



Data Quality, Assurance & Claims Expert Working Group

Meeting on May 11th

THE SBTi TEAM



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Purpose of today's meeting



- ▶ **Re-engage** the EWG to support the development of key assurance and claims resources underpinning the SBTi Corporate Net-Zero Standard V2
- ▶ Present the **scope, objectives, and proposed approach** for this work
- ▶ Introduce the **project team**
- ▶ Outline the **key questions** to be explored throughout the development process
- ▶ Gather EWG **feedback**, perspectives, and key concerns on the approach and priority issues

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For example, do not discuss company-specific information on:

- current or future prices, pricing strategies, or price related information;
- output, capacity, inventory levels, or costs;
- data related to market share;
- current or future business model transformation strategies.

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- As per the [EWG Terms of Reference](#) and the [SBTi COI policy](#), conflicts of interest must be declared
- At the start of each meeting the chair will ask members if a new COI has arisen
- A Conflict of Interest may be:
 - Actual: A true conflict exists between a Party's duties with the SBTi and their private interests.
 - Potential: Where a Party has personal or private interests that could conflict with their duties with the SBTi, or where it is foreseeable that a conflict may arise in future.
 - Perceived: Where an unbiased observer could reasonably form the view that a Party's private interests could influence their decisions or actions.

ARE THERE ANY COI THAT THE SBTi SHOULD BE AWARE OF?

Video-conference guidelines

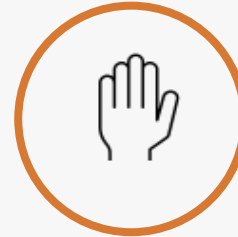
Participant guidelines



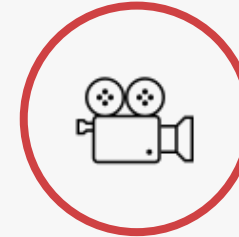
Mute during presentations



Use the chat box



Use the raise hand function



If you can, please keep your camera on

Notes from us



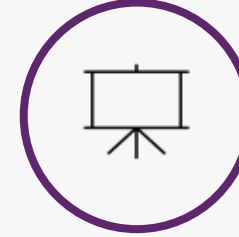
Treat info as confidential



Meeting is being recorded



We will follow up with minutes...



..And we will follow up with slides!

Today's meeting

- Welcome - 5 min
- Introduction - 10 min
- Assurance under CNZS V2 - 15 min
- *Discussion 1* - 20 min
- Claims development - 15 min
- *Discussion 2* - 20 min
- Next steps and close - 5 min



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Introduction

Overview of CNZS V2.0 development - Where we are



Background

Assurance and Claims as separate but interdependent system components to CNZS

Process to date

- Assurance and claims concepts were part of CNZS V2.0 drafts and were refined through the public consultations, pilot testing, input from this EWG (2025), and legal review, but feedback highlighted need to further develop.

Strategic Shift

- **Separation from CNZS V2.0:** Separation of assurance and claims frameworks from the core technical criteria and developing the SBTi Standards' **assurance and claims systems** in line with international good practices for standard-setting schemes.

