



21st Steering Committee Meeting Summary 18 March 2024 (and follow-up Forum Debrief 3 April 2024)

Overview

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Steering Committee held its 21st meeting in-person and virtually on 18 March 2024. Tomás Carbonell, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Chair of the GMI Steering Committee led the meeting. Delegates from nine Steering Partner Countries participated, including Canada, China, Finland, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, and the United States. Representatives of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), the Global Methane Hub, and The World Bank also participated. A list of the participants is provided in [Appendix A](#).

The purpose of the meeting was to learn about technical resources, events, communications, and activities completed and in progress; hear from GMI Partner delegates about methane mitigation activities, priorities, and needs in their countries; explore ways to enhance collaboration across methane initiatives; hear countries' updates from COP28 and begin planning for COP29; and discuss and shape agenda items for the next Steering Committee meeting. The PowerPoint presentation and other materials discussed during the meeting are available on the [Steering Committee website](#). The full agenda is included in [Appendix B](#).

Additional notes from the virtual Steering Committee Forum Debrief on 3 April 2024 have been included in this summary. A list of the participants and the agenda for the 3 April meeting is provided in [Appendices C](#) and [D](#).

HIGHLIGHTS BY AGENDA TOPIC FOR 18 MARCH 2024 MEETING

Setting the Scene: Meeting Objectives, Agenda Approval, and COP28 Reflection

T. Carbonell reviewed the objectives of the meeting, reviewed the agenda, which was adopted, and asked Claire Henly, U.S. Department of State, to provide her reflections about COP28. C. Henly noted three major outcomes from COP28: (1) delivered over \$1 billion in funding for methane, (2) documented notable country steps, progress, and regulations, such as in oil and gas; and (3) demonstrated strong momentum across other sectors.

The Chair opened up the floor for general comments and Steering Committee members expressed a general interest in:

- Having access to more case studies from all of GMI
- Expanding the networks of GMI so that people can find each other more readily and defining the processes and elements of engaging new Partners
- Fostering enhanced learning between countries

Update on Key Priorities and Subcommittee Activities

Denise Mulholland (Director, Secretariat) provided an update on GMI, which included an overview of GMI progress overall and a report of GMI Secretariat activities. For more information, see the [slides](#).

Highlights of GMI activities and Secretariat updates included:

- Key priorities and takeaways from the September 2023 Steering Committee meeting
- Findings from the ongoing Partner Country Needs Assessment
- New GMI products, including the GMI Policymaker’s Framework for Addressing Methane Emissions
- The GMI Methane Matters Quarterly Newsletter

Chiranjib Patra (Coal Mines Subcommittee Member and Steering Committee delegate, India), Godfred Fiifi Boadi (Biogas Subcommittee Co-Chair, Ghana), and James Diamond (Oil & Gas Subcommittee Co-Chair, Canada) gave updates on the current context of their sectors, activities, accomplishments, and upcoming plans (see [slides](#)). In addition, it was noted that:

- The Coal Subcommittee Co-Chairs ranked 30 activity ideas to implement. The top-ranked ideas were:
 - Updating the GMI Technology Database.
 - Developing case studies with Marginal Abatement Curves and country- specific analyses.
 - Producing basic trainings on how emissions are estimated through top-down methods.
- The Biogas Subcommittee has a new Co-Chair, Godfred Fiifi Boadi, and plans to strengthen future partnerships with The World Bank’s Methane Platform and the CCAC’s Waste and Agriculture Hubs.
- Involving the Project Network in GMI activities is important as the private sector has solutions and can bring investments.
- The Oil & Gas Subcommittee is recruiting Co-Chairs.

The Steering Committee discussed the updates and shared feedback including an increased need to and interest in:

- Learning from each other and sharing stories of experiences, lessons learned, and successes
- Taking workshops, which have been useful, to the next level, such as through yearly review meetings or annual plans
- Connecting the Secretariat to others with similar workstreams (e.g., Clean Energy Ministerial, Mission Innovation)
- Developing sprint action plans for the Subcommittees to convey urgency and ensure investments are strategic
- Benchmarking others’ initiatives to add something new for GMI and share with the Steering Committee

Strategic Partner Collaboration and Progress on Methane Initiatives: Update and Discussion

T. Carbonell invited representatives of key organizations to provide an update on their methane-related activities and priorities, including Martina Otto, CCAC; Stefania Abakerli, The World Bank; and Marcelo Mena and D’Seanté Parks, Global Methane Hub.

