



**Global Methane Initiative
4th Steering Committee Meeting
4 November 2015
Via Teleconference**

FINAL MINUTES

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Steering Committee held its fourth session on 4 November 2015 via teleconference. Acting Steering Committee chair Paul Gunning (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [U.S. EPA]) presided over the meeting, welcoming participants from Partner Countries including: Argentina, Canada, China, Colombia, India, and the United States, as well as members of the GMI Futures Task Force (a list of attendees is included as Annex 1). The meeting focused on task force recommendations for rechartering GMI and garnering Steering Committee approval, as well as reviewing next steps leading up the March 2016 Global Methane Forum to be held in Washington, DC. Additional Steering members from Mexico and Australia noted their approval of the agenda and recommendations prior to the call.

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

AGENDA I: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (HENRY FERLAND)

AGENDA II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA (HENRY FERLAND)

- [Approved]

AGENDA III: STATEMENT OF MEETING GOALS/PROCESS (JANET MCCABE/PAUL GUNNING)

Ms. Janet McCabe, Acting Administrative Assistant for U.S. EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) and Steering Committee chair, provided opening comments and a meeting goal's statement comprised of:

- Today's meeting seeks to ensure GMI's success mitigating methane over the past 11 years (i.e., evolution from the Methane to Markets Partnership launched in 2004 through its relaunch in 2010) will continue for at least the next five years.
- GMI is one of the most effective international voluntary initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the only one that focuses exclusively on methane.
- GMI will continue to play a significant role supporting countries that seek to achieve methane emissions reductions.
- During last year's meeting in Montreal, the Steering Committee recommended GMI renew commitment to its mission, look for opportunities to align with other relevant partnerships, and streamline where possible.
- The Steering Committee also extended the GMI Terms of Reference (TOR) for an additional six months (until April 2016) and chartered a task force to evaluate how best to refocus and re-align GMI.
- The task force's deliberations included careful consideration of the relationship between GMI and other organizations such as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the World Bank.

- The task force developed and endorsed a comprehensive set of recommendations for the future of GMI. The meeting goal today is to formally approve those recommendations.
- The recommendations cover three main topic areas:
 - A refocused mission that emphasizes GMI’s role in developing and disseminating tools, best practices, policy guidance, and knowledge platforms.
 - Strategic alliances with other relevant initiatives, such as CCAC and UNECE, to allow more effective collaboration and knowledge-sharing for methane mitigation.
 - Structural and leadership changes that enable GMI to function more efficiently by holding fewer stand-alone meetings, and to allow an opportunity for additional leadership at the Steering Committee level.
- The Administrative Support Group (ASG) is planning a formal ceremony to announce GMI’s re-chartering at the March 2016 Global Methane Forum in Washington, DC.
- Thank you to Partners who have supported GMI over the past 11 years, and particularly those that served on the task force and contributed to these recommendations for the future of GMI.

Following her statement, Ms. McCabe turned the remainder of the meeting over to Mr. Paul Gunning as acting chair who explained the intended process for reviewing the Task Force’s recommendations (i.e., silence if agreement, comment only when objection).

AGENDA IV: DISCUSSION OF CONSENSUS ON TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS (PAUL GUNNING/HENRY FERLAND)

Mr. Gunning invited Mr. Henry Ferland, ASG Co-Director, to provide a detailed overview of the recommendations’ four elements which comprised:

GMI Mission

Summary: GMI will fulfill its mission of promoting global methane abatement through alignment with other global efforts and a renewed focus on policy development and information sharing.

- The focus of GMI activities will shift from the historic emphasis on GMI’s primary role as a methane mitigation “project incubator” to a forward-looking catalytic role.
- Future GMI activities will emphasize the development and dissemination of best practices, policy guidance, tools, and knowledge platforms for methane mitigation.
- *Paul Gunning:* Project-level work has matured into capacity building and information sharing among the GMI network.
- [Consensus]

Alignment with Other Initiatives

Summary: GMI should align more effectively with other existing international initiatives or organizations that also promote methane reductions (e.g., UNEP’s CCAC, UNECE, World Bank) in a way that provides adequate flexibility to engage with any future initiatives.

- GMI seeks to align with CCAC as a non-state partner to become institutionally linked at a cross-cutting level.
 - At the sector or initiative level, GMI subcommittees would formally align with CCAC counterparts where applicable.
 - GMI would continue to pursue strategies such as co-locating and co-branding GMI/CCAC events, where appropriate and mutually beneficial, to build opportunities for GMI Partners to participate in CCAC events and vice-versa.
 - GMI would streamline communication and coordination on methane-related work with CCAC.

