



**Global Methane Initiative  
7th Steering Committee Meeting  
29 March 2016  
Washington, DC, USA**

**FINAL SUMMARY**

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Steering Committee held its seventh session on 29 March 2016 during the Global Methane Forum (GMF) in Washington, DC, USA. Steering Committee chair Janet McCabe (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [U.S. EPA]) presided over the meeting, welcoming participants from Partner Countries including: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, European Commission, Finland, Germany, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, United Kingdom, and the United States (a list of attendees is included as Appendix A). The meeting focused on finalizing/approving the GMI Terms of Reference (TOR) and GMI re-charter communiqué, as well as discussing strategic alliances, future leadership, and subcommittee/ASG charges. During the last hour, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) Steering Committee joined GMI for a joint GMI/CCAC Steering Committee meeting to learn about each other's program (a list of CCAC attendees can be found in Appendix B).

The following sections provide more details of the meeting's discussions.

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**Agenda 1: Welcome, Opening of the Meeting, and Statement of Meeting Goals (Janet McCabe, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [U.S. EPA] and GMI Steering Committee Chair)**

- Approve:
  - GMI Terms of Reference (TOR)
  - GMI Partners Communiqué
- Identify:
  - Ongoing and future GMI/CCAC/United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) collaboration opportunities
  - Steering Committee leadership selection options and process
  - Charge to Subcommittees/Administrative Support Group (ASG) and next Steering Committee meeting

**Agenda 2: Introductions (GMI Participants – See Appendix A)**

**Agenda 3: Adoption of Agenda (Henry Ferland, ASG Co- Director) – see [GMI7/Doc.1](#) and accompanying [slides](#))**

- [Approved]

**Agenda 4: Finalize/Adopt Revised Terms of Reference (Henry Ferland – see [GMI7/Doc.2](#) and accompanying [presentation](#))**

- The Terms of Reference (TOR) is the backbone of GMI (i.e., charter) and sets forth who, what, and how the Initiative operates.

- TOR has evolved since initial 2004 adoption (e.g., 2010 relaunch) and now approaches 5-year extension sunset.
- Revision process:
  - Late 2014: Steering Committee established a task force.
  - Jan to July 2015: Task force convened monthly to develop recommendations for re-chartering GMI.
  - Nov 2015: Steering Committee convened to review and discuss—and subsequently adopt—the task force recommendations.
- **Main task force recommendations:**
  - Expanded emphasis on policy guidance
  - Strategic alliances with CCAC and UNECE
  - Structure (e.g., combine Agriculture, Municipal Solid Waste [MSW], and Wastewater Subcommittees into a new Biogas Subcommittee)
  - Leadership (e.g., recommend a Steering Committee Co-Chairs model)
- Additionally, the ASG noted that the Steering Committee agreed (via a February conference call) to a 5-year TOR extension along with the other changes.
- Since these changes are modifications, no Partner signatures are required and can be adopted via consensus.
  - Argentina, Brazil, Canada, European Commission, Ghana, Japan, United Kingdom, and United States provided support for the changes.
  - Colombia commented on—and China echoed—CCAC’s lack of coal sector and need to continue GMI’s high-level contributions toward coal mining emission reductions.
- The changes were adopted and will be incorporated in the [final TOR](#).

**Agenda 5: Final Review and Adoption of GMI Communiqué and Rechartering Ceremony (Henry Ferland – see [GMI7/Doc.3](#) and accompanying [presentation](#))**

- Concise 1-page consensus statement on GMI’s accomplishments over last 10 years, as well as reasons to continue GMI’s autonomy (e.g., coal sector) for another 5 years.
- Will be referred to—not read—during rechartering ceremony, that will comprise:
  - Keynote by U.S. EPA Administrator
  - Overview of GMI’s last 10 years
  - CCAC alliance acknowledgement
  - UNECE alliance acknowledgement
- Following the rechartering ceremony, a commemorative photo of GMI Partners will be taken.
- Several participants expressed concern and/or requested additional changes (e.g., Canada and Ghana on Paris agreement inclusion, Colombia on expectation/departure from project focus, India on “shifting” versus “expanding” focus from project work), to which the Chair recommended those interested in making changes convene during the break to come up with revised language.
- After the break, the revised language was reviewed and the [final communiqué](#) was approved by consensus.

