Governance. Once we have an agreed-on a strategic plan we intend to appoint an independent outside legal counsel to advise us on governance options.

I'm sure all of us would agree that transparency is critical to standards setting. An open, collaborative process will also help ensure independence of the Standards. To that end, all meetings will be open and all working group documents will be freely available to stakeholders bringing greater transparency to the process from both a governance standpoint and broader range of input.

In regards to the remaining points in your letter, we have compiled the comments that we received on the Final Exposure Draft, please find these attached. They will be up on our AA website this week. We share your sense of urgency and are eager to move ahead.

I will be in touch with you to discuss next steps for the SES rollout.

Regards,

Kurt Ramin