



GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
16th Steering Committee Meeting
Summary
9 February 2022

Overview

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Steering Committee held its 16th meeting virtually on 9 February 2022. The meeting was chaired by Laura Farquharson, Director-General of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Acting Chair of the GMI Steering Committee, along with Vice Chairs Vinod Tiwari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Government of India and Tomás Carbonell, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Stationary Sources, EPA Office of Air and Radiation, USA. Delegates from 12 Partner Countries participated, including Argentina, Canada, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Finland, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, and the United States. A list of the participants is provided in Appendix A.

The purpose of the meeting was to welcome the new Steering Committee leadership team and new Steering Committee delegates and discuss how the GMI will move forward to achieve its goals and mandate. 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](#).

Detailed Agenda Summary

1: Welcome, Opening of the Meeting, and Brief Introductions (Acting Chair)

L. Farquharson (Acting Chair, Canada) opened the meeting.

2: Tour de Table (Meeting Participants – see Appendix A)

M. Shimamura (Secretariat) invited a representative from each country to introduce themselves.

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

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

Saudi Arabia requested a separate “onboarding” (or “orientation”) meeting for the new delegates to provide an opportunity for them to ask questions about GMI and learn more about opportunities for engagement. M. Shimamura (Secretariat) agreed that this would be valuable and committed to explore options for scheduling an onboarding session before the next Steering Committee meeting.

4: Update on GMI Activities and Subcommittee Updates

M. Shimamura (Secretariat) provided an update on GMI’s recent activities, which included renewing the charter of the GMI to May 2031, publishing a new Terms of Reference in June 2021, hosting a successful global virtual event, “Call to Action on Methane” in June 2021, developing a new Steering Leadership model, and convening a virtual “meet and greet” meeting for the Steering leadership team in December 2021.

The Co-Chairs of the GMI Subcommittees then provided highlights of activities from 2021, identified 2022 priorities, shared feedback about the future GMI, and posed questions to the Steering Committee.

- [Oil & Gas Subcommittee presentation](#) – J. Diamond (Subcommittee Co-Chair, Canada)
- [Coal Subcommittee presentation](#) – S. Huang (Subcommittee Co-Chair, China)
- [Biogas Subcommittee presentation](#) – M. Hamilton (Subcommittee Co-Chair, Canada)

The Subcommittee Co-Chairs suggested the following actions as ways in which the Steering Committee can support the work of the Subcommittees:

- Define what ‘success’ looks like for GMI and how each Subcommittee will contribute, including primary goals and priorities over the next five years.
- Clarify expectations about the relationship between, and objectives across, Steering Committee and Subcommittees.
- Clarify expectations for Partner Country participation in Subcommittee events and activities.
- Undertake a focused, concerted effort to recruit and sustain participation of Partner Country delegates in the work of the Subcommittees.
- Host a major Methane Policy Forum in 2022.
- Promote and disseminate resources and training materials.

Ecuador expressed interest in joining the Oil & Gas Subcommittee.

The Biogas Subcommittee noted that it is looking to replace the outgoing Co-Chair from Argentina and the Oil & Gas Subcommittee plans to identify one or two Co-Chairs. Interested parties are encouraged to reach out to the Secretariat for more information or to express interest in the positions.

5: Discussion - GMI Support for Ambitious Global Methane Actions

T. Carbonell (Vice Chair, United States) discussed the Global Methane Pledge that was launched at COP26 and its relevance to GMI. It was noted that although the Pledge and the GMI are distinct efforts, they are aligned with a shared goal of reducing global methane emissions. Recognizing that approximately two-thirds of GMI Partner Countries are Pledge signatories, Mr. Carbonell highlighted the importance of leveraging GMI’s networks and technical experience to capitalize on the momentum and visibility that the Pledge has brought to mitigation efforts.