**Agenda 6: Strategic Partnerships with CCAC and UNECE (Monica Shimamura, ASG Co-Director – see [GMI7/Doc.4](#) and accompanying [presentation](#))**

- Many common partners between GMI and CCAC (24) and with UNECE (15).
- Both CCAC and UNECE have methane-specific activities that align with or complement GMI activities:

- CCAC: sector-focused initiatives (Ag, MSW, Oil & Gas) as well as cross-cutting issues (Supporting National Planning for action on SLCPs [SNAP] Initiative, regional assessments, financing).
  - UNECE: Group(s) of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Oil & Gas.
- When developing its TOR recommendations, the GMI task force suggested several actions to seek better alignment (e.g., CCAC non-state partner status, continued/enhanced UNECE coal and oil & gas sector collaboration, World Bank Pilot Action Facility and Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership).
- Actions already taken include:
  - CCAC: GMI updates to CCAC Steering Committee and Working Group led to GMI reference in CCAC's 5-year Strategic Plan and GMF co-organization, ongoing sector-level collaboration, and non-state partner status letter submission.<sup>1</sup>
  - UNECE: continued coal sector collaboration (e.g., co-hosting GMI Coal Subcommittee, Best Practices Guide), joint GMF meetings in oil & gas sector.
- One item for Steering Committee consideration comprised who would represent GMI at CCAC: the ASG, an appointed Steering Committee member, or a rotating member from the Steering Committee.
  - Canada provided support/rational for the ASG to represent GMI based on its familiarity with all Partners, its ability to report back to the Steering Committee and, its neutrality -- which Argentina, Mexico, United Kingdom, and United States echoed.
  - Colombia asked about CCAC membership and how GMI can avoid being one among many. The ASG responded the non-state partner status provided GMI with a seat at the table (i.e., authorization to attend meetings) to bring GMI voice forward (i.e., official communication channel), while maintaining its autonomy or independence.
- Also discussed—and approved—reports (i.e., updates on tangible actions) from the GMI Biogas, Coal, and Oil & Gas Subcommittees regarding their progress collaborating and better aligning their work with CCAC and UNECE counterparts over the next year.

**Agenda 7: GMI Future Leadership Structure (Henry Ferland – see [GMI7/Doc.5](#) and accompanying [presentation](#))**

- Based on task force recommendations, the Steering Committee acknowledged GMI would benefit from broader leadership opportunities for Partners (e.g., Co-Chairs versus singular Chair).
- Corresponding TOR changes have been made that state Co-Chairs would serve two-year terms (with possibility of extension). Additionally, the task force recommended that Co-Chairs be encouraged to host one Steering Committee meeting in their country during their term, and ideally be represented by a developed country and a developing country.
- The United States will continue to serve as the Steering Committee Chair until new Co-Chairs are selected and U.S. EPA will continue to host the ASG, even after new Co-Chairs are established.
- The ASG issued a call to GMI Steering Committee Partners to express interest in the Co-Chair positions, but have received no response to date. Seeking volunteers is still considered the best approach.
- In the absence of volunteers, the ASG suggested three options for identifying/selecting Co-Chairs: 1) authorize the ASG to actively recruit Partners to consider Co-Chairmanship roles, 2) establish a task force to develop a recruitment/selection process, or 3) develop a nomination process by which countries could nominate other Partners. If a volunteer stepped forward, the process would be abridged to fill remaining position.

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<sup>1</sup> GMI's request was approved in March 2016.

- Colombia asked about the need for a task force, to which the ASG responded it could provide different perspectives and/or input on the process.
- Canada suggested the ASG solicit candidates and if unsuccessful, then a task force could be established to broaden the search. If still no result, then move toward a nomination process based on multi-national interest from two countries (e.g., three-tiered process versus three separate options).
- The Chair acknowledged Canada’s proposed process and asked for consensus; upon receipt, tasked the ASG to move ahead with a renewed effort to recruit Co-Chairs.

