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## The role of GRI standards in reporting the dimensions of sustainable development - An applied study in a number of local companies on the Iraq Stock Exchange

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### Abstract

The current research aims to shed light on the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), which helps to report financial and non-financial information by economic units in general and listed on the Iraq Stock Exchange in particular. The research was based on a main premise that apply the criteria of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) would provide useful information to users to help them make appropriate decisions. To achieve the goal of the research, the descriptive analysis method was used, and quantitative analysis was used. At the level of the descriptive analysis method, a desk survey was conducted. As for the quantitative analysis, it relied on applied data through a questionnaire form (Questioners) as a research tool, and the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (spss) was used to analyze the research data and to reach the results. The research got a set of conclusions, the most important of which is that the accounting profession seeks to provide all information that is useful to users in the process of making appropriate decisions. Therefore the application of the Global Reporting Initiative would improve the quality of the information supplied to users as well as economic help units to Think about its strategy, manage risks, and provide a comprehensive picture of the performance of economic units Yeh. Based on the conclusions, a set of recommendations were presented, the most important of which was the need to prepare requirements and qualifications that help implement the Global Reporting Initiative by units to ensure the provision of information that is useful to users in the decision-making process. He urged economic units to submit reports through the application of the Global Reporting Initiative to improve the quality of information provided to users on the one hand and the possibility of improving the unit's performance on the other hand.

**Keywords:** Global Reporting Initiative, sustainable development, Global Reporting Initiative standards.

## **1. Introduction:**

Achieving and reporting on the dimensions of sustainable development is one of the necessities of our time in the local environment, mainly as it aims to protect the rights of current and future generations through the protection of natural resources and other means that achieve those goals.

On the other hand, it has become imperative for companies to disclose the dimensions of sustainable development, their response, and what they have provided to the community concerning the mentioned dimensions, to provide the information required by users to assist them in the appropriate decision-making process.

Based on the previous the research problem can be formulated through the following questions:

- 1- Do the companies listed in the Iraq Stock Exchange apply the standards of the Global Reporting Initiative, part or in whole?
- 2- Do the standards issued by the GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) contribute to providing relevant information to users?

The importance of the research stems from the importance of companies' understanding of their impacts on sustainability issues on the one hand and the application of the standards of the Global Reporting Initiative for Sustainable Development, in addition to that, providing information related to sustainable development would help users of all kinds make appropriate decisions and know the extent of the company's participation in Providing services for sustainable development.

The research aims to achieve a set of goals, which are as follows:

- 1- Shedding light on the theoretical and related aspects of the global initiative to report on the dimensions of sustainable development by companies.
- 2- Knowing the extent to which companies, especially local companies listed in the Iraq Stock Exchange, apply the Global Reporting Initiative.
- 3- Providing a set of benefits expected to be obtained in the event of the implementation of the global initiative for reporting by local companies listed on the Iraqi Stock Exchange.

## **2. Methodology:**

The current research relied on the descriptive analysis method, and quantitative analysis. At the level of the descriptive analysis method a desk survey was conducted and a review of Arab and foreign theoretical and field studies and research in order to crystallize the foundations and premises on which the theoretical framework is based. The quantitative analysis, relied on applied data through a questionnaire form (Questioners) as a research tool, and the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (spss) was used to analyze the primary research data. Before the research sample, frequencies, percentages, arithmetic averages, and standard deviations were used, in addition to using the correlation coefficient to ensure that the questions that were developed were able to be tested.

## **2.1 Research hypothesis:**

The research is based on the central hypothesis that:

“ The application of the standards of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) will provide useful information to users on the dimensions of sustainable development to assist them in making decisions”

## **3. Theoretical Aspect**

### **3.1 GRI - Conceptual Framework**

#### **First: The Origin and Concept of the Global Reporting Initiative:**

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) is one way that helps businesses and governments around the world understand and communicate their impacts on critical sustainability issues such as climate change, human rights, governance, and social well-being. This enables real action to create social, environmental and economic benefits for all.