Several opportunities for enhanced collaboration were identified during the discussion, including:

- Promoting each other's resources and events
- Scheduling GMI Subcommittee meetings to coincide with other meetings
 - For example, the GMI Biogas Subcommittee meeting could be co-located with the 2025 CCAC meeting in Brazil.
- Continuing to improve communication and coordination
 - Coordination between GMI and CCAC is particularly important to avoid overlap or duplication of activities and efforts (e.g., roadmaps, resources) and to make it clear to all parties how GMI and CCAC collaborate.
- Collaborating on methane policy tracking
- Strategizing to coordinate targeted country support

Country Updates with Facilitated Discussion

Delegates from Canada, China, Finland, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, and the United States provided updates on current methane priorities and activities and reported that they are very active on methane mitigation. Participants engaged in questions-and-answers after each update.

Partner Country updates and discussion highlighted the importance of:

- Connecting countries through case studies to foster peer exchange and replication of best practices and successes
- Exploring opportunities to engage and direct work through Subcommittees
- Finding ways to enhance support for GMI, including meeting participation and access to resources
- Engaging people who have not recently attended meetings and requesting missing methane mitigation activity information from those countries

Global Opinion Survey on Methane

D'Seanté Parks presented the results of the Global Methane Opinion Survey conducted by the Global Methane Hub. The [Global Opinion Survey](#) was distributed as a 10-minute online poll in 17 countries between 14 November and 11 December 2023. At least 750 responses were collected from adults aged 18 years or older in each country.

Suggestions and perspectives shared during the discussion included:

- Numbers are weighted to account for differences in age.
- A lack of representation in Southeast Asia may provide a different perspective.
- Pre-mapping of the policies was done by Global Methane Hub partners from the selected countries. These countries also proposed the specific questions that were used in the survey.
- The policy take-aways were:
 - People are feeling the impacts caused by humans, and generally support methane reduction efforts.
 - Corporations and national government can make a huge impact.

Open Discussion

T. Carbonell led a discussion about reflections from the day and implications for GMI.

Highlights of the discussion included the consideration and importance of numerous priorities and potential action items for GMI, including:

- **Promote actions, experiences, and successes** by potentially:
 - Developing and promoting case studies of successes across sectors, including barriers encountered and how Partners overcame them
 - Expanding the Policymaker Framework promotion and content inclusion and development
 - Updating Partner Country webpages on GMI's website based on information shared during the meeting
 - For example, the Secretariat team could post fact sheets on presentations and annual reports to the Partner Country pages and could also request that all Partner Countries review and update their GMI country webpage information.
 - Considering development of an annual full partnership report, although it was noted that preparing an annual report requires a lot of work and resources and is typically not done
- **Ensure sector-specific work is strategic, more concrete and most impactful**, such as by:
 - Working with the Subcommittee Co-Chairs to create 5-year sprint action plans with quantifiable metrics and methods to achieve certain reductions or goals by 2030
 - Action plans should relate to Partner Country needs and Project Network member assessments.
 - Reducing barriers to technology by ensuring that all sectors have access to technology options
 - Disseminating communications and work through the Subcommittees to ensure sectoral focus
- **Increase networking among Partners and engage Partner Countries not represented on the Steering Committee**, perhaps by:
 - Inviting them to meetings to share updates
 - Conducting an "all member" meeting of the Partner Countries on a pilot basis
 - Leveraging GMI's relationship with funding Partners, like the Global Methane Hub and the World Bank to attract participation
 - Reaching out to delegates who have not attended meetings in a while and encouraging them to participate
- **Explore ways to better engage the Project Network**, including potentially:
 - Inviting members to participate in Steering Committee meetings
 - Sharing feedback on how GMI can improve its support of private sector activities focused on methane mitigation
 - Expanding networks, such as with the Clean Energy Ministerial and Mission Innovation
 - Leveraging GMI's relationship with funding Partners, like the Global Methane Hub and The World Bank to attract participation
 - Establishing an advisory committee for the Project Network
 - Identifying how to increase virtual engagement and interaction with members
 - Taking advantage of recent growth in the number of members and explore ways to increase Project Network engagement on the Subcommittees

