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GMI2/Doc.2

GMI's Relationship with CCAC Discussion Paper

I. Purpose

The purpose of this discussion paper is to provide a venue to discuss optimal Global Methane Initiative (GMI) collaboration with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs). In other words, how can each of these international partnerships mutually support the other and achieve the largest possible methane emission reductions?

II. Background on the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) is a voluntary partnership uniting governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and representatives of civil society in the first global effort to treat SLCPs as a collective challenge. Recognizing that mitigating the impacts of SLCPs is critical in the near term for addressing climate change, six countries and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched the CCAC in February 2012, with the objective of supporting fast action to mitigate methane, black carbon, and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). As of February 2013, the Coalition, which is open to countries and non-state actors committed to taking action on SLCPs, has listed 28 state partners on its website (of which, 19 are also GMI Partners¹). – See www.unep.org/ccac for additional information.

To date, the CCAC has collected more than \$14 million in pledges to its Trust Fund administered by UNEP, which serves as the secretariat for the Coalition. The funding is to be used primarily for technical work to support the initiatives as well as for the secretariat functions.

The CCAC has formally launched seven initiatives aiming to accelerate emission reductions of black carbon, methane, and HFCs. Two of these CCAC initiatives have a strong focus on methane mitigation and both are already seeing significant scaling-up opportunities:

- ***Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management Initiative***: This initiative works to address methane, black carbon, and other air pollutants emissions across the MSW sector by working directly with cities and national governments. Through this initiative, the CCAC will work with cities to identify and facilitate a variety of efforts, including capping and closing open dumps, capturing and utilizing landfill gas, and ensuring proper waste handling and organics management. The CCAC is engaging municipal and national governments to reduce emissions of methane and black carbon across the waste sector and will deploy technical assistance to develop appropriate waste management plans and action-oriented projects focused on emissions reductions; and to bring cities and countries together to share best practices, highlight success

¹ Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, United Kingdom, United States, and The European Commission

stories, and encourage city-to-city mentoring. The methane reduction aspects of this initiative build upon the work of the GMI MSW Subcommittee including its recently developed best practices guidance document. The CCAC partners leading the initiative include the US, Canada, Mexico, the World Bank, UNEP, and the C40 Cities in collaboration with the Clinton Climate Initiative. The first phase of the initiative will focus on working with approximately 10 cities to guide the development of a robust framework for action, including both cities that need direct technical assistance as well as cities that will play a mentoring role.

- ***Accelerating Methane and Black Carbon Reductions from Oil and Natural Gas Production:*** This initiative seeks to work with key stakeholders to encourage cooperation and support the implementation of new and existing measures to substantially reduce methane emissions from natural gas venting, leakage, and flaring. This initiative is intended to work directly with oil and gas companies to assist them in identifying and reducing these emissions through voluntary commitments. This initiative builds upon the technical expertise and industry knowledge of GMI, the Natural Gas STAR International Program, and the Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership. The key CCAC partners leading this initiative include the US, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, Italy, France, Australia, Canada, Mexico, UNEP, and the World Bank.

It is important to note the genesis of these two initiatives and their intrinsic relationship with GMI. In fact, these two initiatives were conceived of, proposed, and designed by GMI Partner Countries based upon the technical expertise, work, and experiences of the GMI efforts in these sectors. These two CCAC initiatives are intended to build upon the accomplishments of GMI in their respective sectors and to leverage the high-level political will created by the CCAC to scale up the potential emissions reductions achievable in these sectors. Furthermore, because of the expanded scope of CCAC, these initiatives are broader than GMI activities; in addition to methane they also include important elements to address black carbon emissions.

Another CCAC initiative that has been endorsed by the Working Group and is still being formulated focuses on national action planning to pursue optimal SLCP mitigation policies at the national level, including opportunities to reduce methane emissions. There is clearly a potential for mutually beneficial coordination with GMI through the GMI Partner Action Plans, which are focused on methane mitigation opportunities [see GMI2.Doc1]. Further, the CCAC initiative on “Financing Mitigation of SLCPs” is working to explore opportunities to catalyze financing for methane capture projects. This work could dovetail with GMI’s technical work on pre-feasibility studies and other actions to queue up methane projects for financing [see GMI2.Doc3.]

In addition, there is broad interest across the CCAC membership in developing an initiative focused on the agriculture sector. While this initiative is still at the formative stage and it is unclear if it will have any overlap with the GMI Agriculture Sector activities, this is also a potential area of further mutually-beneficial collaboration with GMI. Further, it is possible that in the future the CCAC might wish to undertake action in other sectors in which the GMI is active, namely coal mining and wastewater.