The Global Reporting Initiative related to sustainable development reporting is the first and widely relied global standard for reporting on sustainability issues. In 1997, most global economic units adopted the Global Reporting Initiative, reaching 93% of the 250 largest global companies (<http://ar.globalreporting.org>). Multiple companies publish reports on sustainable development related to the environmental, economic and social dimensions under increasing pressure from various groups such as financial markets, government, investors and stakeholders on the one hand and to be more transparent. On the other hand, the Global Reporting Initiative helps companies identify, collect and disclose this information clearly and comparably, which led to the issuance of the first Global Reporting Initiative in 2000. (Esban RG, 2015: 107) The most recent reporting framework for the Initiative is the Global Reporting Initiative Standards It was launched in October of 2016. Developed by the World Sustainability Standards Council, it is now considered one of the first global standards for sustainability reporting (<https://ar.wikipedia.org/>).

#### **3.2 Performance Standards Concerned with Sustainable Development:**

Sustainable development was defined in the 1987 Brundtland Report issued by the World Commission on Environment and Development as development that meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs (aras et al: 2009, 88).

On the other hand, the World Bank Group, which is concerned with environmental and social sustainability criteria has identified a set of criteria, represented by the following (World Bank Group, 2012: 1):

- Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts: By disclosing project-related information and consulting with local communities on matters that directly affect them, the client manages ecological and social performance throughout the project life.

- **Workers and Work Conditions:** Work is one of the main pillars for achieving economic growth, but providing job opportunities and generating income must be balanced by protecting the basic rights of workers. The dialectical relationship between workers and management is a key element for the company's sustainability.

**Resource efficiency and pollution prevention:** There is a growing consensus that the current and projected concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere threatens the public health and well-being of current and future generations. Therefore, there is a need to use resources more efficiently and effectively through the use of widespread technologies and practices that reduce pollution.

- **Health, Safety and Security of Local Communities:** This criterion focuses on the need to avoid or reduce the exposure of the health, safety and security of local communities to risks and impacts resulting from the activities of large projects, such as emissions of toxic substances and others.

- **Land acquisition and forced resettlement:**

- **Conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of living natural resources or the so-called ecosystem.**

### **3.3 importance of reporting on the dimensions of sustainable development:**

(Jerboa: 2004) defines sustainable development reporting (Al-Hajj: 2017) as how the economic unit can inform the community with its various parties about its various activities with social implications. The importance of disclosing sustainable development lies in the fact that there is pressure on economic units to be more disclosing not only about their financial performance through their financial reports, but also about their performance in key social, ethical and environmental issues. In addition, stakeholders often seek information other than Those required by the mandatory disclosure framework, which include environmental and social performance information for economic units (Al-Hajj, 2017: 108)

(Abdul-Moneim and Al-Ajlouni: 2013), quoting from (Al-Anbaki and Al-Shammari: 2019), and there is a group of opinions that confirm the necessity of having a report on sustainable development, which is prepared by economic units voluntarily. In moral theory and economic theory, from a moral point of view, economic units bear social and moral obligations to participate in activities with social responsibility. As for economic theories, the emphasis on these reports is based on the presence of the unit's best reputation and works to increase the benefits of shareholders directly and indirectly (Al-Anbaki and Al-Shammari, 2019: 434).

In addition to the those above ethical and economic benefits, sustainability accounting provides the following (Al-Hajj, 2017: 105):

- 1- Providing information to internal and external users and assisting them in the decision-making process that achieves sustainability goals.
- 2- Sustainability accounting helps units include sustainability issues for decision-making and help them achieve sustainability goals.
- 3- Achieving accountability, transparency, governance, risk management and finding sources of competitive advantage for the economic unit.

In addition, (Al-Mansoori: 2005) confirms, quoting from (Al-Hajj, 2017: 105) that sustainable development has a set of goals represented by the following (Al-Hajj, 2017: 105):

- 1- Maintaining a balance between the available resources and the basic needs of individuals.
- 2- Rationalizing the use of all resources.
- 3- Spreading environmental awareness and achieving belonging among members of the community.
- 4- Conservation of natural resources and reuse of resources and waste.
- 5- Regional and international cooperation to meet the requirements and problems of the environment.
- 6- Ensuring the inclusion of environmental planning in all stages of development planning.

To complete the tasks for the Global Reporting Initiative, four focus areas for the coming years have been identified:

- 1- Setting standards and guidelines to advance sustainable development.
- 2- Harmonizing the sustainable development landscape by identifying opportunities for cooperation and partnership that serve the vision and mission of GRI.
- 3- Leading sustainability reports efficiently and effectively by improving the quality of reporting.
- 4- Drive the effective use of sustainability information to improve performance: Work with policymakers, stock exchanges, regulators, and investors to drive transparency and enable effective reporting.