- Exploring ways to encourage private sector networking and feature them more appropriately on GMI's website (e.g., integrate them into the GMI Policymaker wheel, etc.)
- **Work with key Strategic Partners to further identify ways to enhance collaboration** on key activities and events, including by potentially:
 - Mapping capacity-building plans by country across Strategic Partners and grouping by sector work to identify areas for collaboration
 - Focusing on funding as a connection opportunity for GMI, exploring ways to connect Partner Countries and Project Network members to each other and to potential sources of funding (e.g., The World Bank, and CCAC)
 - Beginning to think about a plan to ensure GMI can support Partner Country participation at COP29 (to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 11 November 2024 to 22 November 2024)

The Steering Committee requested that the Secretariat:

- Create a list of key action items discussed at the meeting, prioritize them, and share with the Steering Committee members to discuss and reach consensus on top-priority items during the 2024 Global Methane Forum virtual debrief for the Steering Committee held 3 April 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS BY AGENDA TOPIC FOR 3 APRIL 2024 VIRTUAL MEETING

The Steering Committee met virtually to share feedback and key takeaways from the 2024 Global Methane Forum, discuss plans for future Global Methane Forums, and revisit and prioritize Secretariat action items introduced at the March Steering Committee meeting.

Secretariat Key Takeaways from the Forum

D. Mulholland (Director, Secretariat) shared key takeaways, including preliminary attendance data, social media and communications impact, evaluation form feedback, and Secretariat takeaways regarding elements that worked well and what could have been better. For more information, see the [slides](#).

The Subcommittee Co-Chairs also shared their feedback.

- The Coal Subcommittee Co-Chairs commented positively about good interaction and helpful discussions during their technical sessions, while noting that they could have used another day to meet. They suggested that interpretation for both technical sessions would have been preferred as interpretation was only available for one session, not both.
- The Biogas Subcommittee Co-Chairs noted the focus on landfills and expressed interest in increasing participation of delegates from Africa and increasing focus on agricultural topics. They also recommended future consideration of responsible consumption, suggesting that GMI avoid plastics and other single use items at future events that generate waste.
- For the Oil and Gas sessions, the value of interpretation was noted as well as a recommendation to avoid scheduling conflicts with CERAWEEK in the future. They expressed a desire for more networking time and space, stating that there were long lunch breaks although it was a large property to navigate which reduced time for lunch.

Open Discussion and Feedback on the Forum

T. Carbonell invited delegates to share their perspectives and opinions of the 2024 Global Methane Forum.

In addition to feedback shared by the Secretariat, the delegates noted that:

- Geneva was a central location and they felt safe in Geneva, Switzerland when traveling alone.
- There was good gender representation on the Forum agenda but not balance; it was suggested that GMI also plan for regional balance in the future.
- They had a meaningful experience where they learned a lot and met key contacts.
- More time for dialogue with the presenters would have been beneficial.
- It would have been ideal to have meetings in the same location to more easily facilitate attendees' ability to attend different sessions.
- Participants found it challenging to find suitable locations for private side meetings or discussions.
- Interpretation was helpful.
- It would have been useful to more clearly identify concurrent meetings on the agenda.
- Some participants were unable to attend due to the Forum being held during Ramadan.

Planning for Future Global Methane Forums

T. Carbonell encouraged participants to discuss the necessity, timing, location, and format for the next Global Methane Forum. Delegates affirmed that GMI should plan to organize a 2026 Global Methane Forum, striving for every two years.

Discussions also highlighted ideas and the importance of:

- Establishing an Executive Planning Committee
- Giving GMI Steering Leadership countries an opportunity to be the next host
- Considering hosting the next Forum in collaboration with another event to potentially reach a different audience and decrease event costs
- Researching holidays so the Forum does not overlap

The Steering Committee requested that the Secretariat:

- Develop a high-level options paper with potential locations, timing, and focus areas for the 2026 Global Methane Forum by September 2024, incorporating takeaways from 2024 Forum.

Prioritizing Proposed Actions from the 18 March 2024 Steering Committee Meeting

D. Mulholland shared a list of key action items discussed at the April meeting for the Steering Committee members to discuss and reach consensus on the top-priority items.

Based on the discussion, the Steering Committee requested the Secretariat take actions in the following areas:

- **Actions, Experiences, and Successes Promotion:**
 - **Case Studies:** Develop a template for Steering Committee review; upon approval, begin developing case studies.