III. Potential Opportunities for Beneficial Joint Engagement

GMI and CCAC share some characteristics as voluntary, non-binding international public-private partnerships. They have clearly aligned interests in focusing on methane emissions reductions, and they have some overlap in partner country membership.

Yet they are distinct initiatives with complementary missions. The CCAC has a broader scope that includes three diverse short-lived climate forcers, while GMI has a more targeted focus on methane in specific sectors. GMI has a more clearly defined structure vis-à-vis the sector-focused technical

subcommittees that have each articulated a plan of action to overcome barriers to methane emissions reductions across each sector. GMI has established a “brand” for its work based on its strong track record since 2004 of project identification and technical assessments, tool and resource development, and capacity building and training.

As noted above, the individual CCAC initiatives, in particular the MSW and oil & gas sector initiatives which have a strong methane emissions reduction component, have already benefitted greatly from GMI input, experience, technical expertise, tools, and resources. Furthermore, the GMI Methane Expo event itself is expected to serve as a catalyst for bringing together parties interested in focusing on the MSW and oil & gas initiative as well as methane financing efforts led by the World Bank.

The CCAC also offers potential opportunities for GMI to become even more successful in achieving its mission to reduce global methane emissions – by raising the profile of the need for, benefits, and results of methane reductions globally, by increasing access to new strategic partners, and (potentially) by providing a way to access or leverage additional resources or efforts directed at reducing methane emissions.

First, the CCAC has been extremely successful in garnering high-level attention and political will to the issue of short-lived climate pollutants, including methane. For example, the launch of CCAC was hosted by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and US EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and was attended by UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner and environment ministers from four countries. Subsequent CCAC events at the Rio+20 environmental sustainability conference in Rio de Janeiro (June 2012) and on the margins of the UNFCCC negotiations in Doha, Qatar (December 2012) also attracted ministers and other luminaries. Through the CCAC oil & gas initiative, over a dozen ministers from countries around the world released a statement in January calling for accelerated action to substantially reduce venting, leakage, and flaring of natural gas from oil and gas operations worldwide. It has been difficult for GMI to garner this level of political attention, and it would be beneficial to leverage this international attention and momentum to the extremely important issue of methane mitigation. Thus, by raising the profile of SLCPs and methane, the CCAC provides GMI an opportunity to expand its outreach potential and strengthen its ability to communicate to a larger and more diverse audience.

Secondly, CCAC provides an opportunity for GMI to engage with new strategic partnerships that can help expand and deepen the impact of the GMI’s work. CCAC’s engagement of many high-profile partners in methane-emitting sectors, such as mayors of major cities, large multinational and national oil & gas companies, and multilateral development banks, presents an opportunity for the GMI to reach and work with influential stakeholders, many of whom have not to date been active participants in the GMI.

Third, CCAC has the potential to dedicate financial or in-kind resources towards activities that promote methane reductions, consistent with GMI’s mission. To this extent, its activities can be seen as augmenting existing GMI efforts. CCAC has been successful in fundraising significant monies from several partners, and through its Trust Fund can disseminate funding to the CCAC-approved initiatives. To the extent that methane-related initiatives receive funding, this provides a clear benefit in promoting methane reduction activities that are aligned with GMI’s mission, and may directly support the stated goals of GMI sector action plans and Partner Countries’ national action plans. For example, the MSW initiative is seeking funding from the CCAC Trust Fund to engage in city-specific efforts and in fact has already received an initial tranche of funding to initiate work on a knowledge platform to facilitate information sharing. In the future there is the possibility of additional funding and other non-monetary resources becoming available to support existing or new methane-related initiatives. GMI Partner Countries that are also involved in the CCAC and these methane-related CCAC initiatives, may be able to take advantage of the mutually-supportive goals of the two partnerships and amplify their methane abatement actions and their impacts (See GMI2.Doc3). Aside from GMI Partner Countries’ direct

engagement in CCAC activities, ongoing activities of the CCAC methane-related initiatives such as workshops, trainings, and information sharing could be made available to GMI Partner Countries and the partner network, thus leveraging the efforts and making them even more effective.

IV. Further GMI / CCAC Collaboration

GMI has now built a unique voluntary international multilateral effort that focuses exclusively on the reduction of global methane emissions. Over the past eight years, GMI Partner Countries and Project Network members have worked together to build capacity around the world to identify and address methane reduction opportunities in the five sectors now targeted by GMI. The Initiative has developed a network of expertise, technological solutions and governmental institutions that have been instrumental in achieving significant methane reductions. Through its institutional expertise and network of key actors, GMI is well positioned to work jointly with the new CCAC to continue to push for increased methane reductions.

