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SBTi Technical Council Meeting Minutes

18 December - 15:00-18:00 CET

Virtual meeting

Public minutes

Disclaimer:

The meeting notes provided herein are intended to capture the discussions, decisions, and actions taken during the meeting to the best of the note-taker's ability. While efforts have been made to accurately represent the proceedings, it is essential to acknowledge that these minutes are a summary and may not capture every detail or nuance of the discussions held. In addition to human note-taking, AI tools were used to support the drafting and summarization of these minutes.

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Meeting minutes are subject to revision and amendment. The content may be updated or modified based on corrections, additions, or clarifications deemed necessary by the Technical Council Chair and Vice-Chair.

Abbreviations:

- CEO Chief Executive Officer
- CFE Call for Evidence
- CTO Chief Technical Officer
- CNZ Corporate Net-Zero
- CoC Code of Conduct
- EACs Environmental Attributes Certificates
- EAG Expert Advisory Group
- EWG Expert Working Group
- FI Financial Institution
- FINT Financial Institutions Near-Term
- FINZ Financial Institutions Net-Zero
- OC Oversight Committee
- O&G Oil and Gas
- RECs Renewable Energy Certificates
- SAG Scientific Advisory Group
- SBT Science Based Target
- SBTi Science Based Targets initiative
- SOP SBTi Procedure for Development of Standards v1.0
- TAG Technical Advisory Group
- TC Technical Council
- TD Technical Department
- ToR Terms of Reference

Meeting participants

Technical Council Members

Kornelis Blok (Chair)
Laura Draucker (Vice Chair)
Owen Hewlett
Michael Gillenwater
Stephanie Roe
Simi Thambi
Steven Davis
Anders Bjørn
Pedro Faria
Doreen Stabinsky
Nicole Roettmer
Maria Virginia Vilaríño

Absent TC members

Mandy Rambharos
Pankaj Bhatia
Benjamin Caldecott

SBTi

Alberto Carrillo Pineda (CTO)
Mona Karraoui (Head of Quality)
Mike Danielson (Industry Lead on Sector Standards Team)
Stephen Mackenzie (AFOLU Lead)
Karl Downey (Head of Sector Standards Team)
Lucine Courthaudon (AFOLu Associate)

Session note takers

Olga Dorata Swiatek (Technical Team Coordinator)

Meeting Agenda:

1. Technical Department Update
2. FLAG Urgent Revision – No Deforestation Commitments
3. Automotive Sector Standard – Second Consultation Draft
4. Closing and Next Steps

Meeting Objectives:

The Technical Council (TC) convened to:

(i) receive a year-end update on key 2025 Technical Council / Technical Department work and a high-level overview of the Board-approved technical work plan for the next three years

(ii) receive an update on the Board-approved approach and timeline for the Technical Council renewal process for the next cycle

(iii) review the revised urgent FLAG update on no deforestation commitments (following public consultation) and confirm whether the Technical Council can approve the revision

(iv) review the revised Automotive Sector Standard second consultation draft and confirm whether the Technical Council has any objection to launching a second public consultation period

(v) confirm immediate next steps and upcoming meeting logistics.

High-level summary of feedback and decisions:

The following summarizes the key feedback discussed during the meeting and related decisions or actions agreed during the meeting:

I. Welcome and Technical Council Programme Update:

- The Chair opened the meeting, confirmed recording and invited any conflict-of-interest declarations; none were raised.
- The Technical Department provided a year-end recap of key work completed during 2025, including major milestones across standard development and associated technical governance workstreams.
- The Technical Department also provided a high-level overview of the Board-approved technical work plan for the next three years. Near-term priorities highlighted included: completing the Corporate Net-Zero (CNZ) revision process; progressing sector standards in advanced stages (including Automotive and Power); aligning legacy

resources and consolidating pathways for usability with CNZ v2; and initiating development of new standards, with FLAG identified as a primary priority area.

- The Secretariat then explained the Board-approved approach and timeline for the Technical Council renewal process for the next cycle, noting the intent to run an open, transparent and impartial process that renews and appoints members while maintaining continuity of expertise. The Secretariat outlined the planned move to a staggered renewal model to reduce disruption risk in future cycles, and described the intended governance approach (including recommendations via an independent nominations committee and final Board appointments). The Council discussed the upcoming check-in with current members and the role of existing TC members in supporting dissemination of the open call and attracting a balanced applicant pool.

