The Better World section of the 2017 Annual Report provides information on the status of our Better World goals and, together with content on our corporate website, presents Anheuser-Busch InBev’s annual update on key performance data and information for calendar year 2017. This section and the People Dream Culture description on page 27 have been established in accordance with the law of 3 September 2017 implementing Directive 2014/95/EU of 22 October 2014 amending Directive 2013/34/EU as regards disclosure of non-financial and diversity information by certain large undertakings and groups. Together, they form the non-financial statement required under such law.

The Better World section is organized into four subject areas: Sustainability, Smart Drinking and Road Safety, Workplace Safety, and Business Ethics. Additional information on volunteering and disaster response can be found on page 29. This section is intended to provide meaningful updates to stakeholders around the world, including investors, employees, governments, NGOs, and customers and consumers in the countries where we operate in connection with our Better World initiatives. It includes information on environmental matters, social and employee-related matters, human rights and anti-corruption and bribery matters.

AB InBev prepared this Better World reporting (this section and the website) using the Global Reporting Initiative’s (GRI) Standards as a guide. To help determine the content for our reporting, we conducted a materiality assessment that helped identify the issues most important to our stakeholders and our company. A more detailed look at our materiality process, including the resulting Boundary Analysis Table, and a GRI Index for this year’s report, can be found at http://www.ab-inbev.com/better-world/reporting.html

Our Better World agenda aligns with several of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations in 2015. Throughout our operations and supply chain, we are aligning our Better World activities with the SDGs that address areas considered most material to our business and critical to our stakeholders. We are specifically focused on areas and SDGs for which our scale and partnerships can drive meaningful positive change.

The data and stories presented in this report were gathered and verified with the assistance of content owners across all functions and geographic Zones.

The company has established a Data Management Plan to ensure accurate and consistent reporting of smart drinking, environmental and safety goal performance data, as well as key performance indicators. In the Assurance Report of the Independent Auditor (on pages 41–42) and in key locations throughout the report (5), we have noted which environmental and social metrics have been externally assured by KPMG. For information included in our consolidated financial statements, AB InBev’s statutory auditor is Deloitte.

Environmental data from newly acquired beverage operations are excluded from the running reporting cycle. These facilities will be included in future reporting, which typically takes six months to a year after acquisition. Safety data is immediately tracked and incorporated into global data for all sites and operations unless indicated otherwise in the text or footnotes. Pre-combination data only cover sites for which AB InBev has full management control since 01 Jan 2016. For all environmental and safety data, when a plant is divested or closed, it will be removed from scope, but prior year reported values will not be adjusted.

Global goal performance for water, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, presented in this section, encompasses AB InBev’s company-wide wholly-owned operations unless otherwise noted. Energy usage per hectoliter of production excludes the energy exported to third parties and certain large project constructions. The excluded energy use does not reflect the amount of energy used in our beer brewing processes. For comparison purposes following the combination with SAB, selected data represent 2016 AB InBev pre-combination, 2017 AB InBev pre-combination and 2017 AB InBev combined with SAB, as noted. Prior to the combination, the data definitions AB InBev and SAB used for water usage, total energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions were different. As a result, reporting on combined AB InBev and SAB data for these indicators would have been an inaccurate data representation. For 2017 reporting of this data, all SAB sites aligned to AB InBev pre-combination definitions to enable combined data reporting.

In the scope of our reported Better World goals only beverage operations are included. Our per-hectoliter goals on GHG emissions, energy and water pertain to our beverage facilities only and do not encompass our vertical operations such as malt plants and packaging facilities. However, our vertical operations are also measured using our Voyager Plant Optimization (VPO) global management system and reported annually to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). Specific data tables contain additional footnotes about environmental performance data.

This section contains “forward-looking statements”, which generally include the words or phrases “will likely result”, “are expected to”, “will continue”, “is anticipated”, “anticipate”, “estimate”, “project”, “may”, “might”, “could”, “believe”, “expect”, “plan”, “potential” or similar expressions. These statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from those suggested by these statements due to, among others, the impact of water availability, climate change, economic recession, negative publicity, our ability to hire and retain the best talent, government regulations, the reputation of our brands, the ability to make acquisitions or divest divisions, access to capital, volatility in the stock market, exposure to litigation and other associated risks, as well as the risks described in our annual report on Form 20-F filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Additional information about AB InBev’s GHG and water risks, management and performance is available through CDP.