### **3.4 Standards for the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)**

The committees of the Global Reporting Initiative have identified a set of criteria, which includes the following: (<https://www.globalreporting.org>) :

#### **3.4.1 International Standards:**

**Table (1) International Standards  
(Universal Standards)**

<b>Standard No</b>		<b>Activation date</b>
<b>GRI 101</b>	<b>(Foundation)2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 102</b>	<b>(General Disclosures)2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 103</b>	<b>(Management Approach)2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>

**3.4.2 Economic Criteria:****Table (2) Economic Criteria**

<b>(Economic Standards)</b>		
<b>Standard No</b>		<b>Activation date</b>
<b>GRI 201</b>	<b>(Economic Performance) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 202</b>	<b>(Market Presence) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 203</b>	<b>(Indirect Economic Impacts) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 204</b>	<b>(Procurement Practices) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 205</b>	<b>2016 (Anti-corruption)</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 206</b>	<b>2016 (Anti-competitive Behavior)</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>

**3.4.3 Environmental Standards:****Table (3) Environmental Standards**

<b>(Environmental Standards)</b>		
<b>Standard No</b>		<b>Activation date</b>
<b>GRI 301</b>	<b>(Materials) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 302</b>	<b>2016 (Energy)</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 303</b>	<b>(Water and Effluents) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jan 2021</b>
<b>GRI 304</b>	<b>2016 (Biodiversity)</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 305</b>	<b>(Emissions) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 306</b>	<b>(Effluents and Waste) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 307</b>	<b>(Environmental Compliance) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 308</b>	<b>(Supplier Environmental Assessment) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>

**3.4.4 Social Standards:****Table (4) Social Standards**

<b>(Social Standards)</b>		
<b>Standard No</b>		<b>Activation date</b>
<b>GRI 401</b>	<b>(Employment) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 402</b>	<b>(Labor/Management Relations) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 403</b>	<b>(Occupational Health and Safety) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jan 2021</b>
<b>GRI 404</b>	<b>(Training and Education) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 405</b>	<b>(Diversity and Equal Opportunity) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 406</b>	<b>(Non-discrimination) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 407</b>	<b>(Freedom Of Association And Collective 2016Bargaining)</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 408</b>	<b>(Child Labor) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 409</b>	<b>(Forced or Compulsory Labor) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 410</b>	<b>(Security Practices) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 411</b>	<b>(Rights of Indigenous Peoples) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 412</b>	<b>(Human Rights Assessment) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 413</b>	<b>(Local Communities) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 414</b>	<b>(Supplier Social Assessment) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 415</b>	<b>2016 (Public Policy)</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 416</b>	<b>(Customer Health and Safety) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 417</b>	<b>(Marketing and Labeling) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 418</b>	<b>(Customer Privacy) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>
<b>GRI 419</b>	<b>(Socioeconomic Compliance) 2016</b>	<b>01 Jul 2018</b>

**4. Results and Discussion**

The design of the questionnaire was based on an important main axis to illustrate the importance of applying the standards of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), which would provide useful information to users to help them in the process of making appropriate decisions, as well as a paragraph that included the personal data of the respondents, who numbered 87, most of whom were employees of the Iraq Market. For securities and investors who use information in



the market, it is worth noting that the distributed forms valid for analysis were only 75, and a paragraph was added to the questionnaire that allows the respondents to modify it and express their opinion on it, noting that no substantial observations were received and this is what earned the questionnaire form constructive validity (outer). The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze the primary research data. To describe the characteristics of the research sample and to indicate the relative importance of the answers to the questionnaire paragraphs by the research sample, frequencies, percentages, arithmetic averages and standard deviations were used, and evaluation statements were used to determine the answers of the research sample. The response ranged from (1-5) according to the Five Likert Scale, which was like this:

Answer alternatives	I totally agree	I agree	neutral	disagree	Strongly Disagree
Class	5	4	3	2	1

The questionnaire included the following topics:

**Part One:** The part of the demographic variables of the research sample members through (3) variables (gender, age, years of experience) to describe the characteristics of the research sample as indicated in the paragraph describing the demographic variables of the research sample members.

**Part Two:** This part was devoted to research variables; and included (15) evaluation questions related to the importance of implementing the Global Reporting Initiative.

**The third part:** Dedicated to measuring internal validity: The tool's stability was tested by measuring the correlation coefficient (correlation) to know that all questions can measure the axis and prove the results.

