

Summary Document

Global Methane Initiative Task Force Draft Recommendations to Steering Committee

MISSION

- Through alignment with other global efforts and a renewed focus on policy development and information sharing, the GMI reinvigorates its efforts to fulfill its mission of promoting global methane abatement and reduction across five sectors: agriculture (manure management); coal mining; municipal solid waste; oil & gas; and wastewater.
- With its re-charter, 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. Based on GMI's unparalleled sector-specific technical expertise, future GMI activities will emphasize the development and dissemination of best practices, policy guidance, tools, and knowledge platforms for methane mitigation.

ALIGNMENT OF GMI WITH RESPECT TO OTHER INITIATIVES

- GMI should align more effectively with other existing international initiatives or organizations that also promote methane reductions (e.g., CCAC, UNEP, UNECE, World Bank, etc.) in a way that provides adequate flexibility to engage with any future initiatives.
- GMI seeks to align with Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants to achieve more effective methane mitigation efforts
 - GMI will apply to become a "non-state" partner of the CCAC to become institutionally linked at a cross-cutting level, and would consider other mechanisms to actively engage with CCAC at an institutional level.
 - At the sector or initiative level, GMI Subcommittees would formally align with CCAC counterparts (where applicable, e.g., Municipal Solid Waste, Agriculture, Oil & Gas). Thereby, GMI Subcommittee meetings would be open to partners of the corresponding CCAC initiatives. GMI requests that CCAC initiatives in turn invite GMI Subcommittee members to participate in relevant CCAC initiative meetings, workshops, and events.
 - 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. One example is the 2016 Global Methane Forum, which is being planned and organized by GMI and which CCAC has been invited to co-sponsor.
 - GMI would streamline communication and coordination on methane-related work with CCAC with respect to the three sectors in common and in cross-cutting work such as the national action planning.

- GMI seeks to align with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
 - GMI would formally align its coal mine sector / subcommittee work with the UNECE's Sustainable Energy Division Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane. For example, UNECE has agreed to host annual meetings of the GMI Coal Subcommittee in conjunction with its Group of Experts meeting.
 - GMI would explore opportunities to align its work with that of UNECE 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.
- GMI should engage the financial and investment community to encourage increased access to project development capital and to incorporate their advice and expertise in Steering Committee decisions, and to encourage increased access to project development capital for methane mitigation projects.

STRUCTURAL AND LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Steering Committee:

- Continue the administrative and convening role of Steering Committee to guide the Initiative/address important issues, with the following modifications:
 - Change the leadership model to two (2) Steering Committee Co-Chairs, rather than a single Chair.
 - Ideally, the two Co-Chairs would include representatives from one developed and one developing country.
 - Co-chairs would be encouraged to consider hosting one Steering meeting in their country (with ASG support).
 - The Co-Chair terms would be two years (with a possibility to extend).
 - U.S. would continue acting in role as Chair during the transition period until new co-chairs are selected.

GMI Administrative Support Group:

- GMI should identify and implement streamlined administrative functions to increase efficiency and reduce administrative burdens, including the alignment strategies referenced above, strictly limiting the number of stand-alone in-person meetings hosted by GMI, and streamlining core communications and data management through the website and emails.

- GMI should consider alternative models for hosting the Administrative Support Group other than the US EPA, including soliciting interest in hosting the ASG or secretariat functions from GMI partners.
- In the interim, the US EPA would continue to support critical secretariat functions of GMI via the Administrative Support Group: communicating broadly across the initiative, maintaining continuity and efficient support for Steering Committee Co-chairs, coordinating meetings, facilitating alignment with CCAC, UNECE, and other initiatives, and tracking overall GMI activities.

Subcommittees:

- Continue GMI's sector-specific work in all five sectors, with certain modifications to streamline organization and better align GMI's work with that of CCAC and other international organizations engaged in methane reduction capacity building.
- Re-organize three existing GMI subcommittees (Agriculture, MSW and Wastewater) into an over-arching "Biogas" subcommittee to leverage participation, minimize duplication, and achieve synergies on related topics.
- Formally align Coal Subcommittee with UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane.
- Formalize the connections between GMI's Oil & Gas Subcommittee and the CCAC Oil & Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) through joint meetings, events, and trainings. Consider alignment with the World Bank's Global Gas Flaring Reduction Initiative and the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division, Group of Experts on Oil & Gas.

Establishment of a Trust Fund:

- Explore the establishment of a trust fund with an appropriate organization capable of receiving and disbursing such funds, only if GMI Partners express sufficient interest and willingness to commit to provide funding into such a trust fund.
- To the extent appropriate, within specific sectors, identify activities that would be appropriate to seek funding from the CCAC trust fund for targeted methane mitigation activities that are in alignment with the objectives of GMI and that would complement and leverage past and ongoing activities of GMI.

CROSS-SECTORAL ACTIVITIES

- Engage with CCAC's Supporting National Planning for Action Initiative (SNAP) to ensure methane related activities are included and to reduce any duplication with GMI action plan efforts.