Next Steps

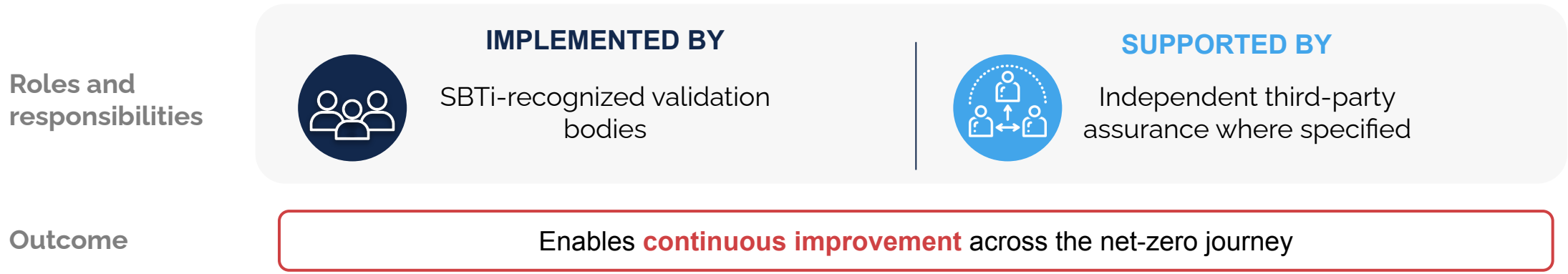
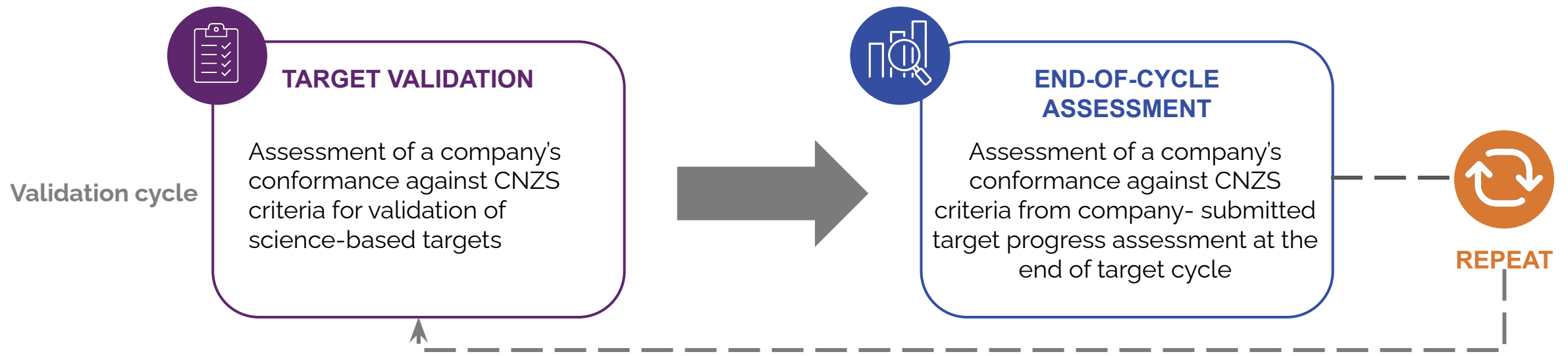
- **After CNZS V2.0:** Release of MVP **informational guidance** and foundations of the Claims Policy and Assurance Framework
- **Q2/Q3 2026:** Further **stakeholder outreach** and consultation drafts
- **Year-End 2026:** Finalised **normative documents** that were published as “MVP” with CNZS V2.0 with effective date expected Q1 2027.



Assurance under CNZS V2

SBTi Assurance model introduced by CNZS V2

Cyclical process of Target Validation and End-of-Cycle Assessment



Preliminary overview of the SBTi Assurance Framework

Policies, processes, and requirements established by the SBTi that seek to ensure that applicable criteria in SBTi standards for validation and assessment processes are consistently fulfilled. The framework includes:

Assurance Management System

Defines overall assurance model: elements, requirements, governance, the assurance cycle, and oversight by SBTi.

Describes how interim and transitional validation requirements are applied and managed.

1. SBTi-Recognized Validation Bodies Requirements describe the requirements that validation bodies must follow and the related processes they must comply with to be authorized by the SBTi and maintain their authorization status.
2. Target Validation and End-of-Cycle Assessment Process, establishes the assessment cycle and minimum methodology and processes for companies' compliance with target validation and performance assessment requirements described in SBTi standards. Addresses how validation bodies shall manage non-compliance issues.
3. SBTi Validation and End-of-Cycle Requirements that describe the requirements for companies to enter into the target validation process and maintain validated status, and the consequences of target cycle underperformance.

Third-party assurance requirements under CNZS V2.0

Requirements for target validation, progress assessment and OER

Target setting

- GHG emissions inventory
- Low-carbon electricity calculations
- Emissions from significant Emissions Intensive Activities (EIAs)
- Any other metrics used for target-setting, for example values used on alignment targets (tonnes of product)

*Limited level of assurance minimum
- for category A companies*

End-of-cycle assessment

- Data substantiating target progress, for example:
 - GHG emissions inventory
 - Scope 2 hourly matching percentages, when applicable
 - Integrity criteria for energy attribute and commodity certificates, when applicable
- Target progress calculations

*Limited level of assurance minimum
- for category A companies*

Ongoing emissions responsibility (OER)

- Integrity criteria for OER (e.g. due diligence, avoid carbon lock-in)
- Verified Mitigation Outcomes (e.g. governance, additionality, reversal risk safeguards)

Applicable to any company that is seeking voluntary recognition

No level of assurance specified

The SBTi Assurance Framework will define the “**scope of assurance**” to be used by the third-party assurance provider:

what is to be checked, desired results from assurance process, declaration from assurance body, level of confidence.

