

## Overview

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Steering Committee held its 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting virtually on 12 September 2024. Tomás Carbonell, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Chair of the GMI Steering Committee led the meeting. Delegates from 10 Steering Partner Countries participated, including Canada, China, Finland, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, and the United States. A list of the participants is provided in [Appendix A](#).

The purpose of the meeting was to share and discuss updates on methane-related activities and priorities across GMI and its Subcommittees, Partner Countries and Strategic Partners; determine a path to increase Partner Country engagement; review and prioritize Project Network enhancement options; obtain consensus on the Sprint Action Plan template; and gather feedback on the proposed process for the 2026 Global Methane Forum. The PowerPoint presentation and other materials discussed during the meeting are available on the [Steering Committee website](#). The full agenda is included in [Appendix B](#).

## HIGHLIGHTS BY AGENDA TOPIC

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### Meeting Objectives and Adoption of Agenda

T. Carbonell reviewed the objectives of the meeting and reviewed the agenda which was adopted. He invited the participants to keep the meeting objectives in mind to ensure that GMI reaffirms its commitment to methane mitigation and is as effective as possible given the urgency of the task.

### Update on GMI Activities

Denise Mulholland (Director, Secretariat) provided an update on GMI, which included an overview of GMI progress overall and a report of GMI Secretariat activities, including the status of requests of the Secretariat made at previous Steering Committee meetings. For more information, see the [slides](#).

#### *Highlights from the Secretariat included:*

- Developing four discussion papers for the Steering Committee, regarding:
  - Increasing GMI Partner Country Engagement
  - Enhancing Project Network Engagement
  - Subcommittee Sprint Action Template
  - Proposed Process for Planning the 2026 Global Methane Forum
- Launching the GMI Case Study Library which will soon include an opportunity for others to submit case studies to the library.
- Publishing two quarterly GMI Methane Matters Newsletters since March 2024.
- Developing a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary webpage with GMI accomplishments.
- Initiating the update of GMI Partner Country webpages. The Secretariat noted that draft updates are coming soon for review.

Volha Roshchanka (Coal Mines Subcommittee Co-Chair, United States), James Diamond (Oil & Gas Subcommittee Co-Chair, Canada), and Matthew Hamilton (Biogas Subcommittee Co-Chair, Canada) gave

updates on the current context of their sectors, activities, accomplishments, and upcoming plans (see [slides](#)). It was noted that:

- The [International Coal Mine Methane Project List](#), the most popular GMI coal resource, was recently updated and includes details about 500 CMM projects.
- The Oil & Gas Subcommittee is hosting a virtual meeting on 17 September which includes representatives of the International Energy Agency, the World Bank's Global Flaring and Methane Reduction Partnership program, and the International Methane Emissions Observatory. The presentation is available [here](#).
- The next in-person GMI Coal Mines and Oil & Gas Subcommittee meetings will be held in Geneva, Switzerland in conjunction with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Group of Experts meetings in March 2025.
- The Biogas Subcommittee recently hosted a [webinar series](#) and published a new [Waste Characterization Handbook](#).
- The next GMI Biogas Subcommittee meeting will be held in Brazil in conjunction with the Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) annual meeting in March 2025.

### **Discussion Paper: Increasing GMI Partner Country Engagement**

Daniel Benefoh (Steering Committee Vice Chair, Ghana) introduced the discussion paper and invited D. Mulholland to give an overview before facilitating a discussion with the group.

#### *Highlights of the discussion and suggestions included:*

- Consideration of all proposed options, although the Steering Committee focused on Option 3, the hosting of four virtual regional Partners meetings as a pilot and Option 4, adding a full day to the Forum and hosting an All Partners in-person meeting with a virtual option.
- For regional meetings:
  - Invite the Partner Country to co host and take ownership of the meeting.
  - It would be ideal to host regional meetings in the native language; that is, provide simultaneous interpretation and translation as funding allows.
  - Tailor it to the regions; consider a focus on specific/key sector(s) for regions.
- A decision was made that Option 2, hosting a full day, All Partners virtual meeting is not feasible.
- Saudi Arabia offered to host a regional meeting with Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries.
- The United States agreed to support a North American regional Partner Country meeting.
- A recommendation was made to define the outcomes of "successful engagement."
- There was support for exploring the addition of an All Partners component of the next Forum.

