



GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
17th Steering Committee Meeting
Summary
9 June 2022

Overview

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Steering Committee held its 17th meeting virtually on 9 June 2022. The meeting was chaired by Laura Farquharson, Director-General of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Acting Chair of the GMI Steering Committee, along with Vice Chairs Vinod Kumar Tiwari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Government of India and Tomás Carbonell, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Stationary Sources, EPA Office of Air and Radiation, United States. Delegates from 9 Partner Countries participated, including Argentina, Canada, China, Colombia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and the United States. A list of the participants is provided in Appendix A.

The purpose of the meeting was to finalize and adopt the Steering Committee Action Plan, gather feedback on the Engagement Strategy outline, plan for the Global Methane Forum 2022, to hear an update from the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), and discuss further opportunities for collaboration between the CCAC and GMI. Steering Committee participants engaged in open discussions to provide their input and recommendations. The presentations for the meeting and other materials discussed during the meeting are available on the [GMI website](#).

Detailed Agenda Summary

1: Welcome, Opening of the Meeting, and Brief Introductions (Acting Chair)

L. Farquharson (Acting Chair, Canada) opened the meeting.

2: Tour de Table (Meeting Participants – see Appendix A)

L. Farquharson invited a representative from each country to introduce themselves.

Saudi Arabia thanked the GMI Secretariat for hosting an onboarding session for new delegates, as requested at the 9 February 2022 meeting.

3: Meeting Objectives; Adoption of the Agenda (see Appendix B)

The meeting objectives were approved, and the agenda was adopted.

4: Strategic Partner Update: Climate and Clean Air Coalition

V. Tiwari (Vice Chair, India) introduced Martina Otto, Head of the CCAC Secretariat. The CCAC works at the nexus between climate and clean air, addressing methane as a key short-lived climate pollutant (SLCP), in addition to black carbon and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). CCAC is one of GMI's [Strategic Partners](#).

M. Otto noted that the invitation to attend the GMI Steering Committee meeting came at an opportune time, as she recently took on the role as Head of the CCAC Secretariat. The CCAC adopted its [2030 Strategy](#) at the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP) 26 in late 2021. She noted that the international community now recognizes the importance of acting on short-lived climate pollutants (including methane) to keep warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius. The CCAC is focused on

implementation at scale and recognizes the importance of partnerships to the success of its 2030 Strategy.

In her remarks, Ms. Otto described several recent initiatives that CCAC is leading or supporting:

- **Global Methane Assessment.** Launched with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), this [assessment](#) highlights the role that reducing methane emissions plays in slowing global warming.
- **Global Methane Pledge.** CCAC works with global leaders on the [Global Methane Pledge](#). Looking ahead to COP27, CCAC is focused on demonstrating results.
- **Methane Flagship.** CCAC recently rolled out its [Methane Flagship](#) program, which aims to equip partners with tools and assessments that support decision-making. Activities include a baseline assessment of methane emissions data and a set of country profiles that will be available for all Official Development Assistance-eligible countries (and other countries who opt-in). The Flagship will support implementation of activities through sector-specific Hubs (discussed below).
- **Sector-Specific Hubs.** In early 2022, CCAC rolled out six sector-based Hubs that provide a forum to share best practices in the interest of scaling up SLCP action and supporting Global Methane Pledge implementation. The Hubs are a new iteration of CCAC's Initiatives and are intended to facilitate a more streamlined process for knowledge exchange and project funding. The six Hubs include agriculture, waste, fossil fuels, household energy, heavy-duty vehicles and engines, and efficient cooling.
- **Roadmap Development Program.** Rolling out between June 2022 and COP27, this program will help support countries working to manage methane. The support will be based on peer-to-peer exchange and sector-specific expertise. Participation in the Methane Roadmap activities is open to everyone who is interested, not just CCAC member countries or Pledge signatories.

M. Otto noted several differences between GMI and CCAC to be mindful of while exploring opportunities for collaboration and ensuring complimentary work. She welcomed suggestions for how GMI and CCAC can use their differences as a strength to systematically fill gaps.

- **Host Organization.** CCAC is hosted by UNEP with ties to environmental agreements, while the GMI is hosted by the U.S. EPA.
- **Country Partners.** GMI has several large methane emitting countries engaged as Partners; the CCAC places an emphasis on multiple benefits of emissions reduction and sustainable development. CCAC points of contact usually come from environment, climate, and foreign affairs organizations, while GMI has participation from energy ministries for specific sectors such as coal.
- **Areas of Expertise and Emphasis.** Historically, GMI has focused on sector-specific technical assistance while CCAC has focused on building political will and advocacy.

Following M. Otto's remarks, Mr. Tiwari led a discussion with delegates focused on discussing the highest value opportunities for CCAC and GMI to work together. Participants discussed opportunities for collaboration between GMI and the CCAC, as follows.

Ensuring consistency in methane action planning work.

