



GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
12th Steering Committee Meeting
18-19 November 2019

MEETING SUMMARY

Overview

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Steering Committee held its 12th meeting on 18-19 November 2019 in Paris, France. The meeting was held at the United Nations Environment Programme, UNESCO Headquarters Annex, hosted by the Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) secretariat. The meeting was chaired by Helen Ryan of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). Representatives from Argentina, Canada, Poland, and the United States, and representatives from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, World Bank, Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development, and International Energy Agency participated in the meeting.

The meeting focused on preparations for the Global Methane Forum 2020, the current status and future plans for the Global Methane Challenge, the process for rechartering the GMI beyond 2021, and GMI Subcommittee updates. The meeting also included a panel session with guest speakers sharing their perspectives on opportunities for collaboration on methane mitigation. 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: 18 November 2019

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

Agenda 2: Roll Call/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: Welcome to Paris

On behalf of CCAC, H. Valdes welcomed everyone to Paris and expressed her appreciation for working with GMI, noting CCAC's participation in the 2016 and 2018 Global Methane Forums.

Agenda 5: Update on GMI Activities (see [ASG presentation](#))

M. Shimamura (GMI Secretariat) provided highlights of activities in 2019 which include the newly updated [GMI website](#) and redesigned sector homepages, GMI's reinvigorated social media platforms, and several successful Subcommittee meetings and events.

Agenda 6: Panel Session: Perspectives on Collaboration on Methane Mitigation

- H. Valdes discussed the CCAC's vision for 2030, noting the adoption of the 2030 Vision Statement at the recent High-Level Assembly in New York in September and its focus on delivering multiple benefits from the mitigation of short-lived climate pollutants. CCAC is working to reduce methane emissions in agriculture, waste, oil & gas (now referred to as mineral methane) initiatives and through cross-cutting

assessments and national planning. Coal is a new area for CCAC; Ms. Valdes expressed interest in following up with GMI on its Coal Subcommittee activities (specifically for regulations). She also commented on opportunities to collaborate with GMI's Biogas Subcommittee, noting the overlap with GMI Partner countries. Ms. Valdes concluded with a discussion on next steps in methane mitigation and climate impacts. See [CCAC presentation](#).

- S. Foster, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), spoke about UNECE's coal mine methane (CMM) best management practices and interest in abandoned coal mines, commenting that issues associated with abandoned and active coal mines are social issues. He also noted the need for more collaboration regarding monitoring and reporting and the significant lack of standardization. Mr. Foster also spoke about the importance of raising awareness, and provided an update on plans for the UN Year of Methane. The Global Methane Forum provides a steppingstone for the Year of Methane which he views as a natural extension of the Global Methane Challenge and CCAC's work in methane mitigation. He also suggested consideration of establishing other centers of excellence to address other audiences and countries. He concluded by noting that the UN's Resource Management System is moving beyond coal and oil and gas to include solar and anthropogenic resources.
- C. McGlade, International Energy Agency (IEA), reviewed IEA's ongoing and planned work on methane emissions and biomethane. He discussed [IEA's Methane Tracker](#), which provides estimates of methane emissions from oil and gas operations as well as estimates of the emission reduction potentials, including potential cost savings. Recent case studies have been conducted to examine regulatory drivers of methane emission mitigation in specific countries. Mr. McGlade also discussed new estimates of coal mine methane (CMM) emissions, and global biomethane potential in sustainable development; IEA expects to release a new report about biomethane in March 2020. IEA is hosting an invite-only Global Methane Regulators Network meeting in January 2020 in Paris. See [IEA presentation](#).
- T. de Bienassis, World Bank, reviewed the World Bank's Pilot Auction Facility for Methane and Climate Change Mitigation and explained how the climate auctions work and their results. Two of the three auctions focused on methane. He discussed plans for a fourth auction focused on methane emissions from landfill, wastewater treatment, and animal waste in Brazil, Chile, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Thailand, and Uruguay. He requested GMI's help to build capacity in target countries and suggested that GMI should contact the World Bank about opportunities that would benefit from World Bank funding. He also expressed interest in collaborating with GMI to share news and information, commenting on GMI's positive open rate for listserv messaging. See [World Bank presentation](#).
- R. Lacy, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), provided an update about recent activities, noting that different indicators are needed and emphasizing the importance of improving how co-benefits of methane capture are measured. He also shared his view that more information is needed about the impact and social costs of methane.