- The SBTi will develop criteria and processes for **recognizing third-party frameworks**, standards and programs
- Where **no recognized frameworks** are available, the provider shall use the proposed scope of assurance

Example third-party assurance requirements - GHG inventory

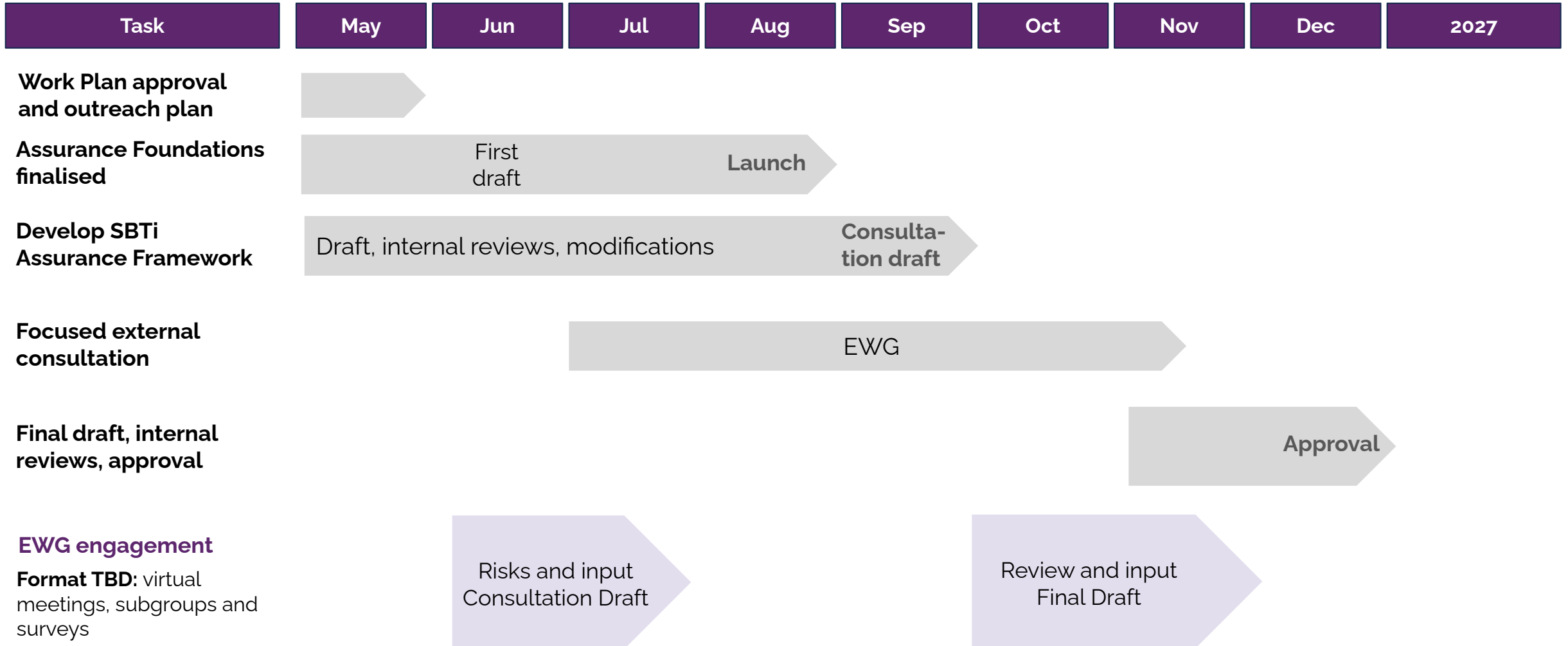
Minimum Evidence Required CNZS-C7.3 (partial)

