

*Global Methane Forum
Washington, DC
30 March 2016*

Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Partners Communiqué

Today, we announce an expanded international collaboration to reduce global methane emissions, and reaffirm our commitment to enhance our individual and collective actions across key methane sectors.

The work undertaken by GMI partners has complemented international efforts through other forums. The historic Paris Agreement gives us new urgency to address methane, offering a path forward for countries to take meaningful actions in the near term as one critical element of the long-term global climate solution.

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that, ton-for-ton, is over thirty times more potent than carbon dioxide at warming the atmosphere over 100 years, and over 80 times when considering only a 20-year time horizon. In fact, methane is responsible for nearly one-third of today's warming. Methane is short-lived in the atmosphere, so actions taken to reduce methane today may achieve real climate benefits in the short-term. For these reasons, reducing methane and other short-lived climate pollutants represents a significant opportunity to slow the pace of warming in the near- to medium-term.

Over the past 11 years, under the auspices of GMI, we have successfully addressed key barriers to methane project development, including identifying methane mitigation opportunities and cost-effective, commercially-available technologies. GMI has catalyzed methane mitigation activities, resulting in significant emissions reductions, energy recovery, and safety benefits. Our success has resulted from hard work by governments and the private sector working hand in hand to build international capacity to mitigate methane.

Since our partnership was first launched, the global community interested in addressing methane has grown significantly. Today, we are forging new alliances with two critical partners that have taken great strides in catalyzing actions to substantially reduce methane emissions - the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). UNECE has developed and disseminated Best Practice Guidance and brought key parties together through their world-class Groups of Experts in the coal mining and oil & gas sectors. The CCAC is working on-the-ground to reduce methane from municipal solid waste in cities all over the world; cooperating with the private sector to address methane from upstream oil & gas operations; and working hand-in-hand with farmers to address agricultural emissions. We applaud these efforts and look forward to collaborating more closely in the future, including our joint work with CCAC to enhance peer-to-peer cooperation on oil and gas, the largest industrial source of methane globally.

Today we are re-chartering GMI, pledging our support to work together for the next five years to address methane. In addition to strategically aligning with CCAC and UNECE to achieve

greater synergies, we are expanding emphasis beyond site-specific project development to include the development of policies, practices and tools that will deliver substantial emission reductions in the near- to medium-term. We are also creating a more inclusive structure that enables broader leadership opportunities and streamlines efforts. By building upon our successful foundation with our new partners, we will be even more effective in our efforts to tackle this important global challenge.

We, the GMI partners, look forward to working more closely with CCAC and UNECE to address the challenge and opportunity of reducing global methane emissions over the next five years.