

GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
9TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Mexico City, Mexico
December 8, 2017

GMI9/Doc.3

**Strategic Planning - Update
Discussion Paper**

I. Purpose

This discussion paper provides an update on progress made toward the strategic objectives to which the Steering Committee agreed during its June 2017 meeting. The paper provides an overview of the three strategic objectives, milestones, and next steps, to be discussed during the December 2017 meeting.

II. Background

GMI's approach to reducing methane emissions over its 12-year history has been based upon providing a platform for exchange of information among country and private sector partners to promote cost-effective methane mitigation in key sectors. Efforts undertaken under the auspices of GMI by partner countries and through multilateral engagements within the Subcommittees included increasing technical understanding of emission sources, mitigation technologies, and practices; improving understanding of policies and legal structures that provide incentives to mitigate methane; and identifying opportunities to finance methane mitigation activities.

Since the GMI was established in 2004 (originally known as the Methane to Markets Partnership), the international awareness of the importance of methane and the opportunities and available technologies for its mitigation have all evolved significantly. The GMI has a proven track record, with about 1,100 methane mitigation projects are operational around the world due to the efforts of GMI Partners, and over \$90 million in funding and financing of methane mitigation projects have been made possible through activities under the auspices of GMI. The GMI also collaborated with the World Bank in launching the Pilot Auction Facility for Methane and Climate Change¹, which has now been successfully tested as an innovative financing mechanism for methane projects.

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) was launched in 2012 specifically to address short-lived climate pollutants, including methane, black carbon and hydrofluorocarbons, through voluntary collaborative efforts. CCAC methane-specific initiatives, especially the Oil & Gas Methane Partnership and the Municipal Solid Waste Initiative city-focused efforts, have been successful in part due to the technical expertise that GMI provided.

Through its 2016 re-charter, the GMI partners sought to re-orient its mission to acknowledge the additional actors and alliances focused on methane mitigation. The 2016 re-charter event held during the Global Methane Forum in Washington, D.C. featured speeches from high-ranking officials representing both the CCAC and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), emphasizing the common goals of these organizations.

¹ http://www.globalmethane.org/tools-resources/worldbank_pilotauctionfacility.aspx.

During its June 2017 meeting, the Steering Committee agreed GMI would benefit from defining a strategic direction on which to base its future efforts in a manner consistent with the new GMI charter and the CCACA/UNECE alliance.

III. Current Status

Several of the efforts associated with the strategic objectives have been initiated, such as GMI subcommittees charged with initiating menu of options during meetings held with broader sector-related conferences and April 2018 Global Methane Forum planning. Appendix A provides an overview of the agreed-upon strategic objectives as well as status of certain efforts.

IV. Items for Steering Committee Discussion/Consideration

1. What should be GMI's priorities going forward—and in what order (e.g., before, during or after the Global Methane Forum)?
 - a. Finalize menu of options (e.g., sector-specific best practices) and post on GMI website.
 - b. Develop short paper on how to systematize and enhance collaboration with CCAC (and potentially UNECE).
 - c. Explore ways that GMI partners can collaborate to promote awareness of methane, collectively and/or individually
 - d. Initiate an annual reporting process.

Appendix A

Strategic Objectives for 2017 -2018

Proposed Approach	Initiatives	Anticipated Outputs /Milestones	Expected Results	Status
Strategic Objective #1: Support ambitious domestic and international action on methane mitigation through enhanced focus on policy development, information sharing and knowledge dissemination				
Capacity building focusing on policy, legislation and regulations, including assessment of regional approaches	Initiate the development of a “menu of options” for methane mitigation across the five GMI sectors, drawing upon existing materials wherever applicable including: international benchmarks for key sectors, best management practices, policy and mitigation options, and the corresponding approaches to monitoring/ tracking/ reporting on those activities	Menu of options (e.g., sector-specific best practices) disseminated on GMI website	Increased awareness of methane mitigation actions within and beyond GMI	Following the June 2017 Steering Committee meeting, GMI subcommittees were charged with initiating the development of a “menu of options” on methane mitigation across the five GMI sectors, drawing upon existing materials wherever applicable, including: best management practices, policy and mitigation options, and corresponding approaches to monitoring / tracking / reporting on those activities.
	Develop case studies/workshops on deployment of clean technology solutions that effectively recover and use methane from certain sectors	Workshops to be held at 2018 Global Methane Forum and other sector-specific events	GMI Partner Countries develop policies, plans, legislation or regulations to reduce methane emissions Identification of potential future Partner Countries	This would be included as part of the agendas for the technical sessions to be held during the Global Methane Forum which are being developed by the sub-committees. The afternoon sessions could focus on “domestic mitigation case studies and international collaboration.”