%	Repetition	feature	variable	No
%62	54	Male	Sex	1
%38	33	Female		
%100	87	Total		
%26	23	34 – 25	Age	2
%38	33	44 – 35		
%21	18	54 – 45		
%15	13	Over 55		
%100	87	Total		
%32	28	More than 5 Years	Experience Years	3
%43	37	More than 10 Years		
%25	22	More than 15 Years		
%100	87	Total		

Source: Prepared by researchers based on the questionnaire



It is clear from Table (5) that males constitute the most significant percentage in the research sample, as their percentage amounted to (62%), and that the age group between 35 to 44 years represented (33%) of the respondents, while years of experience was the most significant percentage of those who had experience More than ten years and their percentage was (43%).

Analysis of the importance of implementing the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI):

#### **4.1 The sample's opinions on the implementation of the Global Reporting**

##### **Initiative:**

##### **1- Economic criteria:**

The questions posed to respondents are based on a portion of what is included in the GRI Standards.

No	Questions	I totally agree	I agree	neutral	disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Company tax compliance reporting helps provide useful information to users	41	32	9	2	3
		%47	%37	%10	%2	%4
2	Reporting of legal actions related to anti-competitive behavior and monopolistic operations increases the company's market share.	35	30	12	6	4
		%40	%34	%14	%7	%5
3	Reporting on the number and percentage of employees who are anti-corruption in the company is useful in the decision-making process of users.	30	38	10	7	2
		%34	%44	%12	%8	%2
4	Reporting the total number of incidents related to confirmed corruption and the number of employees dismissed for corruption helps increase the company's market share.	28	39	10	4	6
		%32	%45	%11	%5	%7
5	The communication of risks and opportunities and techniques for managing risks and opportunities that lead to material changes in the company's revenues and expenses is one of the factors influencing appropriate decision-making for users.	44	20	15	5	3
		%50	%23	%17	%6	%4

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the data of the questionnaire and the outputs of the (Excel) program.

It is clear from Table (6) that the respondents' answers to this paragraph generally tended towards (strongly agree and agree), as the percentage for the first question was 92%, for the second question 77%, for the third question 93%, for the fourth question was 81%, and for the fifth question was 81%.

**2- Environmental Standards:**

The questions posed to respondents are based on a portion of what is included in the GRI Standards.

<b>Table (7) Sample opinions about the importance of applying environmental standards</b>						
No	questions	I totally agree	I agree	neutral	disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Reporting the fuel consumed, the number of hours consumed by the company, as well as the types of energy used in the company are factors that influence the decision-making of users.	2	4	15	36	30
		%2	%5	%17	%41	%35
2	Reporting the percentage of materials that have been recycled and used in the manufacture of raw materials is one of the factors that influence the increase of the company's market share.	2	3	16	28	38
		%2	%4	%18	%32	%44
3	Reporting of water-related treatments, how they are organized, and standards for effluent disposal are useful in the decision-making process.	2	4	12	32	37
		%2	%5	%14	%37	%42
4	Reporting of waste that has been recycled, reused and how it was disposed of helps in the appropriate decision-making process.	2	5	18	29	33
		%2	%6	%21	%33	%38
5	Reporting fines and penalties for non-compliance with environmental laws is helpful in the users' decision-making process.	2	5	18	27	35
		%2	%6	%21	%31	%40
Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the data of the questionnaire and the outputs of the (Excel) program.						

It is clear from Table (7) that the respondents' answers about this paragraph generally tended towards (strongly agreed and agreed), as the percentage for the first question was 92%, for the second question 77%, for the third question 93%, for the fourth question was 81%, and for the fifth question was 81%.

**3- Social Standards:**

The questions presented to respondents are based on a portion of what is included in the GRI Standards

No	questions	I totally agree	I agree	neutral	disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Reporting the total number of employees and the rate of new hires during the year is useful in the decision-making process by the users.	3	6	19	30	29
		%3	%7	%23	%34	%33
2	Reporting benefits obtained by employees such as life insurance and health care helps increase the company's market share.	1	6	12	35	33
		%1	%7	%14	%40	%38
3	Reporting of the OHSMS being implemented due to legal or other requirements is useful in the decision-making process.	2	3	15	29	38
		%2	%3	%17	%33	%44
4	Reporting processes for investigation of work-related accidents as well as identifying and assessing risks is useful in the decision-making process by users.	5	9	19	22	32
		%6	%10	%22	%25	%37
5	Reporting what training hours employees have received and what programs are being offered to upgrade employees' skills is helpful in making appropriate decisions.	2	5	17	29	34
		%2	%6	%20	%33	%39

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the data of the questionnaire and the outputs of the (Excel) program.