#### *The Steering Committee requested that the Secretariat:*

- Pursue options for regional meetings for GMI Partner Countries.
- Update Partner Country webpages.

### **Discussion Paper: Enhancing Project Network Engagement**

T. Carbonell introduced the discussion paper and invited D. Mulholland to provide an overview before opening up discussion with the group.

*Several suggestions for enhancing engagement were identified, including:*

- Encouraging Project Network members to volunteer to lead events.
  - Invite Project Network members to lead local or regional sessions on methane topics with Partner Countries.
- Supporting the update of the Project Network webpages.
- Creating a task force to engage Project Network members.
- Encouraging Project Network members to serve as Subcommittee Co-Chairs, but it was noted that this would require a change to the GMI Terms of Reference (they can currently serve only as delegates).
- Identifying opportunities for Project Network members to lead activities; for example, technical webinars.
- Finding conduits to quickly engage with Project Network members once they express interest.

Some members of the Steering Committee liked Option 6, inviting select Project Network members to regularly participate in one-off Steering Committee meetings, but recognized that it would be difficult to implement and meaningfully choose who to invite given so many project network members. They discussed option 7, identifying or recruiting a set number of representatives to formally serve on 1-or-2-year term periods, and it was noted that it may be too narrow; the Steering Committee discussed the idea of creating a Task Force to represent the Network on the Committee.

*The Steering Committee requested that the Secretariat:*

- Request all Project Network members review and update their profile information.
- Annually assess Project Network interests, needs, priorities, and willingness to engage with GMI (e.g., regional meetings, subcommittee webinars, Forum, Task Force, etc).
- Engage provide leadership opportunities to Project Network members in future meetings of GMI (e.g., regional meetings, subcommittee meetings and webinars, Forum, etc).

### **Discussion Paper: Subcommittee Sprint Action Plan Template**

D. Benefoh introduced the discussion paper and invited D. Mulholland to provide an overview of the topic before facilitating a discussion with the group.

*Suggestions and perspectives shared during the discussion included:*

- Focusing on how the Sprint Action Plans will help Partner Countries achieve their goals.
- Exploring lessons learned from past action plans and linking it to the plans that countries are already developing (e.g., NDCs) to make it relevant to Partner Countries.
- Emphasizing that the Sprint Action Plans will require the Steering Committee members to regularly engage with the Subcommittees.
  - A recommendation was made supporting regular check-ins between the Steering Committee and Subcommittees to engage and support the task appropriately.

*The Steering Committee requested that the Secretariat:*

- Coordinate with the Subcommittee Co-Chairs to develop sector-specific Sprint Action Plans for review at the next Steering Committee meeting.

### **Discussion Paper: Proposed Process for Planning the 2026 Global Methane Forum**

T. Carbonell led a discussion about the proposed process for planning the 2026 Global Methane Forum.

*Highlights of the discussion included:*

- Identifying key parameters of the Forum with proposed options for assessing the criteria.
- Reviewing the steps and timeline for selecting the key parameters (e.g., site/venue, timing, co-located events, collaborating organizations, etc.) of the 2026 Global Methane Forum.
- Flagging the large number of climate change events and holidays that occur between September through December 2024 (i.e., New York Climate Week, COP29, etc.) which will likely conflict with the proposal timeline for proposals.
- Ensuring geographic and partner diversity is important;
- Considering new hosts and perspectives and encouraging host applicants to include partnership with Strategic Partner(s) and the country.
- Consider feedback from last Forum once venue is selected (e.g., improve methane intensity of event, reduce waste, etc).

*The Steering Committee requested that the Secretariat:*

- Adjust the call for proposals timeline to remain open from October through February to allow Partner Countries sufficient time to prepare a response.
- Prepare and issue a call for proposals to host the 2026 Global Methane Forum.
- Review options and present recommendation to full Steering Committee at the April/May 2025 meeting.