Proposed Approach	Initiatives	Anticipated Outputs /Milestones	Expected Results	Status
Facilitate and promote the inclusion of methane mitigation strategies in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) submissions or national GHG reduction plans	Initiate a “gap analysis” on current initiatives to support GMI Partner Countries to include methane mitigation in NDC submissions or national mitigation plans, and identify ways to address these gaps, including through collaboration with partners (e.g., identifying progress already underway through CCAC’s Significant National Action Planning [SNAP] Initiative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile methane mitigation-related information from publicly-available GMI Partner Countries’ NDCs. • Develop/conduct an electronic survey of GMI Partner Countries to fill in gaps (e.g., identified in publicly-available information). • Draft preliminary findings and discuss challenges and potential solutions within GMI and with key partner organizations (e.g., CCAC, UNECE) • Submit final report to Steering Committee (2018 +) 	Common understanding of challenges and identification of concrete solutions to facilitate inclusion of methane mitigation in NDCs	The ASG has compiled/reviewed the publicly-available GMI Partner Countries’ NDCs (e.g., only 7 of the 43 Partners have specified methane-related activities in GMI sectors).
Strategic Objective #2: Continue building international momentum on methane mitigation through enhanced collaboration with key partners and initiatives, including CCAC, researchers and the private sector				
Hold a joint flagship event with CCAC and UNECE	Hold a Global Methane Forum 2018 in conjunction with CCAC and UNECE	Hold event in April 2018	Increased global awareness of methane mitigation	Scheduled for April 16-18, 2018
Systematically co-locate / co-brand and hold joint meetings with key partner organizations	Develop and maintain GMI subcommittee meeting calendar in collaboration with key partner organizations	Post collaborative meeting calendar on GMI website	Increased participation in GMI subcommittee meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2017: GMI Oil & Gas Subcommittee meeting held in conjunction with Global Petroleum Show in Calgary, Canada. • September 2017: GMI Biogas Subcommittee meeting held in conjunction with ISWA World Congress/SWANA WASTECON 2017 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. • October 2017: GMI Coal Subcommittee meeting held in conjunction with UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane in Geneva, Switzerland.

Proposed Approach	Initiatives	Anticipated Outputs /Milestones	Expected Results	Status
Continue building the relationship with CCAC	Develop a short paper on how to systematize and enhance collaboration with CCAC (and potentially UNECE)	Paper to be submitted to GMI Steering Committee and shared with CCAC	Increased alignment with key partner organizations	Under consideration
Explore possibility to engage multiple private and government stakeholders in increasing global momentum	Explore possibility to hold a “Year of Methane Awareness” and launch a high ambition coalition on methane through GMI with CCAC, G7/G20, etc.	Potential “Year of Methane Awareness” and international coalition could be launched during the Global Methane Forum	GMI Partner Countries make ambitious commitments for methane reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year of Methane awareness under consideration. High ambition coalition was explored, but did not appear as the best mean to help increase engagement and momentum on methane mitigation given variety of initiatives on methane already in place.
Strategic Objective #3: Explore options to strengthen the GMI’s financial capacity and transparency				
N/A	Initiate an annual reporting process that might include subcommittee activities, key projects, and other events	Annual report 2017-2018	Increased transparency and awareness of GMI activities	Reporting process under consideration
	Continue improving / maintaining the GMI website	On-going		Website improvement on-going
	Continue looking for sponsors to showcase technology or projects at GMI meetings and events	On-going	Sustained financial capacity to host meetings and events	Unfortunately, no sponsors can be accepted for the Global Methane Forum given the policies of the government of Canada as host of the events.