



Group of Friends of Paragraph 47



Paragraph 47

- Corporate Social Responsibility received high attention at
- Paragraph 47 of the Outcome Document, *The Future We Want*, acknowledges importance of corporate sustainability reporting (SR)



RIO+20
United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development

47. We acknowledge the importance of corporate sustainability reporting and encourage companies, where appropriate, especially publicly listed and large companies, to consider integrating sustainability information into their reporting cycle. We encourage industry, interested governments as well as relevant stakeholders with the support of the UN system, as appropriate, to develop models for best practice and facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting, taking into account the experiences of already existing frameworks, and paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries, including for capacity building.



Establishment of the Group

- Brazil, Denmark, France and South Africa launched 'Friends of Paragraph 47' initiative to take lead in response to this call for action
- Since formation, the Governments of Austria, Colombia, Norway and Switzerland have joined the Group, and several others have expressed interest
- UNEP and GRI were requested to provide support in a Secretariat capacity





Common understanding

- The Group's common understanding:

Corporate transparency and accountability are key elements to enhancing the private sector's contribution to sustainable development

- The Group's main objective:

Strengthening the role governments play in encouraging sustainability reporting practice by business

- Main points in Group's Charter:

- Governments play essential role in advancing SR agenda
- SR should become widespread practice
- Sharing of experiences & development of best practice models of SR policy/regulation is an important step

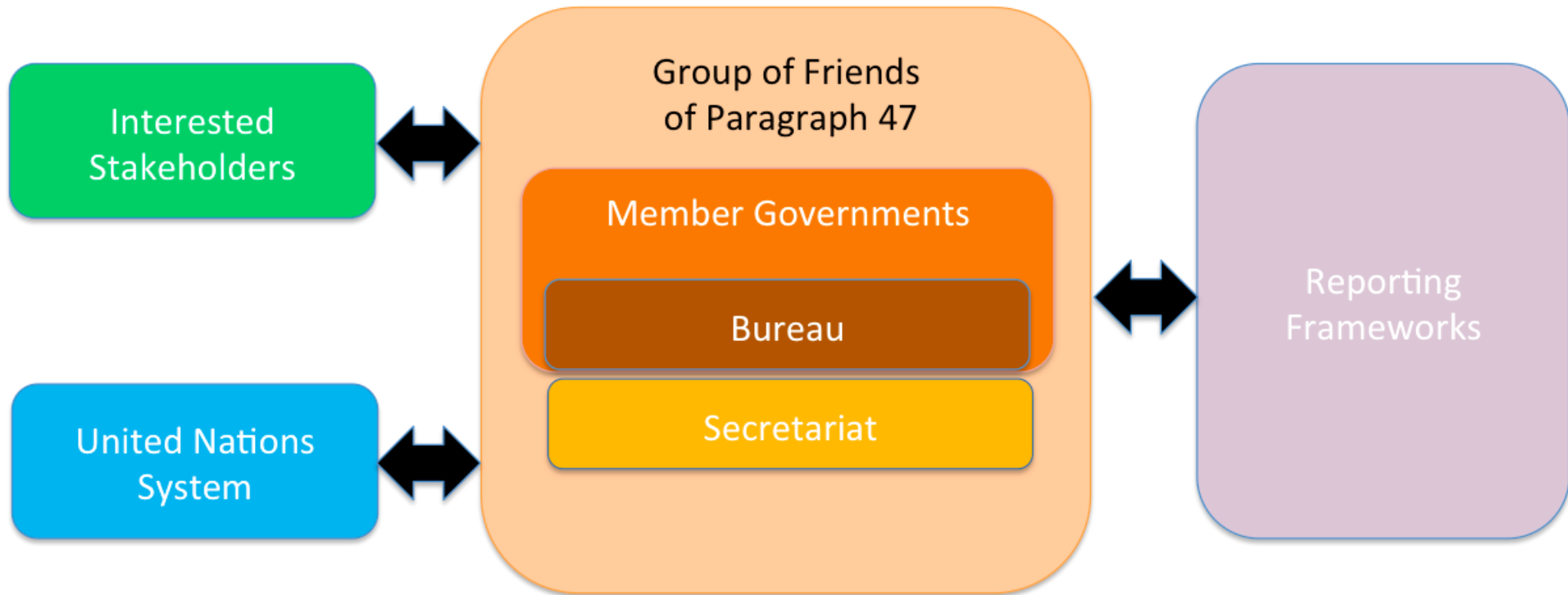


Work Plan 2013 - 2014

Goals	Activities
Encourage further governments to adopt policies/initiatives to promote SR	Consolidation and expansion of Group membership through outreach efforts to ensure geographic balance and achieve growing participation on this agenda
Enhance effectiveness of SR policies and strengthen SR quality	Sharing of experience with SR policy development/implementation between Members and interested governments, working towards development of best practice models and benchmarking systems
Maintain and promote SR agenda at international level	Participation in relevant intergovernmental discussions and negotiations
Engage with stakeholders, recognizing promotion of SR requires multi-stakeholder effort	Collaboration with stakeholders on concrete activities as reflected in the Work Plan



Structure



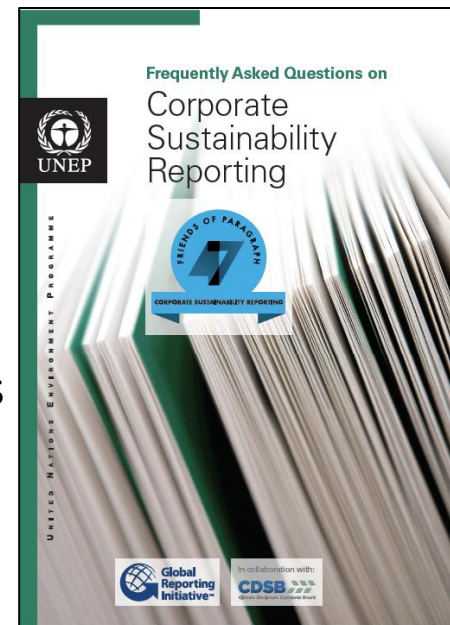


Frequently Asked Questions on Corporate Sustainability Reporting

- Publication builds on the experience and expertise of GoF47 member Governments and relevant stakeholders
- Seeks to support governments interested in the corporate sustainability reporting agenda, providing answers to key questions

Three sections:

- **Background** to SR and what it is
- **Overview** of current SR policies, practices and initiatives
- **Opportunities** identified by GoF47 and others, serving as a focus for their work to develop corporate SR further
- www.unep.org/FAQsonSustainabilityReporting





For additional information on the
Group of Friends of Paragraph 47
contact:

secretariat@paragraph47.org

or visit the website:

www.unep.org/GoFParagraph47