1. GHG emissions inventory assurance shall be based on any of the following standards:
 - **ISO 14064-3.** Greenhouse Gases - Part 3: Specification with guidance for the verification and validation of greenhouse gas statements.
 - **ISAE 3410.** Assurance Engagements on Greenhouse Gas Statements.
2. A company presenting a GHG inventory based on ISO 14064-3 must provide documentation of the assurance provider's ISO 17065 or 17029 **accreditation and good standing.**
3. A company presenting a GHG inventory based on ISAE 3410 must indicate the name of the assurance provider and a justification for the use of ISAE 3410 instead of ISO 14064-3.

SBTi will define the minimum scope of limited assurance and the required content of the assurance results statement.

Preliminary Work Plan and development process of the SBTi Assurance Framework

To define engagement approach with EWG and broader actors



Key questions to be explored throughout the development process

Initial inputs to be further complemented with the EWG

- What elements are necessary to include in the Assurance Framework?
- What SBTi's assurance activities related to target validation and validation body oversight will be most important for ensuring credible and consistent target validation results? What is a good balance between oversight and operational efficiency?
- What types of agglomerated or anonymized information or data about assurance results should SBTi make available? For example:
 - Target validation process success rate by company characteristics, sectors, geographies, etc.
 - Compliance trends regarding key CNZS requirements.



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Discussion time (20 minutes)



Claims in the SBTi System

Background of development of claims for the CNZS V2

Feedback received and Standard evolution

The main **feedback** received on claim-related topics during the development of the CNZS V2 focused on the following request:

- **Simplifying** the claims architecture for clarity and usability.
- Focus on claims **substantiation** and transparency (e.g., through publication of transition plans)
- Prioritize development of **progress claims** (*formerly performance claims*) despite higher risk.
- **Mitigate** legal and greenwashing **risks** through precise language, disclaimers, centralized governance, and alignment with emerging EU regulations.
- Provide clear, stage-specific **guidance and examples**.

Claims to adapt to the **standard evolution** regarding: target-setting method and inventory basis approach, introduction of Target implementation chapter, and requirements for End-of-Cycle progress assessment.

Preliminary overview of the SBTi Claims System

Framework to set rules, conditions and process for making claims

The **SBTi Claims System** is the structured framework that sets out the **rules, conditions and processes** for companies to make claims related to their targets against the SBTi Standards, ensuring that all communications are accurate, consistent, credible and transparent. It is composed by:

SBTi Claims Policy

- Claims general **requirements** (*eligibility, scope, validity, composition, substantiation, location, and use*).
- Claims **content** per assessment stage*.
- **Process for companies** to make claims, including the claims validation.
- High-level definition **of SBTi process** to manage and surveil claims.

Valid for any SBTi Standard post CNZS V2.0
By the end of December

Foundations of Claims Policy

- Draft content of the final SBTi Claims Policy, with **focus on CNZS V2.0** only.
- Aim at providing **direction of travel** regarding claims to companies thinking of getting validated under CNZS V2.0.

Valid for CNZS V2.0
By H2 2026

SBTi Claims Management Procedure

- Detailed internal processes related to the management of claims, including their definition, validation, revision and surveillance.

SBTi internal document

By the end of December

*Note: progress claims may require longer time for development

Expected types of claims enabled in SBTi Standards (TBD)

Ambition, progress and conformance claims

Ambition claims

- **What:** Forward-looking statements expressing a company's *intent*, such as an ambition to reduce GHG emissions or anticipated future outcomes.
- **Scope:** Target level.
- **When:** After completion of Target Validation.

Progress claims

- **What:** Backward-looking statements that communicate *results*, such as progress toward a company's targets or quantified impacts related to OERs.
- **Scope:** Target level.
- **When:** After completion of the End-of-Cycle Assessment.

Conformance claims

- **What:** Statements that communicate *procedural compliance* with SBTi requirements corresponding to a company's stage in the validation cycle.
- **Scope:** Company or target level.
- **When:** After completion of any assessment stage.

Assessment stage of validation cycle

Claims available



- Ambition claims
- Conformance claims

- Progress claims
- Conformance claims

Expected composition of claims

There are two mandatory elements to be included in claims

Mandatory elements in claim language

Elements that companies shall include in their claim language.