**Agenda 8: Draft Charge to Subcommittees/ASG and Next Steering Committee Meeting (Henry Ferland – see [GMI7/Doc.6](#) and accompanying [presentation](#))**

- By way of background, the ASG explained the Steering Committee typically charges the ASG and GMI subcommittees with specific tasks or direction at each meeting.
- Given this meeting’s focus on re-chartering GMI, the charges provide an opportunity for feedback on GMI’s strategic alliances (e.g., CCAC/UNECE) and structural changes (e.g., Biogas Subcommittee), and their impact on GMI activities (i.e., improved efficiencies).
- As it has done for past Expos, the ASG collects basic data (e.g., attendance, country representation) and sends an online survey to participants.
- The ASG could structure its post-GMF survey to include specific questions on the efficiency of co-locating/co-organizing the Forum with CCAC, and GMI participants’ interactions with their CCAC and UNECE counterparts.
- GMF survey results could be compiled and circulated to the Steering Committee for their consideration in planning future events (to which Partners agreed).
- As discussed under “Strategic Partnerships,” the Steering Committee already agreed it would be beneficial to have the GMI subcommittees report on outcomes, particularly as they relate to standing up the Biogas Subcommittee (e.g., action plan adoption, sector-specific impacts) and the Coal and Oil & Gas Subcommittee from UNECE/CCAC collaborations respectively.
  - Colombia asked about overall performance indicators such as emission reductions and number of projects associated with GMI activities. The ASG provided an overview of the [2015 GMI infographic](#), which contains these metrics, and noted the need for better communication to ensure Partners are aware of outreach efforts.
  - Argentina echoed Colombia’s comment, and acknowledged the need to track the type of support beyond strictly emissions as GMI shifts focus from projects to policy since the latter is [more] difficult to measure.
- Timing/location for the next Steering Committee meeting was also discussed, with options including new Co-Chairs’ countries and CCAC- or other climate-related events (the latter of which the ASG will research potential venues in the first half of 2017).
  - Brazil commented on co-location with climate-related events versus CCAC meeting, since many GMI Partners are not CCAC members. The ASG clarified GMI Partners would be able to participate on the margins of the CCAC meetings so membership would not be necessary.
- The Chair acknowledged the issue of next meeting location could resolve itself if a Partner Country(ries) volunteer for Co-Chairmanship.
- The Chair lastly suggested convening a virtual Steering Committee meeting to obtain input on potential future meeting locations, as well as hear interim subcommittee reports. Consensus was achieved on these charges:
  - Subcommittees:
    - Provide a report-out at the next Steering Committee meeting regarding their activities—particularly, in the case of Biogas, formation of the new

subcommittee and action plan adoption; direct feedback from agriculture, MSW, and wastewater delegates on how the new structure has impacted efforts/ability to reach sector-specific stakeholders—and efficiencies gained through collaboration/development of cross-sector trainings or tools, including progress implementing the task force’s recommended changes (e.g., strategic alliances with CCAC, UNECE, and World Bank).

- ASG:
  - Conduct a GMF report-out, including results from specific post-Forum survey questions regarding the effectiveness of the joint GMI/CCAC event.
  - Move ahead with a renewed effort to actively recruit Co-Chairs.
  - Explore the potential of co-locating with a CCAC event or other climate-related event. Alternatively, if new Steering Committee Co-Chairs are selected, explore their interest in hosting a meeting.