- Since both organizations support methane emissions reduction action planning (sometimes for overlapping stakeholders), any templates developed by CCAC or GMI should be consistent. CCAC

and GMI can review action planning templates together (beginning with CCAC's existing template) to ensure that they are compatible; approaches do not need to be identical, but they should not be inconsistent.

- GMI brings partners into the conversation who may not have signed the Global Methane Pledge but are nevertheless working voluntarily to address methane emissions and may still want assistance in developing methane action plans.
- GMI delegates expressed the organization's strength in engaging with the private sector. CCAC has some examples of private sector engagement as well, e.g., the [Oil & Gas Methane Partnership](#). M. Otto sees opportunities for GMI to support action planning through private sector engagement. CCAC does not want to duplicate efforts already underway but noted that GMI and CCAC should work together to maintain and build out engagement, identify any gaps, and determine who will reach out to bridge these gaps.

Sharing technical expertise and resources.

- CCAC hopes to learn from GMI as it supports country requests for assistance with methane roadmaps. M. Otto noted there may be opportunities for GMI to share lessons learned from methane action plans it has supported in the past, as well as to contribute sector-specific expertise. CCAC and GMI should ensure that country-specific action plans developed under each organization are not radically different.
- GMI delegates expressed openness to sharing sector-specific technical expertise and helping CCAC with matchmaking to support planning where appropriate.
- M. Otto noted that CCAC would welcome GMI's contributions and is open to ideas about how to collaborate on methane roadmap development.

Developing a joint workplan.

- M. Otto suggested that GMI and CCAC undertake a systematic planning effort that builds on the 2015 shared planning effort to better integrate respective work and ensure ongoing communication. Specifically, she suggested developing a typology or pipeline for when and how GMI and CCAC leverage their relative strengths to support action.
 - CCAC is exploring whether and how the Hubs could support projects for funding, a kind of stamp of approval "good for financing."
- M. Otto also suggested revisiting shared planning efforts that CCAC and GMI undertook together in 2015 and updating them to account for recent changes (e.g., the Global Methane Pledge).
- M. Otto agreed to provide the CCAC's two-pager on the Methane Flagship project to allow for systematic comparison of niches.

M. Otto concluded with an open invitation for GMI members to engage with the Hubs. She extended an invitation for the GMI Secretariat to attend the June CCAC Board Meeting for a brainstorming session with other CCAC partner organizations. M. Otto also suggested using the joint GMI-CCAC Forum event in September 2022 as a stepping stone towards breakthroughs in preparation for COP27.

Action Items

- CCAC will share methane action plan template and Methane Flagship two-pager with GMI.
- CCAC will invite GMI to attend its June Board Meeting.
- CCAC and GMI will revisit joint work planning efforts from 2015 and develop a joint working plan or typology (i.e., a mutually agreed-upon set of parameters to guide GMI and CCAC collaboration).

5: Finalizing Action Plan and Discussions on Engagement Strategy

L. Farquharson noted that the Steering Committee Action Plan was revised to incorporate delegate feedback from the February 2022 Steering Committee meeting. She briefly summarized the strategic priorities and associated activities, emphasizing the importance of Steering Committee participation in carrying out the Plan. Delegates had a few minor suggestions for the Plan:

- Regarding strategic priority 3, end the fourth specific action under “build capacity” at “methane mitigation space” to leave the door open for other approaches in addition to declarations/statements.
- Rename the “methane resource center” mentioned in strategic priority 3. Delegates proposed several alternatives, and L. Farquharson noted that the Secretariat and Steering Leadership will rename.

L. Farquharson then gave an overview of the Engagement Strategy outline, including suggestions for improved internal collaboration and messaging for key audiences.

Delegates provided the following suggestions on proposed activities to improve internal communication:

- Provide opportunities for the delegates to share information and updates outside of the Subcommittee meetings, such as regionally focused networking opportunities.
- Conduct more sector-specific workshops and webinars in addition to Subcommittee meetings.
- For Subcommittee-specific websites, provide a forum where countries can share successes and initiatives between Subcommittee meetings.
- In addition to listing country Steering Committee delegate names in Subcommittee welcome letters, list country Subcommittee delegate names in Steering Committee delegate welcome letters (where applicable).

Delegates provided the following suggestions on proposed key messages:

- Emphasize collaborations with CCAC and other Strategic Partners.
- Focus on “methane economy” to resonate with private sector participants.
- Highlight technical and sector expertise as core strengths.
- Communicate that both regional networking and global networking are benefits of participating in GMI.
- GMI’s long history in the methane space is a key message.

Action Items:

- The Secretariat and Steering leadership will incorporate delegate feedback on the Action Plan into the final document. The final Action Plan will be made available on the [Steering Committee website](#).
- The Secretariat and Steering leadership will develop a full draft of the Engagement Strategy, incorporating delegate feedback in advance of the September 2022 Steering Committee meeting.