- GMI seeks to formally align its coal mine sector / subcommittee work with the UNECE’s Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane. GMI will also explore opportunities to align its work with that of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division in the oil and gas sector.
- GMI should continue to explore opportunities to collaborate more closely with the World Bank’s Climate Change Group, such as the Pilot Auction Facility for Methane and Climate Change and the Global Gas Flaring Reduction (GGFR) partnership.
- *Paul Gunning*: The task force sought to preserve GMI’s independence, while identifying opportunities for cooperation and efficiency.
- *Canada*: Congratulated the ASG for reaching out to the other initiatives to come up with a common plan and create a working relationship (e.g., co-branding DC event).
- *Colombia*: Requested clarification on the specific linkages and interactions between GMI and CCAC.
 - *Paul Gunning*: The non-state partner is a formal designation at the CCAC Initiative level that will allow GMI to participate in the Working Group, which is the same status accorded to the World Bank. It does not affect GMI-specific projects or obligate GMI Partner Countries in any way. Rather, it allows for cooperation where there is mission overlap.
- *China*: Supports greater general alignment with CCAC and in particular, the coal sector’s alignment with UNECE as a good mechanism to share information.
- [Consensus]

Structure and Leadership Changes

Summary: The structure and leadership change recommendations affect the Steering Committee, Subcommittees, and ASG.

- The Steering Committee’s leadership model changes to two co-chairs, rather than a single chair. Ideally, the two co-chairs would include representatives from one developed and one developing country and each would serve for a two-year term. The co-chairs would be encouraged to host one Steering meeting. The United States would continue in the role as chair during the transition period.
- The subcommittees will continue work in all five sectors but for organizational efficiency, will merge the agriculture, municipal solid waste (MSW), and wastewater sectors into an overarching Biogas Subcommittee to leverage participation, minimize duplication, and achieve synergies on related topics. Moreover, the Biogas and Oil & Gas Subcommittees will align with their CCAC analogues, while the Coal Subcommittee will align with the UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane.
- The ASG will identify and implement streamlined administrative functions to increase efficiency and reduce administrative burdens. GMI will also consider alternative models for hosting the ASG, though the United States will continue its role in the meantime.
- *Paul Gunning*: The United States supports GMI and is committed to supporting the ASG. Many of the details of these proposals will be discussed at a later date.
- *China*: Supports the two-chair model, and recommends the U.S. EPA continue its role as one of the chairs and acknowledges the importance of a U.S.-supported ASG for continuity purposes.
 - *Paul Gunning*: The United State will continue to support the co-chairs through the ASG.
- *Colombia*: Wanted clarification on communication between GMI partners.
 - *Paul Gunning*: There is no change to the open, working dialogue between GMI Partners (e.g., committee members are listed on the GMI website, copied on all outreach/e-mails).
- *Canada*: Supports the recommendations on structure, and believes the merged Biogas Subcommittee and alignment with CCAC will achieve efficient results.
- [Consensus]

Cross-Sectoral Activities

Summary: Leverage existing cross-sectoral activities found in other initiatives.

- Engage with CCAC's Supporting National Planning for Action Initiative (SNAP) to ensure methane-related activities are included and reduce any duplication with GMI action plan efforts, with emphasis on how [best] to help developers understand/engage in Partner Country opportunities.
- Leverage the existing CCAC trust fund (at least until such time GMI Partner Countries are willing to make contributions/commitments to a GMI-specific fund). GMI could explore the establishment of a trust fund if/when there is sufficient future interest and willingness from Partners.
- *China:* Supports cross-sectoral leveraging for CCAC action plans and trust fund as opportunity to reduce/eliminate duplication.
- [Consensus]

AGENDA V: DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS

- The ASG will seek Steering Committee input on the following:
 - A revised TOR (based on redline version circulated to delegates for comment);
 - A statement of support for GMI's recharter at the Global Methane Forum; and
 - Input on the re-charter event (e.g. one-hour session).
- *China:* Thanked the ASG for its efforts and invites everyone to the 15th International Symposium on CBM/CMM and Shale Gas, to be held 12 – 13 November 2015 in Beijing.
- *Paul Gunning:* Is there any support for a ministerial declaration on GMI's re-charter at the Global Methane Forum?
 - *Canada:* It is not likely ministers could travel to DC for the event, but agrees with a communiqué of support.
- *Canada:* Also might be difficult for some countries to get approval through their official communications channels (e.g., lengthy process).
 - *Paul Gunning:* Will task the ASG with developing a draft statement in conjunction with the TOR changes to allow time for all Partners to become comfortable and get approval by March.
- *Canada:* Suggests development of a communications strategy at the Global Methane Forum (e.g., a joint GMI-CCAC press release).
 - *Paul Gunning:* Will task the ASG with development.
- The Steering Committee will likely need to reconvene (again, via teleconference) in January 2016 to review/approve further items (e.g., TOR, statement) but in the meantime, the ASG will communicate with Partners via email.

AGENDA VI: ADJOURNMENT

Annex 1

Attendees

Country	Participant
Argentina	Alvaro Zopatti, Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina
Canada	Franck Portalupi, Environment Canada
China	Liu Wenge & Colleagues, China Coal Information Institute (CCII); Huang Shengchu, China Coal Strategies Research Center (CCSR)
Colombia	Giovanni Andrés Pabón Restrepo, Ministry of the Environment
India	V.K. Sinha, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd (CMPDI)
USA	Pamela Franklin, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
USA	Paul Gunning, U.S. EPA (Meeting Chair)
USA	Janet McCabe, U.S. EPA (Steering Committee Chair)
ASG	Henry Ferland
ASG	Monica Shimamura