- **GMI Policymaker Framework for Addressing Methane Emissions:** Promote, enhance, and populate the Framework with case studies and resources; reach out to Partners for input.
- **Partner Country Profiles:** Update to reflect latest data with Partner Country input.
- **Sector-specific and Strategic Sprint Action Plans:** Propose elements of a sprint action plan template for discussion at the next Steering Committee meeting.
- **Project Network Member Engagement:** Identify options for increasing engagement for discussion at the next Steering Committee meeting.
- **Partner Country Engagement:** Develop options for increasing engagement with non-Steering Committee delegates, including exploration of a virtual All Partners meeting conducted annually for discussion at the next Steering Committee meeting.
- **Strategic Partners Collaboration:** Propose ideas to plan for COP29 and otherwise enhance collaboration; provide an update at the next Steering Committee meeting.
- **2026 Global Methane Forum Planning:** Develop a high-level options paper with potential locations, timing, and focus areas for the 2026 Global Methane Forum for discussion at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Recap and Wrap-up

T. Carbonell thanked participants for very productive discussions and expressed appreciation for the attendees' time to participate in the meeting and all their contributions to GMI.

APPENDIX A

Steering Committee Meeting

18 March 2024

Meeting Participants (33)

Steering Committee

Canada:

De Kerckhove, Diane, Environment and Climate Change Canada

China:

Jiaye, Han, China Coal Information Institute

Lan, Huang, China Coal Information Institute

Wenge, Liu, China Coal Information Institute

Wentian, Tong, Department of Climate Change

Finland:

Kupiainen, Kaarle, Finland Ministry of the Environment

Ghana:

Bempah, Juliana, Environmental Protection Agency

Benefoh, Daniel Tutu, Environmental Protection Agency

India:

Kumar, Ajay, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.

Kumar, Manoj, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.

Patra, Chiranjib, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.

Indonesia:

Agustina, Haruki, Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Kholiq, Muhammad Abdul, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) (virtual)

Margaretha, Grace, Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Ratnawati, Rosa Vivien, Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Saudi Arabia:

Al Musa, Faisal, Ministry of Energy

Qurooni, Faisal, Ministry of Energy

Abdullah, Ameer, Ministry of Energy

Serbia:

Lazic, Sandra, Ministry of Environmental Protection

Mehandžić, Dragana, Ministry of Environmental Protection

United States:

Carbonell, Tomás, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Franklin, Pamela, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Henly, Claire, U.S. Department of State

Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Biogas:

Boadi, Godfred Fiifi, Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, Ghana

Oil & Gas:

Diamond, James, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada

External Organizations

Climate and Clean Air Coalition: Otto, Martina and Morris, James

Global Methane Hub: Mena, Marcelo and Parks, D'Seanté

The World Bank: Abakerli, Stefania

Secretariat

Mulholland, Denise, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States

Derieux, Christine, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States (virtual)

Ferguson, Shannon, Tetra Tech, United States

APPENDIX B
Global Methane Initiative
Steering Committee Meeting
Agenda
18 March 2024
Geneva, Switzerland

	Time	Topic	Lead(s)
1.	10:00 – 10:05	Welcome, Opening of the Meeting	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
2.	10:05 – 10:30	Tour de Table /Brief Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour de Table: invite each participant / delegation to make brief introductions (<i>2 minutes each for introductions - name, affiliation, country</i>) 	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
3.	10:30 – 10:40	Setting the Scene: Meeting Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of Agenda • Review of GMI Strategic Priorities • Updates from COP28 	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
4.	10:40 – 11:00	Update on Key Priorities & Subcommittee Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key priorities / Secretariat update (<i>10 minutes</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessment of GMI Partner Country needs ○ Re-engaging the Project Network ○ Secretariat plans to help Partners and the private sector more readily find tools and resources ○ Policymaker Framework ○ Collaboration with Strategic Partners • Brief Subcommittee updates (<i>3 minutes each, may be delegated to the Secretariat if co-chairs are not available</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coal mines ○ Biogas ○ Oil & gas 	GMI Secretariat; Subcommittee Co-Chairs