T. Carbonell then led a discussion on the following question: Are there specific types of support that GMI Partners would find helpful in achieving their individual national methane mitigation goals? Points raised during discussion:

- GMI could help connect countries to avenues for financial support that would help implement methane mitigation projects. Specifically, Ecuador noted that the GMI could help identify financial support for the implementation of their oil and gas framework.
- GMI should strengthen connections with embassies and continue promoting awareness and importance of methane mitigation through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- Indonesia discussed their country’s new roadmap for biogas development.
- GMI Partners are eager to share their experiences to help others reach their methane reduction goals. They are also eager to learn from and share with other countries regarding methane-specific plans, particularly with respect to reporting.
- The Global Methane Pledge Secretariat has requested that participating countries submit methane reduction plans before the next Conference of Parties. It was suggested that GMI could host a workshop or working session for countries to discuss how they are developing these plans.
- GMI’s Project Network will be a valuable resource that GMI can bring to the table in supporting the work that countries will undertake to accomplish goals under the Pledge. As the private

sector takes on a greater role in climate action, it will be increasingly important to have them involved. GMI should strengthen its ability to tap into its Project private and public sector, including financial opportunities.

- GMI was encouraged to continue to work with Strategic Partners to support project identification and implementation, communicate technical advances that can help reduce methane emissions, and advance measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) as well as prefeasibility studies to support Partner Country action.

Action items:

- The Secretariat and Steering leadership will reconvene to consider these suggestions for supporting countries with Global Methane Pledge commitments, including:
 - Options for connecting countries with financial opportunities to implement methane mitigation projects
 - Hosting workshops or forums to facilitate preparation of methane mitigation plans under the Pledge

6: Discussion: What should GMI aim to achieve within the next 1 to 5 years?

L. Farquharson acknowledged prior strategic planning work undertaken by the Steering Committee. She provided an overview of GMI priorities identified through this prior work and asked the Steering Committee to confirm whether these priorities still reflected general goals for GMI:

- Collaborate and align with key Strategic Partners to foster high-profile opportunities
- Continue to engage with the private sector
- Position GMI as a “methane resource center”

Below is a summary of the priorities discussed at the meeting.

Priority 1: Collaborate and align with key Strategic Partners to foster high-profile opportunities

- Growing carbon markets around the world will be important sources of financial support for action on the ground to reduce methane, and are likely to provide economic incentives for the private sector to take action.
- Strategic Partner organizations including the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the International Energy Agency (IEA) should be invited to participate in future meetings of the Steering Committee to foster collaboration and avoid duplication.
- GMI should focus on highlighting its long history of work in methane mitigation as a strength when identifying its “niche” in the international methane space.
- Activities listed under this priority remain relevant and participants recommended that GMI use the strength of its networks to make sure the right people are engaged. Articulating GMI’s niche can ensure appropriate collaboration with others.
- GMI should develop a framework for how it will make assistance available to individual countries seeking consultation on methane mitigation, perhaps through webinars or in-person meetings.

Priority 2: Continue to engage with the private sector

- There is an opportunity for GMI to act as a “matchmaker” to bring together solution providers and those who have successfully implemented mitigation strategies with those looking for assistance.
- GMI should explore options to engage the private sector (Project Network members), such as through an advisory board.

Priority 3: Position GMI as a “methane resource center”

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not discussed at length. No objections were raised regarding the list of potential activities presented in the slides.

Engagement Strategy

- The Secretariat proposes to develop an “engagement strategy” for GMI.
- Several countries indicated support for an engagement strategy.
- The Secretariat could be tasked to draft an engagement strategy, or convene a task force to do so, within the next six months.

Action Items:

- The Secretariat will:
 - Use the priorities discussed during the meeting and suggestions from delegates shared during the discussion to draft a full Action Plan for GMI.
 - Draft an engagement strategy, potentially with the help of a task force.
 - Invite Strategic Partners to participate in future GMI Steering Committee meetings.

7: Discussion: Plans for the Global Methane Forum 2022

V. Tiwari (Vice Chair, India) provided an update on the upcoming Global Methane Forum, organized jointly with the CCAC, and tentatively planned to take place in Washington, D.C. from 3-6 October 2022.

M. Shimamura noted that the Secretariat is interested in hearing from Steering delegates about ideas for topics and speakers and asked that delegates send suggestions to the Secretariat at

secretariat@globalmethane.org.