II. FLAG Urgent Revision – No Deforestation Commitment:

- The Secretariat presented the revised urgent FLAG update on FLAG criteria 1 and 4 with a focus on no deforestation commitments for decision, following the prior TC discussion and a subsequent public consultation and expert engagement. The Secretariat explained that the update responds to implementation challenges associated with the existing requirement for no deforestation commitments to be met by end-2025, while aiming to continue engaging companies in making and progressing towards no deforestation commitments under FLAG targets.
- The Secretariat emphasized that, given the sensitivity of the topic (even if the scope of the revision is relatively narrow), SBTi ran extensive engagement: a public consultation (30 days in Oct–Nov) with 178 written responses, plus a one-off expert session involving members from CNZ and the Timber & Wood fiber pathway project expert working groups.
- The Secretariat summarized the key elements consulted and refined. These included: a rolling expectation that, once a company submits a FLAG target, it makes a no deforestation commitment aimed to be achieved within two years; a latest permissible target date for these commitments of 31 December 2030; provisions for existing FLAG target setters to update/adapt no deforestation commitments subject to additional disclosures on progress, barriers and delivery plans; stronger alignment to Accountability Framework Initiative guidance (including treatment of cutoff dates); enhanced requirements for public documentation beyond the SBTi Target Dashboard; and refinements to how companies identify and disclose primary deforestation-linked commodities and provisions for commodities included in transformed products.

Summary of actions and decisions:

- The Technical Council approved the urgent modification to the FLAG Guidance regarding no deforestation commitments (no objections raised, quorum confirmed).
- The Secretariat will develop additional informative (non-normative) guardrail-text to accompany the approved change and may circulate drafts informally to interested TC members, with the understanding that this is not a formal TC approval item.

III. Automotive Sector Standard – Second Consultation Draft:

The Secretariat presented the revised Automotive Sector Standard second consultation draft and asked the Council to confirm whether there were any objections to publishing the draft for a second public consultation period. The Secretariat confirmed the process timeline, including completion of the first consultation (June–August 2025), development of revisions (September–November 2025), and the intention to launch the second consultation in the first quarter of 2026, with pilot testing planned in parallel.

The Secretariat summarized the most material technical revisions proposed for the second consultation draft, emphasizing alignment with the evolving Corporate Net-Zero Standard v2 direction. Proposed key updates include: discontinuing an aggregated “vehicle cycle + fuel cycle” metric in favor of focusing on Category 11 use-phase emissions intensity; clarifying how Category 1 remains covered via Corporate Net-Zero v2 with an additional “safety valve” requirement if Category 1 is material for automakers; shifting from two redundant metrics to an “either/or” requirement (Category 11 intensity metric OR a ZEV sales share metric); updating convergence-year assumptions from 2035 to 2050 for consistency with other convergence-style methods; and simplifying the sales metric from “low-emission vehicles” to “zero-emission vehicles” to improve clarity and alignment with existing frameworks.

The Council discussed additional clarifications, including how aggregation is treated across regions and vehicle types (with aggregation proposed for light-duty vehicles but not for non-light-duty vehicles due to test-cycle comparability issues), interoperability text and references to the relevant Corporate Net-Zero draft version, regional treatment (including retaining China/Hong Kong as a separate region with clearer justification), terminology for “near ZEV” and how crediting works, and minor technical updates (including default factors and removal of an unused annex reference on hydrogen default values). The Council also reflected positively on efforts to simplify metrics and improve measurability.

Summary of actions and decisions:

- The Technical Council raised no objections to publishing the Automotive Standard second consultation draft for a second public consultation period.
- The Secretariat will proceed to launch the second consultation in the beginning of February 2026 and run pilot testing in parallel, including the clarifications and refinements discussed for the materials in this session (including metric structure, aggregation rules, interoperability text and definitional improvements).

IV. Next Steps

Summary of feedback and discussions:

- The Technical Department confirmed it is reviewing TC comments on the Corporate Net-Zero 1.3 update and expects to complete revisions in January, with any required decisions taken by the Chair and Vice-Chair per the previously agreed approach.



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