### **CCAC-GMI Collaboration**

D. Mulholland provided an overview of GMI's recent activities with CCAC. T. Carbonell then led a discussion regarding how collaboration could be improved.

*Highlights of the discussion included:*

- Organizing joint events to maximize attendance and leverage resources.
- Enhancing and collaborating on communications.
- Exchanging technical assistance information about Partner Country needs and actions.
- Thinking about the options as a menu and exploring how the Subcommittees can also strategically include these items in their Action Plans.

*The Steering Committee requested that the Secretariat:*

- Continue to encourage and maintain close collaboration with CCAC.

### **GMI Activities to Support COP29**

T. Carbonell led a discussion about how GMI can support Partner Countries during COP29.

*Highlights of the discussion included:*

- Creating a webpage celebrating 20 years of methane leadership by GMI Partner Countries, including testimonials from Partners, and promoting the webpage on social media around COP.
- Promoting Partner Countries' COP events through GMI social media.
- Communicating requests for speakers if countries are looking for GMI partners to speak at their events or to schedule bilateral meetings at the COP for other meetings.
- Sharing materials (e.g., slides) showing GMI impacts, membership, etc., to interested partners.

- Organizing a 1-hour, high-level webinar to commemorate GMI's anniversary and a series of webinars to share achievements.
- Providing a brief history and major accomplishments on the webpage

*The Steering Committee requested that the Secretariat:*

- Develop a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary webpage to showcase GMI history and major accomplishments since 2004 and Partner Actions.
- Collect and showcase testimonials or quotes from the Steering Committee members about how GMI has helped their country.
- Update the Partner Country pages.
- Promote GMI Partner activities at COP29 on social media.
- Distribute existing GMI outreach materials for Partner Countries.

### Recap and Wrap-up

T. Carbonell thanked participants for very productive discussions and expressed appreciation for the delegates' time to participate in the meeting and all their contributions to GMI.

*Summary of key takeaways, priorities and next steps coming out of the Steering Committee meeting:*

- **Engaging Partner Countries:** Tasked the Secretariat with updating Partner Country webpages and pursuing regional GMI Partner Country meetings.
- **Enhancing Project Network Engagement:** Tasked the Secretariat with enhancing engagement with the Project Network members and providing an update at the March 2025 Steering Committee meeting on progress.
- **Subcommittee Sprint Action Plan:** Tasked the Secretariat and Subcommittee Co-chairs with developing Sprint Action Plans.
- **2026 Global Methane Forum Planning:** Affirmed the process for planning future Global Methane Forums; Tasked the Secretariat with distributing a call for proposals to host the 2026 Global Methane Forum, extending the proposal deadline, and reporting a recommendation at the next Steering Committee meeting in 2025.
- **GMI-CCAC Collaboration:** Tasked the GMI Secretariat with continuing to collaborate with CCAC, a key Strategic Partner.
- **GMI Activities to Support COP29:** Tasked the Secretariat with developing a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary webpage to showcase GMI successes since 2004.

## APPENDIX A

### Meeting Participants (28)

#### **Steering Committee**

##### ***Canada:***

De Kerckhove, Diane, Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Patel, Rutu, Environment and Climate Change Canada

##### ***China:***

Jiaye, Han, China Coal Information Institute  
Lan, Huang, China Coal Information Institute

##### ***Finland:***

Kupiainen, Kaarle, Finland Ministry of the Environment

##### ***Ghana:***

Bempah, Juliana, Environmental Protection Agency  
Benefoh, Daniel Tutu, Environmental Protection Agency

##### ***India:***

Pandey, Bikesh Kumar, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.  
Yadav, Ravi, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.

