



**Global Methane Initiative
6th Steering Committee Meeting
24 February 2016
Via Teleconference**

FINAL MINUTES

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Steering Committee held its sixth session on 24 February 2016 via teleconference. Acting Steering Committee chair Pamela Franklin (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [U.S. EPA]) presided over the meeting, welcoming participants from Partner Countries including: Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Nigeria, and the United States (a list of attendees is included as Annex 1). The meeting focused on finalizing the redlined GMI Terms of Reference (TOR) and draft GMI re-charter communiqué in anticipation of the in-person Steering Committee meeting to be held 29 March 2016 during the Global Methane Forum (GMF).

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

AGENDA I: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (HENRY FERLAND)

AGENDA II: STATEMENT OF MEETING GOALS/PROCESS (PAMELA FRANKLIN)

- GMF update
- GMI re-charter communiqué discussion
- TOR revisions
- Update on Non-State Partnership application with CCAC
- In-person Steering Committee Plans [Added to agenda by Pamela Franklin]
- Next steps/process to refine documents

AGENDA III: APPROVAL OF AGENDA (PAMELA FRANKLIN; SEE DOC 6.1)

- [Approved]

AGENDA IV: UPDATE ON THE GMF (HENRY FERLAND)

- 260 registrants from 51 countries (as of Wednesday, 24 February) representing all sectors.
- Australia asked if there would be a media/press event associated with the GMI re-charter ceremony.
 - There will likely be a press release (the Administrative Support Group [ASG] is working with Canada to pursue a possible joint CCAC press release), but not a media event.
- Germany asked if there was a more recent agenda in distribution.
 - The ASG is updating the [agenda on the GMF website](#) frequently.

AGENDA V: DISCUSSION OF DRAFT GMI RE-CHARTER COMMUNIQUE (PAMELA FRANKLIN AND HENRY FERLAND; SEE DOC 6.2)

- The communiqué is a concise consensus statement about GMI's accomplishments, and our decision to continue GMI's work for five more years while building new strategic alliances with CCAC and UNECE. The communiqué will be read aloud at the GMI re-charter ceremony.
- The ASG received no comments during the circulation period.
- Nigeria noted the value of sharing GMI's methane expertise with CCAC.

- Australia was pleased with the communique and only suggested possible further expansion on how the new alliance fits with the goals of the Paris COP21 agreement.
- Germany noted that the communiqué might also reference the Paris goal of achieving carbon neutrality in the second half of the century.
- ***The ASG will circulate an updated final version for clearance by GMI Partners. We will seek final approval at the in-person Steering meeting in Washington.***

AGENDA VI: DISCUSSION OF DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) REDLINE (PAMELA FRANKLIN AND HENRY FERLAND; SEE DOC 6.3)

- The TOR is the charter under which GMI operates; the re-charter of GMI reflects an extension of this charter for an additional 5 years.
- The ASG only received minor comments during the circulation period (from the United States).
- Pamela Franklin proposed inserting the date 30 March 2016 (date of the GMI re-charter ceremony) into clause 6.1.1; all participants concurred.
- Germany proposed the reinsertion of ‘policy guidance’ into section 2.2.
 - Nigeria noted this reinsertion would be attractive to developing countries.
 - Australia inquired about why the language in GMI transitioned away from quantified emissions reductions.
 - Pamela Franklin discussed the objective of putting less emphasis on project directed work. [***Note from ASG – we have reinserted language to section 2.8 to note that this is still something of concern to GMI***]. **New language reads:**

“2.8 Work to improve scientific understanding in relation to the emissions estimates, abatement, recovery and use of methane.”

- Argentina asked if this call served as the final discussion on this document and noted there may be some concern over the language in 2.2 that implies that GMI will develop policies for sovereign countries.
 - The ASG is trying to achieve consensus prior to the in-person meeting at the GMF to avoid long sessions devoted to wordsmithing, but there will be an opportunity for discussion when we seek final approval at the in-person Steering meeting.
 - **Note from ASG – we have rephrased section 2.2 to respond to this comment from Argentina and the comment from Germany – new language reads:**

“2.8 Develop policy guidance and encourage implementation of near-term policies that support the identification and deployment of best management practices for the abatement, recovery and use of methane.”

- ***The ASG will circulate an updated draft for clearance to the Steering Committee.***

AGENDA VII: UPDATED ON THE NON-STATE PARTNERSHIP APPLICATION WITH CCAC (HENRY FERLAND; SEE DOC 6.4)

- GMI applied to be a CCAC non-state partner on 17 February; this status will allow GMI to observe the CCAC Working Group sessions.
- GMI’s application will be considered at the CCAC Steering Committee meeting on 25-26 February.
- There are potentially two issues with GMI’s application:
 - GMI’s status classification (it is neither an NGO or IGO); and

- Representation (i.e., who will serve as GMI’s representative).
- Pamela Franklin proposed holding discussion on the representation issue at a later date should GMI’s application succeed.

AGENDA VIII [INSERTED BY PAMELA FRANKLIN]: IN-PERSON STEERING COMMITTEE PLANS

- The in-person Steering Committee will primarily address the communique, re-charter ceremony, and TOR.
- The meeting might also address how to determine GMI representation to the CCAC Working Group, if GMI’s application is successful.
- The GMI and CCAC Steering Committees will hold a joint 1-hour session to meet one another and begin coordination on methane-related work.
- Due to time constraints, the GMI Steering Committee portion will not feature traditional subcommittee progress report-outs. The ASG will post any updates submitted to the [website](#).
- The ASG requests that all Partners notify the ASG of any planned GMF participation by Ministers or Vice Ministers so these individuals can be incorporated appropriately in the re-charter ceremony.
- *The ASG will distribute a draft Steering Committee meeting agenda (including the joint session with CCAC) as well as the re-charter ceremony agenda.*

AGENDA IX: NEXT STEPS DISCUSSION

- The ASG will circulate the following to the Steering Committee:
 - Updated TOR for clearance
 - Updated Communique for clearance
 - Draft agenda for in-person Steering Committee meeting
 - Draft agenda for the re-charter ceremony.
- The ASG will also circulate the Communique to all Partners.
- The ASG requests that all Steering Committee members conclude any internal clearances on distributed GMI documents before the 29 March Steering Committee meeting. Any feedback is welcome prior to the meeting.

AGENDA X: ADJOURNMENT

Annex 1

Attendees

Country	Participant
ASG	Henry Ferland
Argentina	Alvaro Zopatti, Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina
Australia	Josh Cosgrave, Department of Industry and Science
Canada	Franck Portalupi, Environment Canada
China	Han Jiaye & Colleagues, China Coal Information Institute (CCII)
Germany	Christian Müller, Germany Ministry, Environment, Nature Conservation & Nuclear Safety
Nigeria	Bahijjatu Abubakar, Ministry of Environment
USA	Pamela Franklin, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency