

# Assurance Statement

The Directors and Management Godrej Consumer Products Limited, Mumbai, India

Godrej Consumer Products Limited (hereafter 'GCPL') commissioned TUV India Private Limited (TUVI) to conduct independent external assurance of non-financial information disclosed in GCPL's Integrated Report (hereinafter 'the Report') for the period April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. This engagement was comprised of a "limited assurance" of GCPL's sustainability information for the applied reporting period. The Report is based on the principles of IIRC Integrated Reporting (<IR>), GRI standards. ISAE 3000 standard applied for assurance of the Report.

## Management's Responsibility

GCPL developed the Report's content. GCPL management is responsible for identifying material topics and carrying out the collection, analysis, and disclosure of the information presented in the Report (webbased and print), including website maintenance and integrity, and for ensuring its quality and accuracy in accordance with the applied criteria stated in the <IR> framework and GRI standards: Core Option, such that it is free of intended or unintended material misstatements.

## Scope and Boundary

The scope of work includes limited assurance of the following non-financial performance / KPI disclosed in the Report. In particular, the assurance engagement included the following:

- Review of the disclosures submitted by GCPL;
- Review of the quality of information;
- Review of evidence (on a sample basis) for identified non-financial indicators

TUVI has verified the below-mentioned disclosures given in the Report:

Торіс	Торіс	GRI Disclosure
Governance	Governance and Management Approach	102-18, 108-20,
		103-01 to 103-3
Energy	Energy consumption within the organization	302-1
	Energy intensity	302-3
Water and effluents	Water withdrawal	303-3
	Water discharge	303-4
	Water Consumption	303-5
Emissions	Direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions	305-1
	Energy indirect (Scope 2) GHG emissions	305-2
	Other indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions	305-3
	GHG emissions intensity	305-4
	Nitrogen oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> )/sulfide oxides (SO <sub>x</sub> ) and other	305-7
	significant air emissions	
Waste	Waste generated	306-3
	Waste diverted from disposal	306-4
	Waste directed to disposal	306-5
Occupational health and safety	Work-related injuries	403-9
Training and education	Average hours of training per year per employee	404-1
Local Communities	Operations with local community engagement, impact	413-1
	assessments, and development programs	



The reporting boundaries for the above topics include 41 (India-19, Bangladesh-1, Srilanka-1, Indonesia-5, south Africa-2, Mozambique – 1, Uganda – 1, Tanzania – 1, Kenya – 4, Nigeria – 2, Ghana – 1, Argentina – 1, Chile –1, US -1) operating sites across 14 countries. Since COVID-19 pandemic prevented onsite verification, remote verification (via web-based conference and telephone calls) were conducted in April 2021. The assurance encompassed Godrej Consumer Products Limited, Malanpur Plant (Malanpur, Madhya Pradesh, India), Conso (Puducherry, India), Mega 1 (Indonesia). The assurance activities were carried out together with a desk review as per reporting boundary. Applicable boundaries for disclosures are explained in the Report.

# Limitations

TUVI did not perform any assurance procedures on the prospective information, such as targets, expectations, and ambitions, disclosed in the Report. Consequently, TUVI draws no conclusion on the prospective information. During the assurance process, TUVI did not come across any limitation to the agreed scope of the assurance engagement. TUVI expressly disclaims any liability or co-responsibility for any decision a person or entity would make based on this Assurance Statement.

# Our Responsibility

TUVI's responsibility in relation to this engagement was to perform a limited level of assurance and to express a conclusion based on the work performed. This engagement did not include an assessment of the adequacy or the effectiveness of GCPL's strategy, management of sustainability-related issues or the sufficiency of the Report against principles of IIRC Integrated Reporting (<IR>), GRI Standards: Core option, and ISAE 3000, other than those mentioned in the scope of the assurance. TUVI's responsibility regarding this verification is in accordance with the agreed scope of work which includes non-financial quantitative and qualitative information disclosed by GCPL. This assurance engagement assumes that the data and information provided to us by GCPL are complete and true.

# Verification Methodology

During the assurance engagement, TUVI adopted a risk-based approach, focusing on verification efforts with respect to disclosures. TUVI has verified the disclosures and assessed the robustness of the underlying data management system, information flows, and controls. In doing so:

- TUVI examined and reviewed the documents, data, and other information made available by GCPL for non-financial disclosures;
- TUVI conducted interviews with key representatives, including data owners and decisionmakers from different functions of GCPL;
- TUVI reviewed the level of adherence to principles of "The <IR> Framework", GRI standards: Core option.

## **Opportunities for Improvement**

The following are the opportunities for improvement reported to GCPL. However, they are generally consistent with GCPL management's objectives and programs.

- GCPL has developed an internal waste management system. The efforts can be verified and certified by third party under zero waste to landfill program;
- GCPL has a supplier assessment program; the program can be calibrated with ISO 20400;
- GCPL can declare the operational targets for the manufacturing facilities other than India;
- SBTi target evaluation following sectorial de-carbonization or absolute based targets or economic approach may be disclosed once the same are validated and verified;

# **Our Conclusion**

In our opinion, based on the scope of this assurance engagement, the disclosures on sustainability performance reported in the Report along with the referenced information provides a fair representation of the material topics, related strategies, and meets the general content and quality requirements of the GRI Standards: Core option.