	Time	Topic	Lead(s)
5.	11:00 – 11:30	Collaboration and Progress on Methane Initiatives: Updates and Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on ongoing collaboration and initiatives, including implementation of Global Methane Pledge and other relevant activities by partner organizations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UN Economic Commission for Europe ○ Climate and Clean Air Coalition ○ Global Methane Hub ○ World Bank • Coordination on future strategic planning and needs assessments. 	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
	11:30 – 11:45	Health Break	
6.	11:45 – 13:00	Country Updates with Facilitated Discussion (Part 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ China ○ Finland ○ India ○ Indonesia ○ Saudi Arabia • Partner Countries will share an update on current methane priorities and activities • Q&A; Open discussion 	Dr. Daniel Benefoh, Vice Chair
	13:00 – 15:00	Group Photo and Lunch Break	
7.	15:00 – 16:15	Country Updates with Facilitated Discussion (Part 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Canada ○ Ghana ○ Nigeria ○ Poland ○ Serbia ○ United States • Partner Countries will share an update on current methane priorities and activities • Q&A; Open discussion 	Dr. Daniel Benefoh, Vice Chair
	16:15-16:30	Health Break	
8.	16:30-17:15	Global Opinion Survey on Methane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Global Methane Hub will present on results of a global survey of more than 10,000 people across 15 countries on public understanding of methane • Q&A 	D’Seanté Parks, Global Methane Hub

	Time	Topic	Lead(s)
9.	17:15-17:45	Open Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflections and discussions; Implications for GMI	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
10.	17:45 – 18:00	Recap and Wrap-up <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What did we hear today?• Action items/ next steps	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
	18:00	Adjourn	

APPENDIX C

Steering Committee Forum Debrief (Virtual)

3 April 2024

Meeting Participants (24)

Steering Committee

Canada:

De Kerckhove, Diane, Environment and Climate Change Canada

China:

Lan, Huang, China Coal Information Institute

Ghana:

Bempah, Juliana, Environmental Protection Agency

Benefoh, Daniel Tutu, Environmental Protection Agency

India:

Maddirala, Nagaraju, Ministry of Coal of India

Patra, Chiranjib, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.

Yadav, Ravi, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.

Indonesia:

Agustina, Haruki, Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Kholiq, Muhammad Abdul, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)

Saudi Arabia:

Abdullah, Ameer, Ministry of Energy

Al Musa, Faisal, Ministry of Energy

Qurooni, Faisal, Ministry of Energy

United States:

Carbonell, Tomás, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Franklin, Pamela, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Lie, Sharyn, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Biogas:

Boadi, Godfred Fiifi, Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, Ghana

Hamilton, Matthew, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada

Oil & Gas:

Diamond, James, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada

Coal:

Roshchanka, Volha, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States

Secretariat

Derieux, Christine, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States

Mulholland, Denise, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States

Zimmerman, Klara, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States

Ferguson, Shannon, Tetra Tech, United States

McGill, Cathy, Tetra Tech, United States

APPENDIX D

**Global Methane Initiative
Steering Committee Meeting**

AGENDA

3 April 2024

Virtual: 7:30 – 9:00 AM EST

	Time	Topic	Lead(s)
1.	7:30 - 7:35 AM	Welcome, Opening of the Meeting	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
2.	7:35 - 7:45 AM	Tour de Table /Brief Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour de Table: invite each participant / delegation to make brief introductions (2 minutes each for introductions - name, affiliation, country) 	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
3.	7:45 - 7:50 AM	Meeting Objectives and Review of Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share feedback and key takeaways from the Global Methane Forum as a whole • Discuss planning for future Global Methane Forums • Revisit and prioritize Secretariat action items • Adoption of agenda 	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
4.	7:50 - 8:00 AM	Secretariat Key Takeaways from the Forum	GMI Secretariat
5.	8:00 - 8:15 AM	Open Discussion and Feedback on the Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A; Open discussion 	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
6.	8:15 – 8:25 AM	Planning for the Next Global Methane Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss timing, location, format. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Should we plan another Forum? ○ If yes, what is the right timing? ○ How should we select a location? • Open discussion 	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
7.	8:25 - 8:35 AM	Steering Committee Follow-Up and Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share proposed actions from the 18 March Steering Committee Meeting 	GMI Secretariat

	Time	Topic	Lead(s)
8.	8:35 – 8:55 AM	Open Discussion and Feedback on Steering Committee Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review potential action items identified at March Steering Committee meeting • Q&A; Open discussion • Prioritize Actions for the Secretariat 	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
9.	8:55 – 9:00 AM	Recap and Wrap-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action items / next steps 	Mr. Tomás Carbonell, Chair
10.	9:00 AM	Adjourn	