Mandatory specification elements to support claim

Elements that are not part of the claim itself but that shall be publicly available to substantiate and support the claim.

- **Disclaimers:** development of appropriate disclaimers to accompany the claims, e.g. (information reliance, link to supporting information)
- **Publication:** mandatory elements in claim language and *relevant* information of mandatory specification to support claims is evaluated to be available at the [SBTi Dashboard](#)

Expected composition of claims

There are two mandatory elements to be included in claims

Mandatory elements in claim language

Elements that companies shall include in their claim language.

- Company name
- Location of mandatory specification elements

Ambition claims: *(related to **CNZS-C18** Target information reporting)*

- Target ambition (reduction, decarbonisation or alignment)
- Target year and base year
- Target coverage (e.g. scopes, s3 categories or activities)

Mandatory specification elements to support claim

Elements that are not part of the claim itself but that shall be publicly available to substantiate and support the claim.

Ambition claims: *(related to **CNZS-C18** Target information reporting)*

- Further target information, e.g. type, detailed coverage when applicable (covered activities, base year emissions), target setting method and pathways, standard version used, etc.
- Relevant information used to set the target, assuming is not commercially sensitive
- Level of assurance of target information
- Disclosed transition plan (category A companies)

Expected composition of claims

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Mandatory elements in claim language

Elements that companies shall include in their claim language.

Mandatory specification elements to support claim

Elements that are not part of the claim itself but that shall be publicly available to substantiate and support the claim.

Examples

Progress claims **TBD**:

- Claims by type of implementation action (e.g. emission reduction or alignment, activity-pool and sector level action)
- Composition of target progress per implementation action

Progress claims: *(related to **CNZS-C37** End-of-cycle assessment and reporting)*

- Target progress and GHG emissions assessment results
- Actions and instruments, as well as faced barriers
- Level of assurance for data substantiating progress

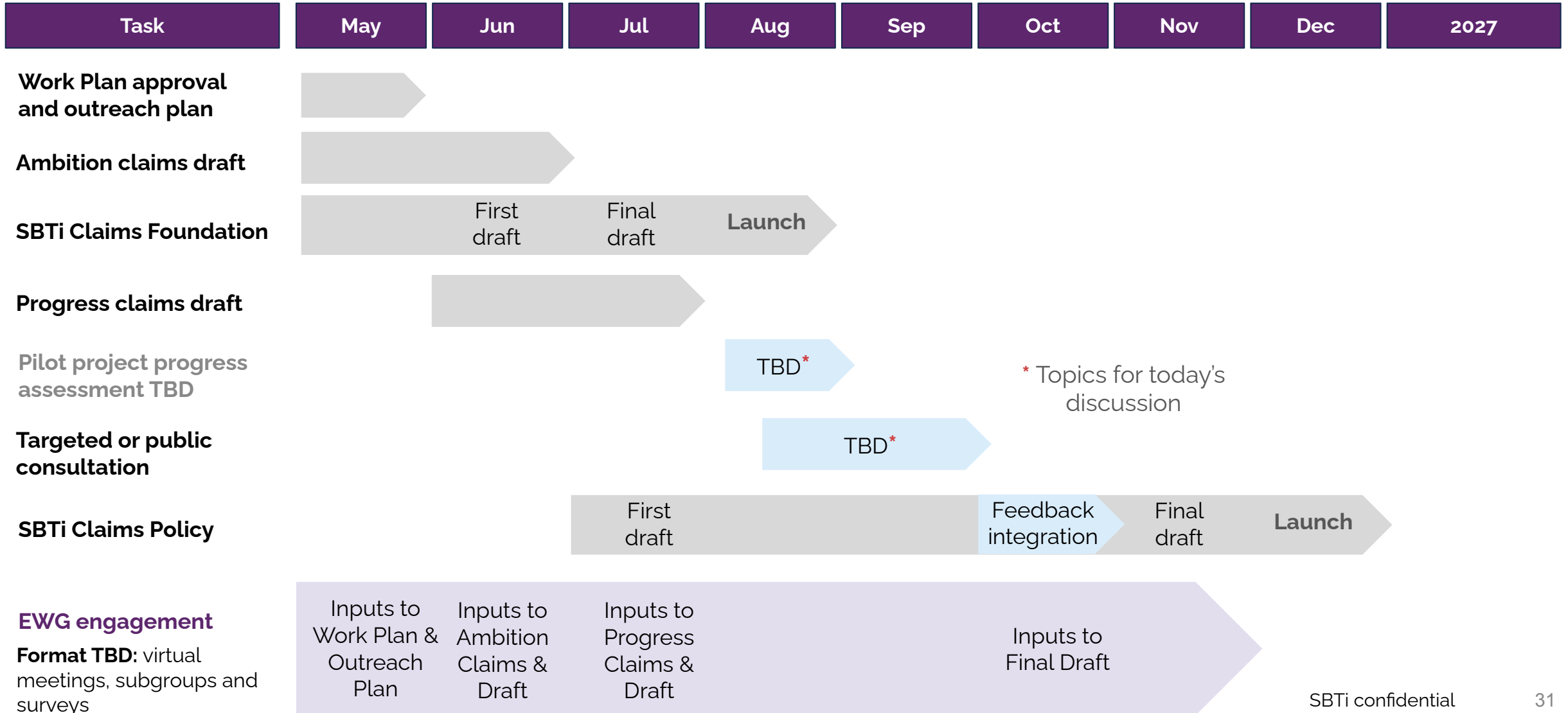
Key challenges identified for the development of SBTi claims

