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# SBTi Technical Council Meeting Minutes

18 September - 15:00-18:00 CET

Public



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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)  
Pedro Faria  
Stephanie Roe  
Anders Bjørn  
Doreen Stabinsky  
Owen Hewlett  
Nicole Roettmer  
Steven Davis (Session 3 and 4)  
Mandy Rambharos (Session 1 and 2)  
Micheal Gillenwater  
Maria Virginia Vilariño  
Pankaj Bhatia

## Absent TC members

Benjamin Caldecott  
Simi Thambi

## SBTi

Alberto Carrillo Pineda (CTO)  
Stephen Mackenzie (AFOLU Lead)  
Mike Danielson (Industry Lead)

## Session note takers

Hussein Kassir (TC Secretary)

## SBTi Observers

Mona Karraoui (Head of Quality)  
Juan Rivera (Project Manager, FI)  
Lucine Courthaudon (AFOLU Associate)  
Stephan Zivec (Project Manager)

## Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and Agenda
2. AFOLU Standard - No Deforestation Policy Urgent Revision
3. Chemical Sector Pathway - Publication Decision
4. Closing and Next Steps

## Meeting Objectives:

The Technical Council (TC) convened to:

- (i) review and agree the urgent-revision package to FLAG Criterion 4 (No-Deforestation commitment)
- (ii) conduct a final review and decision on the Chemicals Sector Pathways, followed by confirmation of 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. FLAG Criterion 4 (No-Deforestation commitment):

#### Summary of feedback and discussions:

- **Urgency & scope/process:** The revision is needed to keep FLAG target-setting operational in 2026. Urgent revisions of sections of standards are permitted by the SOP for standard development (#100). As a result, the TD proposed a tightly scoped change to Criterion 1 and Criterion 4 of FLAG Guidance v1.1 (Dec 2023), a **30-day public consultation**, convening and assessing through an EWG, and return to the TC (aiming by year-end) for approval.
- **Target-date construct:** Options discussed centered on a rolling “two years from SBTi submission for validation” approach, with different variants including a time-bound maximum date to achieve no-deforestation in the value chain. A regulatory compliance / non-regression clause will be added.
- **Applicability to existing FLAG companies:** The TC explored options of applicability of the revised criterion to companies with previously validated targets.
- **Cutoff-date framing:** Different approaches were reviewed. The Council converged on a default of “cutoff date predates the moment of submission for SBTi validation,” with 2020 retained as a recommendation to be explored as part of the consultation

process.

- **Commodity coverage:** Intention that the no-deforestation commitment aligned with the commodities covered in the EUDR to which companies have material exposure.
- **Operational amendment:** Remove a legacy reference in Criterion 1 tying FLAG target deadlines to future GHG Protocol releases to avoid unintended operational risk; instead, require FLAG setting within the standard SBTi review cycle.
- **Decision mechanics:** Quorum confirmed (11). TC Approved the document with minor changes.

#### Summary of actions and decisions:

1. TC Approved the document with minor changes.
2. The SBTi Technical Department to incorporate changes agreed during the meeting and prepare consultation documentation.

## II. Chemicals Sector Pathways - Final Draft:

- **Document status & positioning:** Final review of a pathways-normative document (following two consultations and pilot work), designed to be adopted from publication date and also forward-compatible with CNZS v2.0.
- **Core content:** Primary-chemicals SDA pathways (ammonia, methanol, HVC) largely unchanged (~70% of sector direct emissions). A mandatory nitric-acid N<sub>2</sub>O benchmark remains where emissions exceed a threshold. A new optional residual direct-emissions pathway covers remaining direct emissions; an optional Scope 3 Category 11 method (use-phase N<sub>2</sub>O from fertilizers) is retained. Legacy non-pathway items were removed in the pivot to pathways-only criteria.
- **Clarifications & edits:** Requests included re-ordering criteria (put nitric-acid first), boundary clarifications (exclusions from a pathway ≠ exclusions from inventories/targets), simplifying/removing de minimis thresholds, strengthening user-journey text, explaining indexed target-setting for the residual pathway, tightening data-provenance notes (IEA), and explaining why no separate adipic-acid pathway. Broader architecture and scenario-selection topics were flagged for future CNZS discussions.
- **Outcome:** Quorum confirmed (11 members present)

#### Summary of actions and decisions:

- TC approved the Chemicals Sector Pathways as a normative document; only editorial changes from the session are required before publication (no Chair/Vice-Chair review needed for those edits).

#### IV. Next Steps

##### Summary of feedback and discussions:

- **15 October meeting:** Focus on **Scope 1 & Corporate Net-Zero Standard**
- **31 October session:** Approve the CNZ Standard Second Consultation Draft
- **November & COP overlap:** Availability to be polled; if quorum is unlikely, an informative CNZS session will be scheduled.
- **Forward focus & terms:** TC focus shifts to Corporate Net-Zero Standard.



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