The participants engaged in a discussion about how to emphasize the co-benefits of reducing methane and the social costs of methane. The importance of engaging with the private sector was noted.

Agenda 7: Subcommittee Updates

Representatives from the GMI Subcommittees provided updates to the Steering Committee via Skype call. Each representative reviewed activity highlights from 2019, 2020 priorities and Action Plans and provided an overview of each Subcommittee's Global Methane Challenge submissions.

- [Coal Subcommittee presentation](#) – V. Roshchanka (US)
- [Oil & Gas Subcommittee presentation](#) – J. Diamond (Canada)
- [Biogas Subcommittee presentation](#) – J. Hilbert (Argentina)

Agenda 8: The 2020 Global Methane Forum (see white paper, [The Global Methane Forum 2020](#))

M. Shimamura (GMI Secretariat) discussed the 2020 Global Methane Forum. She reviewed the venue information and the preliminary agenda at-a-glance and explained GMI's current and future marketing and outreach strategies for the Forum including flyers, email distributions, and promotion at events.

Highlights of the discussion regarding the Forum:

- Agreed to invite dynamic, diverse speakers who bring energy to the topic and represent a balance (gender, sector, region/country) among types of organizations and audiences.
- Encourage attendees to take ambitious action and make commitments.
- Focus intention on why early action is important.
- Suggestions were made to include country representatives as potential speakers during the plenary session; consider inviting speakers from countries with methane in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)s.
- Ensure that outreach efforts target nontraditional GMI audiences.
- Key organizations based in Geneva can help reach diverse audience to their networks (WHO, WMO and Geneva Environment Network).
- CCAC to consider hosting its Science Advisory Board meeting in Geneva the same week.
- CCAC's press corps is based in Geneva; they could help promote methane messages.
- Agreed a communique was only needed if there is something to announce.

Action Items:

- UNECE to send formal invitations to the potential keynote speakers. (done)
- GMI Secretariat to identify and confirm plenary topics and additional speakers. (ongoing)
- GMI Secretariat to reach out to additional groups to get wider reach.
- CCAC to reach out to UNEP regarding space at the Palais for a Science Advisory Board meeting.
- UNECE to identify options for additional interpretation (Russian, Chinese, and Arabic) (Russian interpretation can be provided at the plenary session on 24 March).

Agenda 8: The Global Methane Challenge (see white paper, [Global Methane Challenge Update](#))

M. Shimamura opened the discussion with an informational video about the Global Methane Challenge, followed by an update on communications and outreach strategies for the Challenge, including its role in the 2020 Global Methane Forum. The participants discussed options for the future direction of the Challenge, which include concluding the Challenge on 31 December 2019, as scheduled; extending the Challenge until 28 February 2020 to allow for additional participation' or extending the Challenge through 2020 to maximize participation and better reflect methane mitigation activity and successes.

Highlights:

- Decision to extend the Challenge through the end of 2020.
- Extending the challenge through December 2020 allows for synergy with the potential UN Year of Methane.
- Secretariat will prepare a slideshow of Challenge projects and achievements.
- Secretariat will coordinate the development of a GMC video montage for the Forum.

Key messages for Challenge outreach:

- Celebrate the early actions of participants and urge more action (phase 2).
- Call to action: encourage countries to add methane to their NDCs; good timing for UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November 2020 (COP26).
- Call to action: UN Year of Methane.

Action Items:

- Secretariat will develop instructions for Challenge participants to submit their stories for the video montage (completed; instructions sent in December).
- Secretariat to continue requesting input for Challenge participants to be recognized at the forum (ongoing).

- Secretariat to identify options for translating challenge promotional materials into Chinese, Arabic and Russian.

