



## **A GREEN ECONOMY THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING: ON REPORT OR EXPLAIN AND G4 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, 16 June 2012**

### **OVERVIEW**

How does sustainability reporting link up with the concept of a Green Economy? How can the outcome of Rio+20 help ensure that sustainability reporting becomes standard practice globally, triggering greater transparency and accountability of companies worldwide? And how can governments, civil society and business benefit from the exercise and impact of sustainability reporting?

The event will answer these questions from different angles, focusing on the new generation of the Global Reporting Initiative's Sustainability Reporting Guidelines – G4 – and the 'report or explain' approach to sustainability reporting regulation.

Evidence suggests that sustainability reporting leads to more crisis resistant business operations, and that it has both direct and indirect impacts on sustainable development. Thousands of organizations in the global north and south already report their economic, social and environmental performance, showing that sustainability reporting really does add value.

In light of today's challenges, the number of organizations reporting their sustainability performance needs to accelerate: the time has now come for sustainability reporting to be standard practice. This can be achieved at Rio+20 if governments agree to adopt a policy framework on sustainability reporting that is based on a report or explain approach, where companies report their performance or explain why they do not report.

The next generation of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)'s Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, developed via a multi-stakeholder process, will provide a robust, reliable framework for reporting sustainability performance, resulting in readily available performance information. The Public Comment Period for G4, being launched during Rio+20, will enable all interested parties to comment on the draft Guidelines, giving participants of the Corporate Sustainability Forum an opportunity to shape the future of reporting.

This session is targeted at government officials and the business community. Main objectives will be to:

- Profile the importance of corporate sustainability reporting at Rio+20 as a tool to manage the transition to a Green Economy
- Outline the report or explain policy proposal
- Inform about the new generation of GRI's Sustainability Reporting Guidelines
- Secure commitment by influential Member States

## PROGRAMME

### Moderator:

- Teresa Fogelberg  
Deputy Executive, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

### Speakers:

- Karin Ireton  
Director Group Sustainability Management, Standard Bank Group
- Sonia Favaretto  
Sustainability Officer, BM&F Bovespa
- Herman Mulder  
Chairman of the Board, GRI
- Paul Druckman  
CEO, International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC)
- Carina Lundberg Markow  
President of responsible ownership, Folksam (Swedish insurance and investment company)

## AGENDA

- **Sustainability Reporting in South Africa**  
Ms. Karin Ireton will explain how smart regulation based on a report or explain approach by the South African government and Johannesburg Stock Exchange helps creating a ground swell of South African companies preparing sustainability reports
- **A New Robust and Reliable Sustainability Reporting Framework: G4**  
Mr. Herman Mulder will speak about the launch of the Public Comment Period for GRI's G4 Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, explaining how G4 can help governments; stock exchanges and listing authorities create smart regulation on sustainability reporting
- **Report or Explain Approach in Action**  
Ms. Sonia Favaretto will explain how G4 will help companies listed on the BM&F Bovespa securities, commodities and futures exchange follow the recommendation to report or explain why not.
- **Thinking Ahead – G4 and Integrated Reporting**  
Mr. Paul Druckman will give feedback on how the GRI's new Guidelines will contribute to the development of a framework for integrated reporting
- **Sustainability Reporting as the Way Forward to a Green Economy**  
Ms. Carina Ludberg Markow will demonstrate how the future should be one in which all listed and large, private and public companies are required to disclose their sustainability information or explain why if they do not.

