



**GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE**  
**14<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting Summary**  
**10 March 2021**

## **Overview**

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Steering Committee held its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting virtually on 10 March 2021. 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. Delegates from 13 Partner countries attended, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, European Commission, Finland, India, Japan, Nigeria, Poland, and the United States.

The purpose of the meeting was to determine the details and review the proposed process for the re-chartering of GMI, and discuss the list of activities to support the potential UN Declaration on Methane Management. 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.

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## **10 March 2021**

### **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.

### **Agenda 4: GMI's Global Impact Since 2004**

M. Shimamura (Secretariat) shared a [video of GMI's accomplishments](#) and reviewed GMI's critical role in methane mitigation.

- GMI is uniquely qualified to develop and provide the tools, resources, and expertise to enable countries to reduce methane quickly and cost-effectively.
- GMI works with countries to develop methane mitigation strategies, action plans, policies, tracking methods, and best practices to achieve national level emissions reduction goals.

The Secretariat also discussed GMI's achievements and activities:

- Since 2004, GMI has partnered with 45 countries and hundreds of private sector and multilateral partners, reducing methane emissions by more than 454 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- Since 2004, 70 countries have hosted activities where approximately 50,000 people received more than 225,000 hours of training on reducing methane emissions and capturing methane for productive uses.

### **Agenda 5: GMI Governance Structure**

H. Ryan (Chair) and M. Shimamura (Secretariat) discussed GMI's governance structure.

- Participants indicated strong support for adopting the chair/vice chair(s) model and defining minimum engagement requirements for Partners in leadership roles.

- The importance of representation from both developed and developing countries was noted, in order for GMI leadership to offer a diversity of experiences and perspectives.
- The chair indicated that there are opportunities for Partner countries to fill the leadership role(s) of vice chair. Noting that there will be follow-up from the meeting to officially solicit interest from the GMI Steering Committee membership, members were welcomed to voice interest during the meeting. The representative from the European Commission (EC) noted potential interest in a leadership role for the EC.
- Participants indicated strong support for implementing an “opt-in” requirement for Steering Committee membership.
  - A suggestion was made that Steering Committee members should have an explicit mandate from their government.
  - Participants noted the importance of ensuring that the Steering Committee members are actively engaged; the Steering Committee should include active methane leaders from Partner countries.
  - Argentina suggested that a high-level meeting of government officials could be convened to launch a renewed Steering Committee membership.
  - Participants confirmed their interest in continuing to engage with the international community to advance methane mitigation, referring to the G20 in October 2021 and the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November 2021.
    - It was noted specifically by the EC that there will be methane-specific discussions in working groups of the G20 meetings. This could be an opportunity for GMI influence and/or use language from the G20 to further our efforts.
    - It was also noted that CO26 may be an opportunity to raise awareness of the re-charter of the GMI.
    - The chair noted that the GMI will need to consider how best to maximize the ability to coordinate work across many different fora. A strength of the GMI is that different partners are engaged at different levels.
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- Participants indicated unanimous support for the creation of a formal designation of “Official Observers” to expand Steering Committee membership.
  - The U.S. expressed interest in inviting specific strategic partners to participate in the Steering Committee as Observers, including organizations that are actively engaged in this space such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), and International Energy Agency (IEA).
  - Canada expressed support for creating an Official Observer status and supported the process of the Steering Committee making decisions on which organizations should be invited to become an Observer on a case-by-case basis. Canada suggested that the Arctic Council be invited to participate as an Official Observer.
  - Argentina suggested the World Biogas Association as an Official Observer as an example of global private organizations focusing on similar objectives of the GMI.
  - Participants noted that a process will need to be established for inviting organizations to become Observers and accepting requests from organizations to become Observers. It was agreed that the Steering Committee will make decisions on Observer Designations, with the Secretariat providing analysis to support decision making.
- Participants indicated strong support for revising the Terms of Reference to explicitly state that Subcommittees may extend membership to Project Network members.

- Argentina recommended that potential Project Network candidates for inclusion on Subcommittees should be analyzed to ensure their expertise and actions are compatible with GMI objectives.
- The Secretariat was requested to provide guidance to the Subcommittees in assessing Project Network candidates.
- The chair noted that guidance may be necessary to avoid any conflicts of interest in involving Project Network members in the operations of the Subcommittees.

Action Items:

- GMI Secretariat to:
  - Develop process for soliciting interest from Steering Committee partners that may wish to serve as Vice-Chairs.
  - Define options and timing for the “opt-in” requirement for Steering Committee members.
  - Invite Official Observers to the Steering Committee.
- Steering Committee members to propose additional suggestions of organizations to invite as Official Observers.