Adjournment

H. Ryan (Canada) thanked the Steering Committee members for a productive meeting and adjourned the meeting.

Day 2: 19 November 2019

Agenda 11: Welcome, Goals for Day 2

H. Ryan (Canada) provided opening remarks. M. Shimamura (GMI Secretariat) provided a recap of discussions from day 1 of the meeting.

Agenda 12: Country Updates (Chris Grundler, U.S.)

Updates were provided from Poland, the United States, and Canada.

- M. Bialek (Poland) provided a verbal update about recent elections in Poland, noting the establishment of a new Ministry of Climate and recent discussions about the adoption of a zero methane policy. The Polish Coal sector is in a period of transition; Poland is interested in working with the US on coal mine methane.
- C. Grundler (United States) summarized activities in support of GMI (see [United States presentation](#)).
- D. Backstrom (Canada) presented an update on Canada's activities to address methane emissions.

Agenda 13: GMI: 20201 and Beyond (see white paper, [Global Methane Initiative: 2021 and Beyond](#))

M. Shimamura (GMI Secretariat) reviewed the options concerning the future of GMI: (1) extend GMI for another four years with minor changes, (2) extend GMI for another 5 to 8 years with greater changes, or (3) allow GMI to sunset.

Highlights:

- GMI remains the only organization that focuses solely on methane.
- Science confirms the clear importance of addressing methane emissions.
- Momentum is growing, particularly with the Global Methane Challenge.
- Recognized the need to focus on co-benefits of methane mitigation, including co-benefits associated with air quality/public health.
- Engage Steering Committee Partners/countries who have not been active; identify new members.
- Request feedback from the Steering Committee to determine what is important to them and their commitment to GMI. Ask the members: "what does rechartering mean to you?"
- CCAC, a key partner organization, was rechartered through 2030; Steering Committee needs to understand their mission.
- Confirmed that the Steering Committee can extend the term for one year (to 2022).
- Agreed to discuss further at the Steering Committee meeting in March 2020; include a discussion item about defining the effectiveness of GMI.
- Agreed to look at a new model for Co-chairs.
- Members expressed their support for extending GMI through 2029/2030.
- Announcing GMI rechartering at the 2020 Global Methane Forum would benefit from CCAC's press corps based in Geneva; help spread the word.

Action Items:

- Secretariat:
 - Propose options to get feedback from Steering Committee members; reach out to Canada and Argentina for assistance in surveying members.

- Consider mechanisms for strategic planning (for extension of GMI).
 - Identify other entities who could serve as potential strategic partners (IEA and World Bank, for example).
 - Establish a small task force to address rechartering.
 - Develop options for flexibility in co-chairmanship role and responsibilities.
- Canada to follow up on discussions with Mexico; need a decision regarding their commitment to serving as Co-Chair.

Agenda 14: GMI: Strategic Objectives and Proposed Work Plan for 2019-2020 (see white paper, [Strategic Objectives and Work Plan for 2019 – 2020](#))

Ms. Shimamura outlined GMI’s strategic objectives for 2019-2020 including outputs and milestones, and their expected results. The Steering Committee discussed GMI’s future priorities and strategies for implementing them.

Highlights:

- Identify new strategic alliance partners or enhance relationship with existing strategic partners.
- Identify opportunities to strengthen strategic alliances with IEA, World Bank, OECD, etc.
- Encourage more participation from developing countries.
- Work with regional organizations to strengthen and increase their participation in GMI.
- Consider different co-chair models; perhaps 1 chair and 2 vice chairs (UNESCO model).

Action Items:

- Secretariat to incorporate updates to the work plan and circulate a revised version to the Steering Committee and Subcommittee Co-Chairs.
- Secretariat to identify a plan for rebranding “ASG” to “Secretariat”.