**Agenda 9: Discuss Joint GMI/CCAC Steering Committee Meeting (Monica Shimamura – see [GMI7/Doc.7](#) and accompanying [presentation](#))**

- Concept arose from a suggestion by Canada during February’s virtual meetings, taking advantage of everyone at the same venue.
- Allows opportunity for GMI and CCAC Steering Committee members to learn about each other’s initiative (e.g., organization, activities) and discuss cross-cutting issues (e.g., regional assessments, action plans, Nationally Determined Contributions [NDCs]).
- Preliminary topics include program overviews and potential future collaboration/coordinated in-person meetings. The meeting’s structure would comprise the GMI and CCAC Chairs at head table, with GMI/CCAC Steering Committee delegates organized alphabetically around the table.
  - Canada inquired about potential topics moving forward, if they had been identified. Canada also commented on a forthcoming CCAC partners’ action report and the struggle to identify/quantify metrics.
  - The United States indicated cross-cutting issues that complement each other (e.g., GMI action plans and CCAC SNAP Initiative) could be a future topic, particularly how best to work together and avoid duplication.
- The Chair acknowledged this meeting is the beginning of the GMI/CCAC relationship and future topics will likely reveal themselves over time/as the collaboration evolves.

**Agenda 10: Next Steps/Adjourn GMI Steering Committee**

**Agenda 11: Joint Meeting with CCAC (Janet McCabe, U.S. EPA, and Rita Cerutti, Director of Multilateral Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and CCAC Interim Steering Committee Chair)**

**[GMI Overview](#) (Henry Ferland)**

- GMI as a voluntary, international initiative started in 2004 that has expanded to 42 Partner Countries (plus the European Commission) and targets five sectors.
- Historically focused on capacity building through resources assessments, studies, information sharing, and tools/publication dissemination to feed its project development cycle.
- GMI Partners represent 70 percent of global methane emissions, totaling 5 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2</sub>E). Through 2014, GMI-supported projects have yielded cumulative reductions of nearly 350 million MTCO<sub>2</sub>E.
- GMI is also supported by a Project Network comprised of private sector developers, financiers, and universities that provide technical expertise.

- Example GMI projects include agriculture manure digesters that capture methane for cook stoves, fugitive emission reductions from the oil & gas sector, and new pre-mine methane drainage techniques in coal mines.
- Joint GMI/CCAC work to date includes: GMI agriculture sector leads on CCAC advisory panel helping on manure component; GMI sector leads/technical expertise helped guide CCAC's MSW and Oil & Gas Initiatives.
- Opportunities for synergies, particularly within the MSW Initiative (e.g., scaled-up municipal to national actions, expanded biogas focus).
- Potential future work includes: building knowledge platforms (i.e., sharing/disseminating information), supporting NDCs, working jointly with CCAC Ag, MSW, Oil and Gas Initiatives and CCAC's SNAP Initiative.

#### CCAC Overview (*Helena Molin Valdés, Head of CCAC Secretariat*)

- CCAC is a different, politically-charged initiative that evolved to an action-oriented forum with its own project network.
- A primary component is its Science Advisory Panel (SAP), which provides briefings, science updates, metrics, and policy dialogue (e.g., co-benefits) with focus on communicating these benefits (i.e., incorporating science into policy).
- Covers seven sector-related and four cross-cutting initiatives that provide opportunities for institutional synergies.
- Comprises more than 100 Partners, including 50 countries, 16 intergovernmental organizations, and 45 non-government organizations.
- Five-Year Strategic Plan includes four key strategies to facilitate its implementation/achieve objective(s): catalyze ambitious action (e.g., training, peer-to-peer learning), mobilize robust support, leverage finance at scale, and enhance science and knowledge.
- Anticipated benefits of GMI collaboration include: complementing CCAC's methane initiatives (Ag, MSW, Oil & Gas) while supplementing absent sectors (Coal, Wastewater), working together on metrics and accounting for benefits (and demonstrating their impacts), increasing NDCs through capacity building, and enhancing its SLCP Solution Center with knowledge platforms and creating demand for expert assistance.