##### ***Indonesia:***

Agustina, Haruki, Ministry of Environment and Forestry  
Kholiq, Muhammad Abdul, National Research and Innovation Agency  
Margaretha, Grace, Ministry of Environment and Forestry

##### ***Nigeria:***

Abubakar, Bahijjahtu, Federal Ministry of Environment

##### ***Saudi Arabia:***

Al Musa, Faisal, Ministry of Energy  
Qurooni, Faisal, Ministry of Energy

##### ***Serbia:***

Mehandžić, Dragana, Ministry of Environmental Protection

##### ***United States:***

Carbonell, Tomás, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Franklin, Pamela, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Weaver, Michael, U.S. Agency for International Development

#### **Subcommittee Co-Chairs**

##### ***Biogas:***

Boadi, Godfred Fiifi, Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, Ghana

Hamilton, Matthew, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada

***Coal:***

Roshchanka, Volha, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States

***Oil & Gas:***

Diamond, James, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada

**Secretariat**

Mulholland, Denise, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States

Derieux, Christine, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States

Zimmerman, Klara, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States

Ferguson, Shannon, Tetra Tech, United States

McGill, Cathy, Tetra Tech, United States

**APPENDIX B  
AGENDA**

**Global Methane Initiative**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Agenda**  
**12 September 2024**  
**Virtual**



	Time	Topic	Lead(s)
1.	8:00 – 8:05	<b>Welcome, Opening of the Meeting</b>	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
2.	8:05 – 8:20	<b>Brief Introductions (<i>Tour de Table</i>)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Introductions by each country (name and affiliation)</i></li> </ul>	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
3.	8:20 – 8:25	<b>Meeting Objectives; Adoption of Agenda (GMI22/Doc.1)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Review and select options in discussion papers developed in response to Steering Committee requests on:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Increasing GMI Partner Country Engagement</i></li> <li><i>Enhancing Project Network Engagement</i></li> <li><i>Subcommittee Sprint Action Plan Template</i></li> <li><i>Proposed Process for Planning the 2026 Global Methane Forum</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><i>Discuss CCAC-GMI Collaboration</i></li> <li><i>Discuss GMI activities to support COP29</i></li> </ul>	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
4.	8:25 – 8:40	<b>Update on GMI Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Secretariat Update</i></li> <li><i>Subcommittee Updates</i></li> </ul>	GMI Secretariat; Subcommittee Co-Chairs
5.	8:40 – 9:00	<b>Discussion Paper: Increasing GMI Partner Country Engagement (GMI22/Doc.2)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Overview of discussion paper context and options</i></li> <li><i>Discuss comments/feedback</i></li> <li><i>Next steps</i></li> </ul>	Dr. Daniel Benefoh, Vice Chair
6.	9:00 – 9:20	<b>Discussion Paper: Enhancing Project Network Engagement (GMI22/Doc.3)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Overview of discussion paper context and options</i></li> <li><i>Discuss comments/feedback</i></li> <li><i>Next steps</i></li> </ul>	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
7.	9:20 – 9:40	<b>Discussion Paper: Subcommittee Sprint Action Plan Template (GMI22/Doc.4)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Overview of discussion paper context and options</i></li> <li><i>Discuss comments/feedback</i></li> <li><i>Next steps</i></li> </ul>	Dr. Daniel Benefoh, Vice Chair

	Time	Topic	Lead(s)
	9:40 – 9:55	<b>Health Break</b>	
8.	9:55 – 10:25	<b>Discussion Paper: Proposed Process for Planning the 2026 Global Methane Forum</b> (GMI22/Doc.5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Overview of discussion paper context and options</i></li> <li>• <i>Discuss comments/feedback</i></li> <li>• <i>Next steps</i></li> </ul>	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
9.	10:25-10:40	<b>CCAC-GMI Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Review/discuss CCAC draft “Proposal for closer CCAC-GMI Collaboration”</i></li> </ul>	GMI Secretariat
10.	10:40-10:55	<b>GMI activities to support COP29</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Discussion of options</i></li> </ul>	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
11.	10:55 – 11:00	<b>Wrap-up and Next Steps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Summarize key decisions and next steps</i></li> <li>• <i>Date of next Steering Committee Meeting</i></li> </ul>	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
12.	11:00	<b>Adjourn</b>	