

GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE  
7TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

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Washington, DC, USA  
March 2016

GMI7/Doc.3

**Overview of the GMI Partners Communiqué/Recharter Ceremony  
Discussion Paper**

**I. Purpose**

This paper provides an overview of the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Partners Communiqué, which will signal GMI's extended charter and future plans, as well as the GMI recharter ceremony that will take place on 30 March 2016. This paper includes background information on the communiqué's development, an overview of the recharter ceremony, and next steps for approving the Communiqué.

**II. Communiqué**

The GMI Partners Communiqué is a concise statement that describes GMI's accomplishments, and the decision to continue GMI's work for five more years. It also discusses the rationale for GMI moving forward as an autonomous initiative with key strategic partners such as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The ASG drafted and circulated the communiqué to Steering Committee members for comment and also convened two February 2016 conference calls during which the language was reviewed and discussed (see Appendix A for the final clearance text).

**III. Recharter Ceremony**

GMI will be formally rechartered for the next 5 years during a ceremony from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 30 March 2016, during the Global Methane Forum (see Appendix B for recharter ceremony agenda). The following presentations are expected:

- Keynote address by U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy
- Overview of 10 Years of Success through GMI: *Janet McCabe, U.S. EPA Acting Assistant Administrator Office of Air and Radiation, and GMI Steering Committee Chair*
- Strategic Alliances between CCAC and GMI: *Rita Cerutti, Environment Canada Multilateral Affairs Director, and CCAC Steering Committee Interim Co-Chair*
- Strategic Alliances between UNECE and GMI: *Christian Friis Bach, UNECE Executive Director*

Following these remarks, Janet McCabe will read aloud the GMI Partners Communiqué. Following the Global Methane Forum, the communiqué will be posted to the GMI website as part of the forum/Steering Committee proceedings as well as announced via the *Methane International* blog.

One delegate from each GMI Partner Country will be invited to participate in a commemorative photograph. Anyone wishing to participate in the commemorative photograph should plan to attend the entire recharter ceremony to ensure they are present when the photo is taken (anticipated at 12:00 p.m.).

The ASG will seek input from Steering Committee members if they will be available for the photo.

#### **IV. Next Steps**

At the 29 March 2016 meeting, the Steering Committee will approve the GMI communiqué. Partners are not required to sign the communiqué. Partners are encouraged to obtain official endorsement from their governments (e.g., through letters of support).

#### **V. Summary/Action Items**

- Communiqué: Do Partners agree with the language as set forth in the communiqué?
- Recharter Ceremony: Will the Steering Committee members in attendance participate in the commemorative photograph?

**APPENDIX A**  
**GMI STEERING COMMITTEE CLEARANCE DRAFT OF PARTNERS COMMUNIQUÉ**

*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.

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.

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 a critical element of the long-term global climate solution.

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 shifting emphasis from site-specific project development towards 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.

**APPENDIX B  
GMI RECHARTER CEREMONY AGENDA**

**Wednesday, 30 March 2016**

- 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM    *New Strategic Partnership to Addressing Methane Globally***
- 11:10 AM – 11:15 AM    ***Keynote Address***  
15 min    *Gina McCarthy, U.S. EPA Administrator*
- 11:15 AM – 11:25 AM    ***Overview of 10 Years of Success through GMI***  
10 min    *Janet McCabe, U.S. EPA Acting Assistant Administrator Office of Air and Radiation, and GMI Steering Committee Chair*
- 11:25 AM – 11:35 AM    ***Strategic Alliances between CCAC and GMI***  
10 min    *Rita Cerutti, Environment Canada Multilateral Affairs Director, and CCAC Steering Committee Interim Co-Chair*
- 11:35 AM – 11:45 AM    ***Strategic Alliances between UNECE and GMI***  
10 min    *Christian Friis Bach, UNECE Executive Director*
- 11:45 AM – 11:50 AM    ***Reading of the GMI Partners Communiqué***  
5 min    *Janet McCabe, U.S. EPA*
- 12:00 PM- 12:15 PM    Assemble one delegate from each GMI Partner Country for a commemorative photograph
- ~ 12:15 PM    **Commemorative Photo of GMI Partner Countries**