Overview

- **New assessment stage:** introduction of new proposal for demonstrating progress at the end of cycle that has not been tested
- **Reflect target implementation approaches:** relation between how targets are set and how they are implemented (e.g. targets through activity-, activity-pool-, or sector-level actions).
- **Claims substantiation:** translation of technical requirements into clear evidence for claim substantiation, and their disclosure (e.g. via the SBTi Dashboard)
- **Complex claims architecture:** Fragmented claims by target type may reduce usability and stakeholder understanding, may require additional higher-level claims approaches
- **Dependencies with parallel processes:** Continuous alignment needed with ongoing assurance and third-party recognition frameworks.
- **Legal and regulatory exposure:** de-risking claims require careful terminology and governance

Preliminary SBTi Claims Policy Work Plan

To define engagement approach with EWG and broader actors



Key questions to be explored throughout the development process

Initial inputs, to be further complemented with the EWG

- **Use:** How and where are companies using SBTi claims?
- **Design:** Are current claim types and templates sufficient, or is more flexibility needed?
- **Content:** What can be said about the progress and achievement of targets and how to say it?
- **Language:** What is the appropriate claims language needed at ambition and end-of-cycle stages to mitigate any risks?
- **Substantiation:** Are the proposed substantiation requirements fit for purpose and aligned with regulatory needs? Shall information be available in SBTi Dashboard?
- **Governance:** What level of control is needed (templates vs flexibility), and how should non-compliance be addressed?

	1st sprint	2nd sprint	3rd sprint
● Use: How and where are companies using SBTi claims?	X		
● Design: Are current claim types and templates sufficient, or is more flexibility needed?	X	X	
● Content: What can be said about the progress and achievement of targets and how to say it?		X	X
● Language: What is the appropriate claims language needed at ambition and end-of-cycle stages to mitigate any risks?	X	X	
● Substantiation: Are the proposed substantiation requirements fit for purpose and aligned with regulatory needs? Shall information be available in SBTi Dashboard?	X	X	
● Governance: What level of control is needed (templates vs flexibility), and how should non-compliance be addressed?		X	X



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**Discussion time
(20 minutes)**

Key questions to be discussed today

- Do you agree with the presented **Work Plan**? Is the content development, process and does it cover all the expected elements?
- What would be your recommendations for the **outreach plan**. Do you identify targeted segments to included for consultation? Or would a general public consultation be needed?
- Do you identify other **key concerns** on the approach or **priority issues** to address?



Next steps

Next steps

- **Confirmation** of participation in EWG for development process, via email
- Opportunity for **further EWG feedback** to Work Plan, key concerns or priority issues via email
- SBTi to share proposal of **following engagement sessions**, based on reviewed Work Plan and feedback



Thank you