It is clear from Table (8) that the respondents' answers to this paragraph generally tended towards (strongly agree and agree), as the percentage for the first question was 92%, for the second question 77%, for the third question 93%, for the fourth question was 81%, and for the fifth question was 81%.

## **4.2 The analytical aspect of the sample's opinions:**

### **1- Analytical aspect of economic criteria:**

<b>Table (9) Analytical aspect of economic criteria</b>					
<b>No</b>	<b>questions</b>	<b>Arithmetic mean</b>	<b>standard deviation</b>	<b>Variation coefficient</b>	<b>Relative importance</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Company tax compliance reporting helps provide useful information to users</b>	<b>1.781</b>	<b>0.969</b>	<b>0.940</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Reporting of legal actions related to anti-competitive behavior and monopolistic operations increases the company's market share.</b>	<b>2.011</b>	<b>1.115</b>	<b>1.244</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Reporting on the number and percentage of employees who are anti-corruption in the company is useful in the decision-making process of users.</b>	<b>2.000</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Reporting the total number of incidents related to confirmed corruption and the number of employees dismissed for corruption helps increase the company's market share.</b>	<b>2.092</b>	<b>1.116</b>	<b>1.247</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>The communication of risks and opportunities and techniques for managing risks and opportunities that lead to material changes in the company's revenues and expenses is one of the factors influencing appropriate decision-making for users.</b>	<b>1.885</b>	<b>1.104</b>	<b>1.247</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Source: Prepared by the researcher, based on SPSS program outputs</b>					

From Table (9), it is clear that the fourth question has obtained the highest arithmetic mean, reaching (2.092), which qualifies to be the fifth question in terms of relative importance. In contrast, the first question got the lowest standard deviation, getting (0.969), and the lowest coefficient of variation, which is (0.940), which qualified it to be the first question in terms of relative importance.

**2- Analytical aspect of environmental standards:**

<b>Table (10) Analytical aspect of environmental standards</b>					
<b>No</b>	<b>questions</b>	<b>Arithmetic mean</b>	<b>standard deviation</b>	<b>Variation coefficient</b>	<b>Relative importance</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Reporting the fuel consumed, the number of hours consumed by the company, as well as the types of energy used in the company are factors that influence the decision-making of users.</b>	<b>1.885</b>	<b>9810.</b>	<b>0.963</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Reporting the percentage of materials that have been recycled and used in the manufacture of raw materials is one of the factors that influence the increase of the company's market share.</b>	<b>1.954</b>	<b>1.021</b>	<b>1.044</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Reporting of water-related treatments, how they are organized, and standards for effluent disposal are useful in the decision-making process.</b>	<b>1.873</b>	<b>0.974</b>	<b>0.949</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Reporting of waste that has been recycled, reused and how it was disposed of helps in the appropriate decision-making process.</b>	<b>2.011</b>	<b>1.017</b>	<b>1.035</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Reporting fines and penalties for non-compliance with environmental laws is helpful in the users' decision-making process.</b>	<b>1.988</b>	<b>1.028</b>	<b>1.058</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Source: Prepared by the researcher, based on SPSS program outputs</b>					

From Table (10), it is clear that the fourth question has obtained the highest arithmetic mean, reaching (2.011), which qualifies to be the second question in terms of relative importance, while the third question obtained the lowest standard deviation, reaching (0.974) and the lowest coefficient of variation, which is (0.949), which qualified it to be the first question in terms of relative importance.

**3- Analytical aspect of social standards:**

<b>Table (11) Analytical aspect of social standards</b>					
<b>No</b>	<b>questions</b>	<b>Arithmetic mean</b>	<b>standard deviation</b>	<b>Variation coefficient</b>	<b>Relative importance</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Reporting the total number of employees and the rate of new hires during the year is useful in the decision-making process by the users.</b>	<b>1.885</b>	<b>0.981</b>	<b>0.963</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Reporting benefits obtained by employees such as life insurance and health care helps increase the company's market share.</b>	<b>1.954</b>	<b>1.021</b>	<b>1.044</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Reporting of the OHSMS being implemented due to legal or other requirements is useful in the decision-making process.</b>	<b>1.873</b>	<b>0.974</b>	<b>0.949</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Reporting processes for investigation of work-related accidents as well as identifying and assessing risks is useful in the decision-making process by users.</b>	<b>2.011</b>	<b>1.035</b>	<b>1.035</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Reporting what training hours employees have received and what programs are being offered to upgrade employees' skills is helpful in making appropriate decisions.</b>	<b>1.988</b>	<b>1.028</b>	<b>1.058</b>	<b>4</b>