The CCAC brings new high-level political attention to the need for methane reduction (along with other SLCPs) and through its new initiatives, brings new partners with new approaches that can help GMI in its methane-focused mission. The GMI Subcommittees are well positioned to work jointly with CCAC on the MSW and Oil & Gas initiatives to provide technical expertise, to provide institutional knowledge and to help by communicating with appropriate government-level and company-level contacts within the GMI network. Additionally, GMI could provide input on SLCP National Action Planning and ideally utilize country methane action plans as a first step towards development of broader SLCP action plans, if appropriate.

To date, communications across the two initiatives have been extensive, but ad hoc and could be strengthened further. The GMI Administrative Support Group (ASG) has been providing informal updates on CCAC activities to GMI Partner Countries and Project Network members via updates at Subcommittee meetings and Webinars based on reports from direct US government engagement in CCAC meetings. The two methane-focused initiatives already underway (MSW and Oil & Gas production) have been integrally built upon the GMI expertise and include GMI Partners as key actors. However, at the broader coalition level (e.g., the CCAC Working Group² meetings), there has been no official representation of GMI. While there are a number of CCAC partners that are also GMI Partners, there is not a clear understanding of the distinct roles or linkages between GMI activities and the CCAC, particularly as they pertain to key methane sources. Robust engagement and communication between GMI and the CCAC working group about past, ongoing, and future GMI activities would help to mutually reinforce the two initiatives. This communication would enable the exchange of best practices, coordination and collaboration on the design of new initiatives that may have a methane mitigation focus (e.g., agriculture or other future initiatives), or in the SLCP-themed cross-cutting activities of the CCAC such as national action planning, finance, and outreach & communication, to achieve maximum impacts drawing on each initiative's strengths.

As GMI moves forward and continues to explore additional mechanisms and approaches for increasing methane reductions, continued communication and collaboration with CCAC will present ever increasing opportunities and benefits. There are at least four areas of mutual interest that the GMI ASG has identified:

² The CCAC Working Group meets several times per year to discuss broad cross cutting issues of the Coalition, hear progress on the initiatives, and makes funding recommendations to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee consists of a subset of the Working Group and makes final decisions on funding for specific initiatives. The Working Group reports out to the High-Level Assembly (Minister Level) which meets once or twice per year.

- **Existing initiatives that are methane focused** (e.g., the ongoing MSW and oil & gas initiatives). It is important to continue to track these activities and communicate them to the relevant GMI subcommittees to ensure that those efforts are complementary and not duplicative of what has been done or is being planned through GMI, which can be tracked through GMI sector and national methane action plans. In particular, communication and understanding about the planned CCAC funding streams for methane-related activities will be critical for GMI planning at the subcommittee (sector) and national levels. GMI sub-committees may also wish to provide inputs and guidance to the relevant CCAC initiatives, and perhaps engage in formal partnerships with the CCAC to maximize benefits to both the GMI and the CCAC.
- **Potential new initiatives that have a methane component.** New CCAC initiatives focusing on agriculture and financing provide new opportunities for increasing engagement and advancing the goals of both GMI and CCAC. It would be beneficial for GMI to be engaged in the design of these initiatives from the outset so that they build upon existing work to maximize effectiveness.
- **SLCP National Action Planning.** The GMI Methane action plans at the sectoral and national level are based on strategic planning and should be integrated into the CCAC SLCP national action planning processes as a key component, to alleviate duplication of efforts.
- **Communications and Outreach.** CCAC and GMI each have a robust communications infrastructure and set of partners contributing to broader awareness. By working together on outreach, CCAC and GMI could potentially reach new and larger audiences and mutually reinforce each other's messaging regarding a range of activities, priorities, and results.

The Steering Committee may want to consider how to better communicate across the two partnerships in the future and how to ensure that GMI makes maximum use of any new opportunities that arise through CCAC to achieve the overall goal of maximizing methane emissions reductions globally.

V. **Items for Steering Committee Consideration**

The Steering Committee is asked to consider the following on future, optimal collaboration with the CCAC:

1. How can GMI and CCAC continue to expand areas of mutual collaboration to the benefit of both initiatives and respective partners of each effort, and most importantly to overall global methane reduction opportunities?
2. Are there ways to strengthen information flow and sharing between GMI and CCAC about relevant methane-related activities, e.g., through a more formalized relationship or mode of communication between the two entities?