



GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
15th Steering Committee Meeting Summary
18 May 2021

Overview

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Steering Committee held its 15th meeting virtually on 18 May 2021. The meeting was chaired by Helen Ryan, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Branch, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Chair of the GMI Steering Committee. Representatives from 10 country partners participated, including Argentina, Canada, China, Colombia, European Commission, Finland, Germany, India, Nigeria, and the United States. A list of the participants is provided in Appendix A.

The purpose of the meeting was to review and adopt the new Terms of Reference (TOR), provide an update on Steering Committee membership, including the “opt-in” process for members, and share GMI news and updates. Steering Committee participants engaged in open discussions to provide their input and recommendations. The presentations for the meeting and other materials discussed during the meeting are available on the [GMI website](#).

The following sections provide details of the meeting’s discussions.

18 May 2021

Agenda 1: Welcome, Opening of the Meeting and Brief Introductions (Tour de Table) (Chair)

Agenda 2: Meeting Objectives; Adoption of Agenda (see Appendix B)

The meeting objectives were approved, and the agenda was adopted.

Agenda 3: Adoption of the new Terms of Reference

M. Shimamura (Secretariat) reviewed the revisions to the TOR by section.

- The revised TOR documents were shared with the Steering Committee on 5 May 2021.
- The revisions reflected the decisions made during the December 2020 and March 2021 Steering Committee meetings.

H. Ryan (Chair) led a discussion regarding the adoption of the TOR.

- The Steering Committee agreed with two additional edits that were requested by the delegate from the European Commission:
 - Remove the word “national” in item 2.10.
 - Remove the word “clean” from item 1.
- H. Ryan (Chair) noted that these changes would be made by the Secretariat, and the rest of the TOR would be considered final.
- Delegates of Argentina, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, and the U.S. endorsed the adoption of the TOR. It was also noted that Japan, who was not present at the meeting due to a conflict, had confirmed support for the TOR by email to the Secretariat in advance of the meeting.
- The European Commission delegate noted that they would need to follow a formal procedure for approval and adoption by the Commission which could take a number of months.

The Secretariat noted the next steps for finalizing the TOR, which include:

- Incorporating final changes,
- Posting the new TOR on GMI’s website

- Officially renewing the GMI’s charter on 1 June 2021, which is the date the new TOR comes into effect,
- Preparing and posting translations in Chinese, Russian, and Spanish, and
- Promoting the TOR to stakeholders and Partners via listserv and social media.

Agenda 4: Steering Committee Membership

M. Shimamura (Secretariat) reviewed the process for opting-in to the GMI Steering Committee.

- For countries that wish to participate in the next 2-year term for the Steering Committee (June 2021 through June 2023), one Delegate per Partner Country must complete an “opt-in” form by **30 June 2021**.
 - Non-responses are considered an official declination with opportunity to reassess in 2 years.
 - Reaffirmed countries as of 18 May 2021 include Canada, China, Colombia, European Commission [pending formal EC adoption of the TOR], India, Finland, and the United States.

M. Shimamura (Secretariat) explained the next steps for selecting Vice Chairs of the Steering Committee.

- Steering Committee delegates are encouraged to submit a formal expression of interest to the GMI Secretariat at asg@globalmethane.org by **30 June 2021**, to nominate a high-level official from their country for Vice Chair.
- The Secretariat will share nominations or expressions of interest with the Steering Committee and request feedback including expressions of support or objections.
- The priorities for selecting Vice Chairs include:
 - Diversity of experience and perspective,
 - Representatives of developed and developing nations,
 - Country experience serving on the Steering Committee, and
 - Higher-level delegate equivalent to/or similar Assistant Administrator or Associate Assistant Deputy Minister level nominated for the role of Vice Chair.
- The Steering Committee aims to have Vice Chair(s) in place by September 2021.

Agenda 5: Secretariat Update

M. Shimamura (Secretariat) provided an update on *A Call to Action on Methane: an international dialogue hosted by the GMI*. The virtual event, scheduled for 3 June 2021, will raise international awareness of the critical need to reduce methane emissions, emphasize opportunities for international leaders in industry, private sector, and government to take action to reduce methane, and celebrate the recharter of the Global Methane Initiative for another 10 years.

M. Shimamura (Secretariat) reviewed the Steering Committee “road map” and highlighted activities through 2021, which include:

- Celebrating the recharter of GMI through the June 3 Call to Action on Methane,
- Confirming Vice Chair(s),
- Hosting a Steering Committee meeting in Fall 2021,
- Providing support for a UN Decade of Methane Management (if resolution passes the United Nations General Assembly),
- Preparing for the Global Methane Forum in 2022 (pending ability for international travel), and
- Continuing the Global Methane Challenge.