Agenda 15: Closing Remarks by Co-Chair

H. Ryan (Canada) provided closing remarks and final thoughts.

Agenda 16: Next Steps and Adjournment

M. Shimamura (GMI Secretariat) reviewed next steps and adjourned the meeting.

APPENDIX A

Meeting Participants

Backstrom, David – Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Bialek, Maciej – Poland Ministry of Energy
Brodeur, Mathilde – Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Chung, Tiy -- Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)
de Bienassis, Tanguy – Climate Change Group, World Bank
Demeter, Meghan – UN Environmental Programme
Diamond, James – Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) *(via Skype)*
Elger, Nick – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) *(via Skype)*
Foster, Scott – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
Franklin, Pamela – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)
Granatelli, Barbara – Delegate of Argentina to UNESCO
Grundler, Chris – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)
Hamilton, Matthew – Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) *(via Skype)*
Hilbert, Jorge – National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA) *(via Skype)*
Hildman, Miguel Angel – Delegate of Argentina to UNESCO
Lacy, Rodolfo – Environment Directorate, OECD
Lochan, Rajiw – Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd (CMPDI) *(via Skype)*
McDougal, Dan -- Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)
McGill, Cathy – Tetra Tech
McGlade, Christophe – International Energy Agency (IEA)
Mulholland, Denise – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) *(via Skype)*
Roshchanka, Volha – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) *(via Skype)*
Ryan, Helen – Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Shimamura, Monica – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)
Valdes, Helena Molin – Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)



APPENDIX B

Agenda

GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
11th Steering Committee Meeting
18-19 November 2019
Paris, France

AGENDA

Revised 14 November 2019 v. 2

Day 1: Monday, 18 November

Agenda 1 10:00–10:05	Welcome, Opening of the Meeting <i>Co-Chair Helen Ryan, Canada</i>
Agenda 2 10:05–10:10	Roll Call/Brief Introductions (<i>Tour de Table</i>) <i>Co-Chair</i>
Agenda 3 10:10–10:15	Meeting Objectives; Adoption of Agenda <i>Co-Chair</i>
Agenda 4 10:15–10:20	Welcome to Paris <i>Helena Molin Valdes, Director of the Secretariat, Climate & Clean Air Coalition</i>
Agenda 5 10:20–10:30	Update on GMI Activities <i>GMI Secretariat</i>
Agenda 6 10:30–13:00	Panel Session: Perspectives on Collaboration on Methane Mitigation <i>Guest speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate and Clean Air Coalition: <i>Helena Molin Valdes, Director of the Secretariat</i> - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe: <i>Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division</i> - International Energy Agency: <i>Christophe McGlade, World Energy Outlook team</i> - World Bank: <i>Tanguy de Bienassis, Climate Change Group</i> - OECD, <i>Dr. Rodolfo Lacy, Director, Environment Directorate</i>
13:00–14:30	Lunch Break <i>On your own; suggestions will be provided</i>
Agenda 7 14:30–15:15	Subcommittee Updates <i>Subcommittee Co-Chairs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coal Mines - Oil & Gas - Biogas

Agenda 8 15:15–16:15	The 2020 Global Methane Forum <i>GMI Secretariat</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on current planning (venue, draft agenda, marketing/outreach) - Discussion on potential panel themes and speakers - Consideration of a joint communiqué
Agenda 9 16:15–16:30	Remarks or Presentation by Mexico <i>(to be confirmed)</i>
Agenda 10 16:30–17:30	The Global Methane Challenge <i>GMI Secretariat</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objectives - Accomplishments to date - Plans for recognition - Next steps
17:30	Adjournment
TBD	Optional group dinner; all are welcome

Day 2: Tuesday, 19 November

Agenda 11 10:00–10:10	Welcome; Goals for Day 2 <i>Co-Chair</i>
Agenda 12 10:10–11:15	Country Updates <i>Delegates from Partner countries</i>
Agenda 13 11:15–12:15	Discussion: Re-Chartering of GMI – GMI beyond 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of white paper prepared by the GMI Secretariat - Discussion
12:15–13:30	Lunch Break <i>On your own; suggestions will be provided</i>
13:30–14:00	<i>Continuation of discussion: GMI future and planning for Global Methane Forum 2020</i>
Agenda 14 14:00–15:30	Review and Approval of Proposed Work Plan for 2019-2020
Agenda 15 15:30–15:40	Closing Remarks by Co-Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Co-Chair</i>
Agenda 16 15:40–15:45	Next Steps and Adjournment