



GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
13th Steering Committee Meeting Summary
2-3 December 2020

Overview

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Steering Committee held its 13th meeting virtually on 2-3 December 2020. The meeting was chaired by Helen Ryan, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Branch, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Chair of the GMI Steering Committee. Representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Ecuador, European Commission, Finland, Germany, Ghana, India, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, and the United States participated in the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss key questions about the future of GMI and make decisions on how to prepare for the re-chartering of GMI in 2021. The discussions were informed by feedback provided by the Executive Task Force, which met during the summer of 2020 to discuss possible options for the GMI Steering Committee to consider. Steering Committee participants engaged in open discussions and interactive feedback exercises to provide their input and recommendations. The presentations for the meeting and other materials discussed during the meeting are available on the [GMI website](#).

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

Day 1: 2 December 2020

Agenda 1: Welcome, Opening of the Meeting (Chair)

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

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

The meeting objectives were approved, and the agenda was adopted. M. Shimamura (GMI Secretariat) reviewed background information about the Executive Task Force.

Agenda 4: Updates and Perspectives of Subcommittees

Co-Chairs of the GMI Subcommittees provided highlights of activities from 2020, identified 2021 priorities, and shared feedback and recommendations about the future GMI.

- [Biogas Subcommittee presentation](#) – M. Hamilton (Subcommittee Co-Chair, Canada)
- [Oil & Gas Subcommittee presentation](#) – J. Diamond (Subcommittee Co-Chair, Canada)
- [Coal Subcommittee presentation](#) – V. Roshchanka (Subcommittee Co-Chair, US)

The Subcommittees provided the Steering Committee with the following key suggestions regarding the future of GMI:

- Foster cross-sector collaboration and resource development.
- Consider a less formal structure for GMI's Subcommittees to maximize participation by sector experts and other non-governmental members.
- Design GMI's mandate to be as flexible as possible to accommodate changes in policy and advances in technology.

- Expand collaboration with other international efforts for methane mitigation and look for ways to increase participation from Partner Countries and non-government entities.
- Extend GMI's charter for another 10 years, extend the Global Methane Challenge for another two years, and support an UN Decade of Methane Management.

Agenda 5: Leveraging Strategic Partnerships to Improve Collaboration

H. Ryan (Chair) discussed GMI's strategic partnerships and opportunities for collaboration.

- Participants indicated strong support for formalizing GMI's engagement with like-minded organizations. Specific organizations cited included the World Bank, the International Energy Agency (IEA), and the Arctic Council (especially work groups related to methane and short-lived climate pollutants).
- Participants also agreed to continue GMI's strategic partnership with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the UNECE.
- Participants also emphasized that GMI should pursue a balance of formal and informal partnerships to ensure that GMI is able to maintain flexibility in collaboration.
- Strong support was expressed for exploring further opportunities to collaborate with sector-specific or environmental groups.
- Participants recommended that GMI leverage the strengths of partner organizations to focus GMI's efforts on the work that is unique to GMI, such as developing programs.
- Participants recommended that GMI establish a joint committee with CCAC to develop an outline of action for collaboration.

Action Items:

- GMI Secretariat to:
 - Reach out to the World Bank, IEA, and the Arctic Council to determine their interest in a formal strategic partnership with GMI.
 - Explore ways to include Strategic Partners in portions of the Steering Committee meetings (for example, a "Partners Session").
 - Facilitate engagement with Nigeria. (*Post-meeting note: the Oil & Gas Subcommittee recently invited three representatives of Nigeria's Department of Petroleum Resources to participate as Subcommittee members.*)
- GMI Subcommittees to identify sector-specific and informal organizations to collaborate with and determine their interest.

Agenda 6: United Nations Declaration for an International Year or Decade of Methane Management

H. Ryan (Chair) outlined options for GMI's potential role in supporting an UN International Year or Decade of Methane Management.

- Participants affirmed their strong support for GMI's participation in an UN Declaration for Methane Management, whether for a year or a decade.
- Participants expressed far greater support for a decade rather than a year. There was general support for conducting outreach to promote the declaration, preparing the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declaration, developing the program of activities, and implementing one or more activities.
- It was noted that not all Steering Committee participants were able to make commitments on behalf of their countries.
- Canada recommended that "front loading" GMI efforts in the early years of an International Decade would allow for strategic use of GMI's resources.

- Germany suggested that it may be beneficial to consider a year rather than a decade to give room for promoting action on other greenhouse gases of international concern, such as CO₂.

