

GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
7TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Washington, DC, USA
March 2016

GMI7/Doc.5

**GMI Future Leadership Structure
Discussion Paper**

I. Purpose

This paper provides an overview of the current and potential future Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Steering Committee leadership. The paper reviews recent changes to the leadership model per the GMI Terms of Reference, and lays out suggestions for selecting new Steering Committee Co-Chairs.

II. Background

As outlined in the “Overview of GMI Task Force Recommendations” discussion paper, the GMI Steering Committee commissioned a task force to develop recommendations to guide GMI’s future activities. These recommendations included a refocused mission, development of strategic alliances with other key organizations and institutions, and leadership and structural changes to GMI itself. These recommendations were endorsed by the Steering Committee in 2015.

In adopting the recommendation pertaining to a change in the leadership model of GMI, the GMI Steering Committee acknowledged that GMI would benefit from more Partners having access to broader leadership opportunities across the Initiative, including the Steering Committee. Therefore, the revised Terms of Reference changes the leadership of the Steering Committee from a single “Chair” and expands it to provide an opportunity for two Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee. The task force recommended, and corresponding changes have been made to the new GMI Terms of Reference, as follows:

- One of the Co-Chairs be from a developed country and one be from a developing country,
- The Co-Chairs would serve two-year terms
- The Co-Chairs would be encouraged to host one Steering Committee meeting per two-year term in their country.

III. Steering Committee Leadership

The United States—represented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Assistant Administrator for Air & Radiation—has served as the GMI Steering Committee Chair since 2004.

Transition from Current Chair. The United States has appreciated the opportunity to lead the GMI Steering Committee for so many years. The United States strongly supports the new leadership model adopted by the Steering Committee, and welcomes participation from other GMI Steering Committee delegates to become Co-Chairs. The United States has stated its willingness to continue to serve as the Steering Committee chair in the interim until new Co-Chairs are selected. At that point, the U.S. Chair would step down.

Separately, the GMI Steering Committee discussed the viability of other institutions to host the Administrative Support Group (ASG), which provides Secretariat services for GMI. U.S. EPA has hosted the ASG since GMI's inception. While the United States welcomes other institutions to host the ASG in part or in whole, the United States has expressed its willingness to continue to host the ASG and provide these services to GMI, even after new Co-Chairs are established.

Call for Expressions of Interest. Per the Steering Committee's direction, the ASG has issued a call to GMI Steering Committee Partners¹ to express interest in the Co-Chair positions. As of March 2016, there has not been a decisive response to this request.

Potential Process for Identifying/Selecting Co-Chairs. In the absence of volunteers, the Steering Committee might consider three potential pathways to identifying/selecting Co-Chair nominees:

- 1) Authorize the ASG to actively recruit GMI Partners to consider the Co-Chairmanship roles.
- 2) Establish a task force to develop a selection / recruitment process for new Co-Chairs.
- 3) Develop a nomination process by which countries could nominate other countries. Nominated countries would be requested to notify the ASG [within a specified period of time] if they accept or decline the nomination to be Co-Chair.

IV. Summary/Action Items

Steering Committee Leadership Selection: Does the Steering Committee wish to do one of the following:

- 1) Task the ASG with recruiting GMI Partners to become Co-Chairs.
- 2) Task the ASG to establish a task force to develop a selection / recruitment process for new Co-Chairs.
- 3) Task the ASG to develop and implement a nomination process to select new Co-Chairs.

V. Next Steps

Depending on the Steering Committee's decision, ASG will do one of the following:

- Begin active recruitment of GMI Steering Committee members to become Co-Chairs.
- Convene a task force to develop a selection process and recruit GMI Steering Committee members to become Co-Chairs.
- Develop and implement nomination process to select Co-Chairs.

¹ The following GMI Partners are Steering Committee members: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, European Commission, Finland, Germany, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States.