**Source: Prepared by the researcher, based on SPSS program outputs**

From Table (11), it is clear that the fourth question has obtained the highest arithmetic mean, reaching (2.011), which qualifies to be the fifth question in terms of relative importance, while the third question obtained the lowest standard deviation, reaching (0.974) and the lowest coefficient of variation, which is (0.949), which qualified it to be the first question in terms of relative importance.

## **5. Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **First: the conclusions**

1. The accounting profession seeks to provide all the information that users can benefit from in the appropriate decision-making process.
2. Implement the Global Reporting Initiative would improve the quality of information provided to users, as well as economic help units think about their strategies, manage risks and provide a comprehensive picture of the performance of economic units.

### **Second: Recommendations**

1. The necessity of preparing the requirements and qualifications that help to implement the Global Reporting Initiative by the units to ensure the provision of the information that is useful to users in the decision-making process.
2. Urging economic units to submit reports through the application of the Global Reporting Initiative to improve the quality of information provided to users on the one hand and the possibility of improving the performance of the economic unit on the other hand.

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## دور معايير GRI في الإبلاغ عن أبعاد التنمية المستدامة- دراسة تطبيقية في عدد من الشركات محلية المدرجة في سوق العراق للأوراق المالية

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### مستخلص البحث:

يهدف البحث الحالي إلى تسليط الضوء على المبادرة العالمية للإبلاغ (GRI) التي تساعد على الإبلاغ عن المعلومات المالية وغير المالية من قبل الوحدات الاقتصادية بشكل عام والمدرجة في سوق العراق للأوراق المالية بشكل خاص. واستند البحث على فرضية رئيسية مفادها أن تطبيق معايير المبادرة العالمية للإبلاغ (GRI) من شأنه أن يوفر المعلومات المفيدة للمستخدمين لمساعدتهم في عملية اتخاذ القرارات الملائمة " ولتحقيق هدف البحث تم استخدام منهج التحليل الوصفي، والتحليل الكمي، فعلى صعيد المنهج التحليل الوصفي تم إجراء المسح المكتبي والاطلاع على الدراسات والبحوث النظرية والميدانية العربية منها والأجنبية. أما على في التحليل الكمي فقد تم الاعتماد على بيانات تطبيقية من خلال استمارة استبيان (Questioners) كأداة للبحث وتم استخدام الرزمة الإحصائية للعلوم الاجتماعية (SPSS) Statistical Package for Social Sciences لتحويل بيانات البحث وللتوصل إلى النتائج. وقد توصل البحث إلى مجموعة من الاستنتاجات تمثلت أهمها بأن مهنة المحاسبة تسعى لتقديم جميع المعلومات التي تفيد المستخدمين في عملية اتخاذ القرارات الملائمة، وبالتالي فإن تطبيق المبادرة العالمية للإبلاغ من شأنه أن يعمل على تحسين جودة المعلومات المقدمة إلى المستخدمين فضلاً عن أنها تساعد الوحدات الاقتصادية على التفكير باستراتيجيتها وإدارة المخاطر وتقديم صورة شاملة عن أداء الوحدات الاقتصادية. وبالاعتماد على الاستنتاجات تم تقديم مجموعة من التوصيات تمثلت أهمها بضرورة إعداد المتطلبات والمؤهلات التي تساعد في تطبيق المبادرة العالمية للإبلاغ من قبل الوحدات لضمان تقديم المعلومات التي تفيد المستخدمين في عملية اتخاذ القرارات. وحث الوحدات الاقتصادية على تقديم التقارير من خلال تطبيق المبادرة العالمية للإبلاغ لتحسين جودة المعلومات المقدمة للمستخدمين من جهة وإمكانية تحسين أداء الوحدة من جهة أخرى.

**المصطلحات الرئيسية للبحث:** المبادرة العالمية للإبلاغ، التنمية المستدامة، معايير المبادرة العالمية للإبلاغ.