Action Items:

- GMI Secretariat to continue discussions with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and CCAC to help identify countries that would be willing to do one or both of the following:
 - introduce the resolution at the 2021 UNGA meeting
 - act as a “champion” in the months leading up to that meeting.
- GMI Secretariat to begin to develop a “Program of Activities” that GMI could implement.
- GMI Secretariat to investigate if any other similar resolutions are being planned that might overlap with the strategic purpose of a “Decade of Methane Management.”

Agenda 7: Wrap up/Plan for Session 2

H. Ryan (Chair) provided a recap of the decisions of the day and adjourned the meeting.

Day 2: 3 December 2020

Agenda 8: Welcome, Opening of the Meeting

H. Ryan (Chair) opened the meeting. M. Shimamura (GMI Secretariat) provided a recap of discussions from Session 1.

Agenda 9: Secretariat Update

M. Shimamura (GMI Secretariat) provided highlights of activities in 2020 which included the redesign of GMI’s website to be launched soon, GMI’s pivot to virtual meetings for the Executive Task Force and the Subcommittees, and successful outreach campaigns that have increased the number of mailing list subscribers and social media followers.

Agenda 10: Role of Global Methane Challenge Moving Forward

D. Mulholland (GMI Secretariat) reviewed the status of the Global Methane Challenge and its future role in GMI.

- Strong support was expressed for extending the program through 2022.
- Participants were in favor of developing a recognition or awards element and developing “how to” best practices guide based on Challenge submissions.
- Germany noted that rewards or recognition may attract a broader audience.
- The European Commission advised that there are several institutions working in the methane space, noting that there may be opportunities for collaboration.

Action Items:

- GMI Secretariat to explore options for incorporating a recognition or awards element and developing a how to guide.

Agenda 11: Re-Chartering of the GMI

M. Shimamura (GMI Secretariat) and J. Kerr (Canada) reviewed options for the re-chartering of GMI.

- Considerations about re-chartering timelines and GMI priorities were discussed along with their benefits and potential limitations.
- As an organization, there may be an opportunity to promote the inclusion of methane strategies into country planning; for example, integration into tracking and reporting activities.

- It was noted that global methane emission reductions are urgently needed, and that GMI should consider how to integrate this urgency into its messaging and programs.
- The group discussed GMI's role in the international methane space:
 - GMI's technical strengths should continue to be highlighted.
 - GMI and CCAC share similar goals, though CCAC is complementary and different from GMI; if GMI decides not to extend its charter, its work would not be picked up by the CCAC.
 - GMI has achieved significant emission reductions through projects
- There is strong interest in strengthening how GMI positions itself; GMI needs to distinguish how it is different from other organizations and streamline its messaging in the coming decade.
- General consensus was expressed for a 10-year extension of the GMI charter to 2031, with a potential five-year "check-in" for potential revisions
- Discussion about the priorities of GMI coalesced around collaborating with key strategic partners to foster high-profile opportunities, continuing to engage with the private sector, positioning GMI as a "methane hub," and focusing on opportunities to deliver technical solutions for methane mitigation, particularly in countries requesting assistance.

Action Items:

- GMI Secretariat to:
 - Assess key questions about GMI: who we are, why we matter, and how we are different than other organizations, and investigate methods to communicate these messages to a broad audience.
 - Follow up with the EU and other countries on opportunities to connect organizations looking to implement methane reductions with those looking to receive support in achieving methane reductions.
 - Prepare for the re-chartering of GMI, including drafting of a new Terms of Reference, to deliver to the Steering Committee for consideration.

Agenda 12: GMI Governance

H. Ryan (Chair) outlined options and considerations regarding GMI's governance structure.

- The Steering Committee discussed ways to improve its governance structure to increase engagement with Partners and to be adaptive.
- Discussion under this topic included consideration of different leadership models (two co-chairs versus a chair/vice-chair model) as well as potential options revisiting the status of inactive Partner Countries.
- GMI will be seeking a new co-chair or vice-chair depending on the Steering Committee's decision on potential changes to the governance model.
- There was general support for expanding the Steering Committee membership beyond Partner country delegates ; it was noted that implementation will require additional discussion.
- The group supports the Secretariat exploring the chair/vice-chair model and the inclusion of Partner Organizations on the Steering Committee; however, additional clarity is needed on whether non-Partner organizations should serve as delegates to the Subcommittees.

Action Items:

- GMI Secretariat to develop a "think piece" regarding Steering Committee membership and potential changes to the co-chair model.

Agenda 13: Global Methane Forum

M. Shimamura (GMI Secretariat) outlined options for the next Global Methane Forum.

- Consensus was reached to proceed with planning a virtual event in 2021 and to begin preparations for an in-person Global Methane Forum event in 2022, providing it is safe to meet in-person.
- It was noted that virtual platforms are helping to increase the participation of Steering Committee members, as well as Subcommittee members. A suggestion was made to consider blended events (in-person and virtual) in the future.