#### *Discussion*

- Following the overviews, the CCAC Chair referred to the new GMI/CCAC relationship as “dating” and emphasized the need to create a strategic union so as not to miss an opportunity to demonstrate impacts. The GMI Chair recognized there might be some overlap among the programs, but still so much more to do to address climate change and encouraged participants to think about how to make the most of the complementary actions.
  - Canada interjected regarding perception of duplication (or not), pointing out the difference(s) such as CCAC's trust fund while GMI has projects that need funding.
  - Nigeria commented on the opportunities to show concrete actions and acknowledged that CCAC brings greater awareness of health issues, while GMI can further/use its data (since older than CCAC).
  - Australia asked regarding GMI's shift from projects to policy, if there might be a limit to the types of projects it will [continue to] pursue. The GMI Chair responded that despite greater policy focus (which remains to be determined), there is no limit or preclusion on projects. The GMI ASG added from a metrics perspective, it will be more difficult to measure policy impacts versus projects.
  - The United States provided a GMI example of a coal sector site-specific assessment to showcase potential; based on that expert study, the project was able to scale anticipated emission reductions. GMI then partnered with UNECE to develop a best practices

manual to help guide project developers. While difficult to quantify the results from best practices guide, it will ultimately lead to broader adoption of methane mitigation.

- The GMI Chair inquired about Paris commitments and how these organizations might be helpful.
  - The United States explained its new State Department Climate Envoy views the initiatives as vehicles or mechanisms to make progress and coordinate within countries/cities, thereby eliminating duplication.
  - Nigeria commented they see opportunity to further strengthen NDCs under CCAC's SNAP Initiative to include methane and the initiatives also help to ensure countries with Paris commitments get the assistance they might need.
- In closing, the GMI and CCAC Chairs both acknowledged the importance of bringing people together face-to-face and that opportunities arise/flow from being together. They also recognized this meeting as a good first step to identify future topics (e.g., financing, data collection and communication, health co-benefits) and explore how best to get the biggest “bang for the buck” as the two initiatives continue to collaborate.

**Appendix A**  
**GMI Steering Committee Attendees**

Country/Organization	Participant
Argentina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sofia Machado, Embassy of Argentina (DC)</li> <li>• Alvaro Zopatti, Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development</li> </ul>
Australia	Josh Cosgrave, Department of Industry, Innovation, and Science
Brazil	Tainá Guimarães Alvarenga, Embassy of Brazil (DC)
Canada	Franck Portalupi, Environment and Climate Change Canada
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Xie Ji, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)</li> <li>• Huang Shengchu, China Coal Information Institute (CCII)</li> </ul>
Colombia	Eduardo Jose Sanchez-Sierra, Ministry of Mines and Energy
European Commission	Fabrice Varielle, European Union Delegation to the United States (DC)
Finland	Elina Rautalahti, Ministry of the Environment
Germany	Christian Müller, Federal Ministry for the Environment
Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Akosua O. Badoo, Embassy of Ghana (DC)</li> <li>• Daniel Tutu Benefoh, Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>• Peter J. Dery, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation</li> </ul>
India	A.K. Dubey, Ministry of Coal
Italy	Giulio Busulini, Embassy of Italy (DC)
Japan	Yoshinori Suga, Ministry of the Environment
Mexico	Alejandra Espinosa Mijares, Embassy of Mexico (DC)
Nigeria	Bahijjatu Abubakar, Ministry of Environment
Poland	Maciej Bialek, Ministry of Energy
United Kingdom	Alison Conboy, British Embassy (DC)
United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julie Cerqueira, U.S. Department of State</li> <li>• Pamela Franklin, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)</li> <li>• Paul Gunning, U.S. EPA</li> <li>• Janet McCabe, U.S. EPA – <i>Chair</i></li> </ul>
GMI ASG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Henry Ferland, U.S. EPA</li> <li>• Monica Shimamura, U.S. EPA</li> </ul>

**Appendix B**  
**CCAC Steering Committee Attendees\***

<b>Country/Organization</b>	<b>Participant</b>
Canada	Rita Cerutti, Environment and Climate Change Canada – <i>Chair</i> Sonja Henneman, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Center for Human Rights and Environment (CEDHA)	<i>Unknown</i>
Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)	Birgit Lode, IASS
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	Claudio Alatorre Frenk, IDB
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	Arnico Panday, ICIMOD
Norway	Kari-Anne Isaken, Ministry of Climate and Environment
CCAC Secretariat	Tatiana Kondruchina, CCAC Helena Molin Valdés, CCAC

*\*in addition to the GMI Steering Committee attendees listed in Appendix A*