**Agenda 6: Process for updating the Terms of Reference**

H. Ryan (Chair) outlined the plan for updating GMI’s Terms of Reference.

- The Terms of Reference will be updated to reflect the decisions made at the December 2020 and March 2021 Steering Committee Meetings.
- The Secretariat will propose edits to the Terms of Reference and share the revised document with the Steering Committee for final review, comment, and concurrence.
- Members may be asked to confirm their country’s participation in the Steering Committee as part of their concurrence on the revised Terms of Reference.
- The Steering Committee will reconvene in May 2021 to formally adopt the new Terms of Reference and in the meantime, the current (2016) Terms of Reference, which are set to expire 31 March 2021, will be extended until such time as the new Terms of Reference are adopted.
- Public announcement of the re-charter will be made at the 3 June 2021 online event.

Action Items:

- GMI Secretariat to revise the Terms of Reference based on decisions made, provide the revised document for Committee review, and schedule a follow-up meeting in May to finalize the changes and officially re-charter.

**Agenda 7: Discuss support for the potential United Nations Declaration on Methane Management**

H. Ryan (Chair) reviewed the process for UN Declarations and provided a summary of the discussions held during the Steering Committee meeting in December 2020. She also presented possible roles for GMI and the proposed GMI-led program of activities, which includes:

- Direct technical assistance and capacity building,
- Events and outreach, and
- Identifying policy, program, and project financing.

It was noted that further development of the program of activities will include reaching out to Subcommittees for sector-based ideas and input.

### **Agenda 8: Secretariat Updates**

M. Shimamura (Secretariat) provided an update on GMI activities that have taken place since the December 2020 Steering Committee meeting.

- The Secretariat has reached out to Strategic Partners and is coordinating with Subcommittee Co-Chairs to identify sector-specific and environmental organizations to collaborate with.
- The Global Methane Challenge has been extended to December 2022. The Secretariat is exploring options to develop a recognition or awards element.
- Plans are underway for a virtual event in June which aims to engage and empower government partners prepared to act on methane.
- There are several GMI events on the horizon, including Steering Committee meetings in May and October or November, the virtual event in June, the UN General Assembly in September, and a Global Methane Forum in Spring 2022.
- Argentina noted that COP26 is another event that should be noted as an important meeting for the GMI to monitor.

### **Agenda 9: Wrap up**

H. Ryan (Chair) provided a synopsis of the decisions taken and adjourned the meeting.

## APPENDIX A

### Meeting Participants (31)

Abubakar, Bahijjahtu – Nigeria Ministry of the Environment, Nigeria  
Bialek, Maciej – Poland Ministry of Energy, Poland  
Castano Lujan, Lina Maria – Ministry of Mines and Energy, Colombia  
Cosgrave, Joshua – Australia Department of Industry and Science, Australia  
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, Nick – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States  
Frankiewicz, Thomas – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States  
Franklin, Pamela - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States  
Frappier, Mélanie – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada  
Grundler, Chris - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States  
Hamilton, Matt – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada  
Hilbert, Jorge – National Agricultural Technology Institute, Argentina  
Huang, Lan – China Coal Information Institute, China  
Huang, Selina – China Coal Information Institute, China  
Huang, Shengchu – China Coal Strategies Research Center, China  
Kealey, Chelsea – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada  
Keating-Bitoni, Caitlin – U.S. Department of State, United States  
Kerr, Jennifer – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada  
Kupiainen, Kaarle – Finnish Environment Institute, Finland  
Lochan, Rajiw – Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd, India  
McGill, Cathy – Tetra Tech, United States  
Meluch, Andrew - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States  
Mulholland, Denise – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States  
Nilton de Souza Vieira, José – Esplanada dos Ministérios, Brazil  
Oi, Michihiro – Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Japan  
Roshchanka, Volha – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States  
Ryan, Helen – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada  
Shimamura, Monica – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States  
Tremaine, Sam – Tetra Tech, United States



**APPENDIX B  
AGENDA**

**GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE  
Steering Committee Meeting  
10 March 2021**

**Wednesday, 10 March 2021**

*All times Eastern Standard Time*

7:00 (5 mins)	<b>Welcome, opening of meeting</b> <i>Helen Ryan, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Branch, Environment and Climate Change, Canada; GMI Steering Committee Chair</i>
7:05 (40 mins)	<b>Brief introductions (<i>Tour de Table</i>)</b> <i>All</i>
7:45 (5 mins)	<b>Meeting objectives; adoption of agenda</b> <i>Helen Ryan</i>
7:50 (10 min)	<b>GMI's global impact since 2004</b> <i>Monica Shimamura, Director, GMI Secretariat</i>
8:00 (30 mins)	<b>GMI governance structure</b> <i>Helen Ryan and Monica Shimamura</i>
8:30 (10 mins)	<b>Health break</b>
8:40 (20 mins)	<b>Process for updating the Terms of Reference</b> <i>Helen Ryan and Monica Shimamura</i>
9:00 (20 mins)	<b>Discuss support for the potential United Nations Declaration on Methane Management</b> <i>Helen Ryan</i>
9:20 (10 mins)	<b>Secretariat updates</b> <i>Monica Shimamura</i>
9:30 (10 mins)	<b>Wrap up and closing remarks</b> <i>Helen Ryan and Monica Shimamura</i>
9:40	<b>Adjourn</b>