Agenda 6: Closing Statements

The participants were invited an opportunity to provide closing statements as summarized below.

- C. Grundler (United States) noted that the U.S. was pleased by the number of GMI Partner countries that participated in the Climate Leadership Summit hosted by the U.S. in April. The U.S. expects a growing focus on methane going forward which presents an opportunity for GMI to serve as a key mechanism for continuing to build capacity for methane mitigation, to share information on policies and metrics among the GMI Partners, and to achieve ambitious emission reductions to address the climate crisis.
- J. Hilbert (Argentina) inquired about efforts by the Secretariat to increase the number of GMI Partner countries engaged in Steering Committee activities. He suggested that the Secretariat reach out to foreign embassies in GMI Partner countries, noting that the embassies have strong connections within countries and could help GMI identify appropriate representatives for the Steering Committee.
- S. Huang (China) expressed appreciation for GMI's efforts to invite representatives of national governments, academic and non-government organizations and noted that participation in GMI meetings helps GMI Partner countries influence government policy decisions.
- D. De Kerckhove (Canada) stated that Canada is proud to chair the Steering Committee and looks forward to what the next 10 years will bring for GMI. She noted that Canada is building momentum to commitments made in 2016 to reduce emissions from the oil and gas sector, citing new regulations in 2020 for the oil and gas sector and strengthened Paris agreement targets. Canada looks forward to continuing to serve in a leadership role for GMI.
- B. Abubakar (Nigeria) suggested that the Secretariat consider putting in place a coordinator to assist developing countries put together national documents, including national planning documents; she noted that a lack of expertise, not a lack of interest, can hinder these efforts.
- P. Franklin (GMI Secretariat) responded to Argentina's comment, referring to the efforts of the Secretariat to identify appropriate Partner country contacts. The Secretariat will continue to do so to ensure that appropriate GMI delegates are identified and engaged in GMI activities.
- B. Devlin (European Commission) suggested that GMI take on a role assisting developing countries with their emissions reporting; doing so would strengthen the interest of the European Commission in supporting GMI.

Agenda 7: Wrap up

H. Ryan (Chair) provided a synopsis of the decisions taken and Secretariat actions and adjourned the meeting.

APPENDIX A

Meeting Participants (30)

Abubakar, Bahijjahtu – Nigeria Ministry of the Environment, Nigeria
Alpert, Alice – U.S. Department of State, United States
Brendan, Devlin – European Commission, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission
Castano Lujan, Lina Maria – Colombia Ministry of Mines and Energy, Colombia
De Kerckhove, Diane – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Elger, Nicholas – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Frankiewicz, Thomas – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Franklin, Pamela – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Grundler, Christopher – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Hilbert, Jorge – National Institute of Agriculture Technology, Argentina
Huang, Lan – China Coal Information Institute, China
Huang, Shengchu – China Coal Strategies Research Center, China
Huang, Selina – China Coal Energy Group, China
Jerzyniak, Tomasz – European Commission, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission
Jiaye, Han – China Coal Information Institute, China
Kealey, Chelsea – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Keating-Bitonti, Caitlin – U.S. Department of State, United States
Kupiainen, Kaarle – Finland Ministry of the Environment, Finland
Lochan, Rajiw – Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd, India
Malava, Maria – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
McGill, Cathy – Tetra Tech, United States
Miao, Weijie – China
Mulholland, Denise – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Müller, Christian – Germany Ministry, Environment, Nature Conservation & Nuclear Safety, Germany
Patra, Chiranjib – Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd, India
Ryan, Helen – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Shimamura, Monica – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Tremaine, Sam – Tetra Tech, United States
Zhao, Yingchun – China Coal Information Institute, China



**APPENDIX B
AGENDA**

**GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
Steering Committee Meeting
18 May 2021**

Tuesday, 18 May 2021

Agenda 1	Welcome, Opening of Meeting and Brief Introductions (<i>Tour de Table</i>) <i>Helen Ryan, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Branch, Environment and Climate Change Canada; GMI Steering Committee Chair</i>
Agenda 2	Meeting Objectives; Adoption of Agenda <i>Helen Ryan</i>
Agenda 3	Adoption of the new Terms of Reference <i>Monica Shimamura, Director, GMI Secretariat</i>
Agenda 4	Steering Committee Membership <i>Monica Shimamura</i>
Agenda 5	Secretariat Update <i>Monica Shimamura</i>
Agenda 6	Closing Statements
Agenda 7	Wrap Up and Closing Remarks <i>Helen Ryan with support from Monica Shimamura</i>
Agenda 8	Adjourn