6: Planning for the Global Methane Forum 2022

T. Carbonell (Vice Chair, United States) provided a brief update on the Global Methane Forum. Planned for 26-30 September 2022 in Washington, D.C., the high-profile event will build on the success of previous Forums to spur action on methane emissions reduction. Delegates from India, Canada, Saudi Arabia, and the U.S. indicated that they plan to attend the Forum in person.

H. Bigda-Peyton (Secretariat) gave a big-picture overview of the Forum agenda, which will include joint technical sessions, Subcommittee and Steering Committee meetings, and plenaries. She also shared the tentative agenda for the morning plenary sessions, developed in cooperation with the CCAC. She welcomed feedback from delegates, particularly on the joint technical sessions planned for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons.

T. Carbonell then opened the floor to discussion.

- Saudi Arabia asked whether countries could add to the plenary agenda or suggest side events. H. Bigda-Peyton clarified that the agenda for the high-level plenaries was generated by CCAC and the GMI Secretariat and that the planning team is mostly looking for input on joint technical session planning. H. Bigda-Peyton said side events could be considered.
- India requested a site visit for coal bed methane extraction and recovery in West Virginia or Pennsylvania. H. Bigda-Peyton clarified that the location of the meeting makes it challenging to arrange visit a coal site during the Forum itself, but that the planning team is exploring options for a virtual site meeting. She suggested that delegates collaborate with the Coal Mines Subcommittee to discuss possibilities for site visits before or after the event.

Action Items:

- The Secretariat will review speaker/topic suggestions from delegates and share them with Subcommittee Co-Chairs for further coordination as applicable.
- Steering delegates were invited to reach out to the Secretariat and/or relevant Subcommittees with proposals for site visits and/or side events.

7: Update on GMI Secretariat Activities

M. Shimamura (Secretariat) provided an update on GMI Secretariat activities undertaken since February 2022, including conducting an onboarding session, convening a Subcommittee Co-Chair meeting focused on Forum Planning, hosting a Steering Leadership meeting, and updating the globalmethane.org website. She also provided an overview of Project Network membership composition as of May 2022.

8: Wrap Up and Next Steps

In summary, the following action items were agreed to:

- Finalize the Steering Committee Action Plan.
- Develop a full draft of the Steering Committee Engagement Strategy.
- Plan for the next Steering Committee meeting in September 2022.
- Work with CCAC to develop a joint working plan and review action planning materials.
- Prepare for the Global Methane Forum, incorporating delegate feedback on joint technical sessions.

APPENDIX A

Meeting Participants (28)

Aman, Eaman – Ministry of Energy, Saudi Arabia
Bempah, Juliana – Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana
Bigda-Peyton, Hope – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Blackband, Jessica – Tetra Tech, United States
Carbonell, Tomás – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Castano Luján, Lina María – Colombia Ministry of Mines and Energy, Colombia
De Kerckhove, Diane – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Diamond, James – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Elger, Nicholas – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Farquharson, Laura – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Feindel, Kirk – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Franklin, Pamela – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Hamilton, Matthew – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Hilbert, Jorge – National Institute of Agriculture Technology, Argentina
Huang, Lan – China Coal Information Institute, China
Jiaye, Han – China Coal Information Institute, China
Kealey, Chelsea – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Kholiq, Muhammad Abdul – Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology, Indonesia
Kumar, Asheesh – Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd, India
McGill, Cathy – Tetra Tech, United States
Musa, Faisal – Ministry of Energy, Saudi Arabia
Otto, Martina – Climate and Clean Air Coalition, France
Patra, Chiranjib – Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd, India
Roshchanka, Volha – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Shimamura, Monica – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Tiwari, Vinod Kumar – Ministry of Coal, India
Yingchun, Zhao – China Coal Information Institute, China
Yadav, Ravi Shankar – Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd, India



**APPENDIX B
AGENDA**

**GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
Steering Committee Meeting
9 June 2022**

Thursday, 9 June 2022

Agenda 1	Welcome, Opening of Meeting <i>Laura Farquharson, Director-General of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Canada; GMI Acting Steering Committee Chair</i>
Agenda 2	Brief Introductions (Tour de Table) <i>Laura Farquharson</i>
Agenda 3	Meeting Objectives; Adoption of Agenda <i>Laura Farquharson</i>
Agenda 4	Strategic Partner Update: Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) <i>Martina Otto, Head of CCAC Secretariat</i> <i>Vinod Kumar Tiwari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Government of India; GMI Steering Committee Vice Chair</i>
Agenda 5	Finalizing Action Plan and Discussions on Engagement Strategy <i>Laura Farquharson</i>
Agenda 6	Planning for the Global Methane Forum 2022 <i>Tomás Carbonell, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Stationary Sources, EPA Office of Air and Radiation; GMI Steering Committee Vice Chair; with support from the GMI Secretariat</i>
Agenda 7	Update on GMI Secretariat Activities <i>Monica Shimamura, Director, GMI Secretariat</i>
Agenda 8	Wrap Up and Next Steps <i>Laura Farquharson</i>
Agenda 9	Adjourn