**Disclosures:** TUVI is of the opinion that the reported disclosures generally meet the GRI Standards reporting requirements in accordance with the "Core" option. GCPL refers to general disclosure to report



contextual information about GCPL, while the 'Management Approach' is discussed to report the management approach for each material topic.

**Universal Standard:** GCPL followed GRI 101: Reporting Principles for defining report content and quality, GRI 102: General Disclosures were followed when reporting information about an Organization's profile, strategy, ethics and integrity, governance, stakeholder engagement practices, and reporting process. Furthermore, GRI 103 was selected for Management's Approach on reporting information about how an organization manages a material topic. *TUVI is of the opinion that the reported specific disclosures for each material topic generally meet the GRI Standards reporting requirements in accordance with the "Core" option.* 

**Topic Specific Standard:** 200 series (Economic topics), 300 series (Environmental topics), and 400 series (Social topics); These Topic-specific Standards were used to report information on the organization's impacts related to environmental and social topics. *TUVI is of the opinion that the reported material topics and Topic-specific Standards that GCPL used to prepare its Report are appropriately identified and addressed.* 

**Limited Assurance Conclusion:** Based on the procedures we have performed, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the information subject to the limited assurance engagement was not prepared in all material respects. *TUVI found the sustainability information to be reliable in all material respects, with regards to the reporting criteria ("Core") of the GRI Standards.* 

TUVI confirms that GCPL has transparently reported major material information pertaining to all its six capitals in line with the <IR> framework, as below

Financial Capital: Net worth, capex, investment spent, the economic value generated, gross revenue, etc.

**Manufactured Capital:** Manufacturing facilities, number of new products launched, business verticals, new and existing plants, buildings, infrastructure, etc.

**Intellectual Capital:** Knowledge-based intangibles, including intellectual property, R&D activities, patents, designs registered for new product development, etc.

**Human Capital:** GCPL's engineers, technicians, skilling and re-skilling of employees to enhance their competencies, safety performance, capabilities, experience, motivations to innovate, etc.

**Social and Relationship Capital:** GCPL's relationship with stakeholders such as customers, business partners, regulators, suppliers, business partners, communities, legislators, policymakers, and benefits associated with the brand and reputation, along with GCPL's ability to share information to enhance well-being.

**Natural Capital:** Sourcing responsibilities for the majority of renewable and non-renewable environmental resources and processes that provide goods or services. Reporting on the circular economy, emissions, water consumption, waste disposal, etc.

This assurance statement has been prepared in accordance with the terms of our engagement and in accordance to the ISAE 3000 (revised) requirements

#### Independence:

TUVI follows IESBA (International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants) Code which, adopts a threats and safeguards approach to independence. It is confirmed that the Assurance Team is selected to avoid situations of self-interest, self-review, advocacy and familiarity. The Assessment Team was safeguarded from any type of intimidation.

#### Quality control:

The Assurance Team complies with the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the IESBA, which includes independence and other requirements founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour. In accordance with International Standard on Quality Control, TUVI maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

In the context of Assurance, the following contemporary principles has been observed:



#### Evaluation of the adherence to other contemporary Principles

**Inclusivity:** Stakeholder identification and engagement is carried out by GCPL on a periodic basis to bring out key stakeholder concerns as material topics of significant stakeholders. In our view, the Report meets the requirements.

**Materiality:** The materiality assessment process has been carried out based on the requirements of the GRI Standards, considering topics that are internal and external to the GCPL range of businesses. The Report fairly brings out the aspects and topics and their respective boundaries of the diverse operations of GCPL. In our view, the Report meets the requirements.

**Responsiveness:** TUVI believes that the responses to the material aspects are fairly articulated in the report, i.e., disclosures on GCPL's policies and management systems, including governance. In our view, the Report meets the requirements.

**Impact:** GCPL communicates its sustainability performance through regular, transparent internal and external reporting throughout the year, aligned with GRI, and its policy framework encompassing the environmental, social, ethical and other policies. GCPL reports on sustainability performance to the top management, who oversees and monitors the implementation and performance of objectives, as well as progress against goals and targets for addressing sustainability-related issues.

TUVI expressly disclaims any liability or co-responsibility for any decision a person or entity would make based on this Assurance Statement. The intended users of this assurance statement are the Management of GCPL. The Management of the GCPL is responsible for the information provided in the Report as well as the process of collecting, analyzing, and reporting the information presented in webbased and printed Reports, including website maintenance and its integrity. TUVI's responsibility regarding this verification is in accordance with the agreed scope of work which includes non-financial quantitative and qualitative information (sustainability performance) disclosed by GCPL in the Report. This assurance engagement is based on the assumption that the data and the information provided to TUVI by GCPL are complete and true.

## Our Assurance Team and Independence

TUVI is an independent, neutral third party providing sustainability services with qualified environmental and social specialists. TUVI states its independence and impartiality and confirms that there is "no conflict of interest" with regard to this assurance engagement. In the reporting year, TUVI did not work with GCPL on any engagement that could compromise the independence or impartiality of our findings, conclusions, and recommendations. TUVI was not involved in the preparation of any content or data included in the Report, with the exception of this assurance statement. TUVI maintains complete impartiality towards any individuals interviewed during the assurance engagement.

#### For and on behalf of TUV India Private Limited

Manojkumar Borekar Project Manager and Reviewer Head – Sustainability Assurance Service Date: 05-05-2021 Place: Mumbai, India Project Reference No: 8119098177 www.tuv-nord.com/in