Action Items:

- GMI Secretariat to commence planning for a virtual event in 2021.

Agenda 14 and 15: Next Steps and Closing Remarks

H. Ryan (Chair) reviewed key decisions and thanked participants for their time and participation, noting that the input and decisions provided will be invaluable in shaping the future of the GMI.

The meeting was adjourned.

APPENDIX A

Meeting Participants (40)

Alpert, Alice – U.S. Department of State, United States
Atodo, Joseph – Nigerian High Commission Ottawa, Nigeria
Besch, Brianna – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Bialek, Maciej – Poland Ministry of Energy, Poland
Buenaño, Xavier – Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment and Water, Ecuador
de Kerckhove, Diane – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Devlin, Brendan – Directorate General for Energy, European Commission
Diamond, James – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Elger, Nicholas – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Frankiewicz, Tom – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Franklin, Pamela – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Grajales Campos, Diego A. – Ministry of Mines and Energy, Colombia
Grundler, Chris – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Guevara, Ana María – Social y Desarrollo de Hidrocarburos y Minas, Ecuador
Hamilton, Matt – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Hilbert, Jorge – National Agricultural Technology Institute, Argentina
Inamov, Nuritdin – International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, Russia
Jiaye, Han – China Coal Information Institute, China
Kealey, Chelsea – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Keating-Bitonti, Caitlin – U.S. Department of State, United States
Kerr, Jennifer – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Kupiainen, Kaarle – Finland
Lan, Huang – China
Lochan, Rajiw – Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd., India
Maria Castano Lujan, Lina – Ministry of Mines and Energy, Colombia
McGirl, Cathy – Tetra Tech, United States
Melo, Paul – Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment and Water, Ecuador
Miskun, Olena – International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, Russia
Mulholland, Denise – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Müller, Christian – Germany Ministry, Environment, Nature Conservation & Nuclear Safety, Germany
Nilton de Souza Vieira, José – Esplanada dos Ministérios, Brazil
Ramírez, Paola – Geological and Energy Research Institute, Ecuador
Roshchanka, Volha – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Ryan, Helen – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Saran, Shekhar – Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd., India
Shapovalova, Olesia – Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ukraine
Shimamura, Monica – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Tremaine, Sam – Tetra Tech, United States
Zhao, Yingchun – China
Zopatti, Alvaro – Secretariat of Environment & Sustainable Development of Argentina, Argentina



APPENDIX B
Agenda

GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
Steering Committee Meeting
2-3 December 2020

Session 1: 2 December 2020

Agenda 1 07:00	Welcome, Opening of Meeting <i>Helen Ryan, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Branch, Environment and Climate Change Canada; GMI Steering Committee Chair</i>
Agenda 2 07:05	Brief Introductions (<i>Tour de Table</i>) <i>All</i>
Agenda 3 07:45	Meeting Objectives; Adoption of Agenda <i>Helen Ryan and Monica Shimamura, Director, GMI Secretariat</i>
Agenda 4 07:55	Updates and Perspectives of Subcommittees <i>Subcommittee Co-Chairs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Biogas</i> • <i>Oil & Gas</i> • <i>Coal</i>
Agenda 5 08:50	Leveraging Strategic Partnerships to Improve Collaboration <i>Helen Ryan</i>
Agenda 6 09:20	United Nations Declaration for an International Year or Decade of Methane Management <i>Helen Ryan</i>
Agenda 7 09:50	Wrap up / Plan for Session 2 <i>Helen Ryan</i>
10:00	Adjourn

Session 2: 3 December 2020

Agenda 8 07:00	Welcome, Opening of Meeting <i>Helen Ryan, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Branch, Environment and Climate Change Canada; GMI Steering Committee Chair</i>
Agenda 9 07:05	Secretariat Update <i>Monica Shimamura, Director, GMI Secretariat</i>
Agenda 10 07:15	Global Methane Challenge <i>Denise Mulholland, International Team Lead, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i>
Agenda 11 07:45	Re-Chartering of the GMI <i>Monica Shimamura and Jennifer Kerr, Director, Air Emissions Priorities, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs/Environmental Protection, Environment and Climate Change Canada</i>
Agenda 12 08:15	GMI Governance <i>Helen Ryan</i>
Agenda 13 08:45	Global Methane Forum <i>Monica Shimamura</i>
Agenda 14 09:00	Next Steps <i>Helen Ryan and Monica Shimamura</i>
Agenda 15 09:10	Closing Remarks <i>Helen Ryan</i>
09:15	Adjourn