Action Items:

- Delegates to share ideas for Global Methane Forum topics or speakers with the Secretariat.
- The Secretariat will share the draft agenda.

8: Wrap Up and Closing Remarks

In summary, the following action items were agreed to:

- Encouraging increased engagement by Partner Country delegates in Subcommittee activities is crucial and Steering Committee members can help by encouraging active participation from their countries on Subcommittees.
- The Secretariat will plan for the next Steering Committee meeting in May of June 2022.

APPENDIX A

Meeting Participants (37)

Bempah, Juliana – Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana
Betancur, Ana Maria Guevara – Ministry of Energy and Non-Renewable Natural Resources, Ecuador
Blackband, Jessica – Tetra Tech, United States
Carbonell, Tomas – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Castano Lujan, Lina Maria – Colombia Ministry of Mines and Energy, Colombia
De Kerckhove, Diane – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Diamond, James – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Elger, Nicholas – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Farquharson, Laura – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Frankiewicz, Thomas – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Franklin, Pamela – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Hamilton, Matthew – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Harrower, Dougie – Tetra Tech, United States
Hilbert, Jorge – National Institute of Agriculture Technology, Argentina
Huang, Lan – China Coal Information Institute, China
Huang, Selina – China Coal Energy Group, China
Huang, Shengchu – China Coal Strategies Research Center, China
Jiaye, Han – China Coal Information Institute, China
Kealey, Chelsea – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Kerr, Jennifer – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Kholiq, Muhammad Abdul – Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology, Indonesia
Kumar, Manoj – Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd, India
Kupiainen, Kaarle – Finland Ministry of the Environment, Finland
Mehandzic, Dragana – Ministry of Energy, Development and Environment, Serbia
Meluch, Andrew – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Menassian, Sarah – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
McGill, Cathy – Tetra Tech, United States
Musa, Faisal – Ministry of Energy, Saudi Arabia
Patra, Chiranjib – Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd, India
Rochberg, Daniel – U.S. Department of State, United States
Roshchanka, Volha – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Shimamura, Monica – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Subaie, Abdullah – Ministry of Energy, Saudi Arabia
Tie, Wang – China Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China
Tiwari, Vinod Kumar – Ministry of Coal, India
Yingchun, Zhao – China Coal Information Institute, China
Yadav, Ravi Shankar – Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd, India



**APPENDIX B
AGENDA**

**GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
Steering Committee Meeting
9 February 2022**

Wednesday, 9 February 2022

Agenda 1	Welcome, Opening of Meeting and Brief Introductions (<i>Tour de Table</i>) <i>Laura Farquharson, Director-General of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Canada; GMI Acting Steering Committee Chair</i>
Agenda 2	Brief Introductions (<i>Tour de Table</i>) <i>GMI Secretariat</i>
Agenda 3	Meeting Objectives; Adoption of Agenda <i>Laura Farquharson</i>
Agenda 4	Update on GMI Activities and Subcommittee Updates <i>Monica Shimamura, Director, GMI Secretariat</i> <i>James Diamond, Oil & Gas Subcommittee Co-Chair</i> <i>Shengchu Huang, Coal Mines Subcommittee Co-Chair</i> <i>Matt Hamilton, Biogas Subcommittee Co-Chair</i>
Agenda 5	Discussion: How can GMI support Partners in achieving ambitious global methane emission reduction goals, such as the Global Methane Pledge? <i>Tomás Carbonell, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Stationary Sources, EPA Office of Air and Radiation; GMI Steering Committee Vice Chair</i>
Agenda 6	Discussion: What should GMI aim to achieve within the next 1 to 5 years? <i>Laura Farquharson</i>
Agenda 7	Discussion: Plans for the Global Methane Forum 2022 <i>Vinod Kumar Tiwari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Government of India; GMI Steering Committee Vice Chair; with support from Monica Shimamura</i>
Agenda 8	Wrap Up and Closing Remarks <i>Laura Farquharson</i>
Agenda 9	Adjourn