

Discussion Paper: GMI's Support for Ambitious Global Actions on Methane and Strategic Priorities

The GMI Steering Committee will convene on 9 February 2022 to discuss the path forward to achieving GMI's goals and mandate. Steering Committee members are requested to read this document ahead of the meeting, as it will prepare attendees for the discussions.

The Steering Committee will discuss two main topics that will inform the development of the GMI's future work plan:

- How can GMI support Partners in achieving ambitious global methane emission reduction goals, such as the Global Methane Pledge?
- What should GMI aim to achieve within the next 1 to 5 years?

How can GMI support Partners in achieving ambitious global methane emission reduction goals, such as the Global Methane Pledge?

Background. Recent international events have focused countries' efforts on developing ambitious methane mitigation goals. Methane mitigation is playing an increasingly important role in national action plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and recent reports have highlighted that methane mitigation offers short-term climate benefits and economic opportunities¹.

One international initiative that is particularly relevant to the work of the GMI is [the Global Methane Pledge](#). The Global Methane Pledge, launched at the 26th Conference of Parties in November 2021, called on participants to take voluntary actions to contribute to a collective effort to reduce global methane emissions at least 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030. To date, 111 countries have signed onto the Pledge², including more than 30 of GMI's 46 Partner countries. The Pledge is a non-binding commitment in which countries pledge to take actions in their own countries and in supporting other countries to advance global methane mitigation.

GMI and the Global Methane Pledge have in common the overarching goal of global methane emissions reductions. The Global Methane Pledge includes a commitment for signatories to support existing international initiatives working on methane, and specifically names GMI as one of these initiatives.

GMI's long history of technical expertise, training and capacity building, and networking and information sharing, as well as its suite of tools and resources, provide an invaluable resource to countries around the world as they strive to reduce methane emissions. Since the Global Methane Pledge announcement and increased attention on methane over the past several months, GMI has already attracted a new Partner Country, Denmark. We expect GMI's resources, technical expertise, and information sharing events to be even more in demand moving forward.

In this context, some GMI Partners, including some on the Steering Committee, may be planning to accelerate or reinvigorate their efforts to reduce methane within their own borders and seeking cost-effective mechanisms to do so. Others may be re-examining their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and evaluating methane reduction as an integral component of their plan. Some GMI Partners may also be exploring opportunities to work collaboratively with other countries, either bilaterally or under the auspices of a partnership such as GMI. This critical juncture provides an opportunity for GMI to serve as a key resource for Partner Countries and other stakeholders interested in reducing methane emissions.

Questions for discussion:

¹ Global Methane Assessment Report (<https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/resources/global-methane-assessment-full-report>), IEA Methane Tracker 2021 (<https://www.iea.org/reports/methane-tracker-2021>)

² <https://www.globalmethanepledge.org/>

- Are there specific types of support that GMI Partners would find helpful in achieving their individual methane mitigation goals? (e.g., assistance in developing national methane action plans or sector specific plans, or assistance in developing regulatory or policy frameworks?)
- How can the Steering Committee leverage the enhanced international attention on methane to increase action by GMI Partner Countries and the Project Network?
- What concrete next steps could the Steering Committee take to support and advance global ambition on methane through GMI Partners and our Strategic Partners such as CCAC, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the International Energy Agency (IEA), and others?

Strategic Planning: What should GMI aim to achieve within the next 1 year to 5 years?

Background. The GMI Steering Committee has undertaken strategic planning discussions as part of the rechartering process (completed in June 2021) to ensure that the partnership continues to provide valuable support to its Partners. In 2020 the Executive Task Force, representing a diverse cross-section of GMI stakeholders and Strategic Partners, provided input to the Steering Committee on the future activities of GMI³. At that time,⁴ the Steering Committee identified the following as top priorities for GMI:

1. Collaborate and align with key Strategic Partners to foster high-profile opportunities
2. Continue to engage with the private sector
3. Position GMI as a “methane resource center”

GMI’s top priorities will help guide the development of a work plan of short- and near-term actions for the GMI. This will include work undertaken by the Secretariat, the GMI Leadership Team (Chair and Vice Chairs), the Steering Committee, and the three Subcommittees.

In addition to discussing action items that would advance the priorities listed above, the Chair proposes that the Steering Committee also come prepared to discuss key strategies to success and current challenges faced by the GMI. For example, the three Subcommittees are tasked with the advancement of GMI’s goals in each sector, and are best positioned to support substantive progress to address global methane emissions. Active participation by GMI Partner Countries is critical for the advancement of the Subcommittee work, and Subcommittee Co-Chairs may need more support from the Steering Committee to build and maintain this participation. The Subcommittee Co-Chairs will provide an update on current plans, opportunities, and challenges to overcome during the meeting. Steering Committee members are encouraged to come prepared to discuss how the Steering Committee can support the Subcommittees in advancing substantive action on methane.

The Secretariat proposes that the Steering Committee consider developing an engagement strategy that will guide participation both internally within the GMI and externally with Strategic Partners and other stakeholders. This proposed engagement strategy would be developed for GMI as a whole and for each of the Subcommittees to strengthen how GMI positions itself. Specific actions under an engagement strategy could include:

- Evaluating where **GMI’s technical strengths and expertise** can add value to in addressing barriers to methane mitigation.
- Identifying and consistently promoting **key messages** about GMI (who we are, why we matter, and how we are different than other organizations).

³ The Executive Task Force summary can be found [here](#) (scroll down to the section titled “Executive Task Force Feedback Document”).

⁴ The December 2020 meeting summary can be found [here](#) (scroll down to the section titled “Meeting Summaries”).

- **Strengthening the flow of information and cross-sector collaboration** among the Subcommittees and the Steering Committee.

Questions for discussion:

- Given recent developments, including the launching of the Global Methane Pledge, does the Steering Committee agree that these items remain top priorities for the GMI?
- Are there any additional priorities that the Steering Committee should consider adding?
- What specific actions could be taken to advance progress under each priority item? (see below for potential actions)
- How can the Steering Committee assist in addressing the needs and challenges faced by the Subcommittees?
- Would the Steering Committee find value in an engagement strategy? Are there other considerations to be taken in the development of such a strategy?

The tables below identify potential activities associated with each of the GMI priorities, as well as which group within the GMI would be involved in the implementation of each activity.

For each priority item, Steering Committee delegates are encouraged to share their perspectives guided by the following considerations:

- What additional specific actions could be taken under each of these priority items?
- Which, if any, of the activities listed here should be prioritized or removed from consideration?
- Which of these activities do you think would make the biggest difference in helping your country reduce methane emissions in the near-term? In the longer term?
- Which of these items could you, as a Steering Committee member and/or Partner Country, actively contribute towards?

Priority 1: Collaborate and align with key Strategic Partners to foster high-profile opportunities

Potential Activities	GMI Entity Involved in Implementation	Additional Considerations
Continue to collaborate with CCAC, including collaboration on a Global Methane Forum event in 2022 and beyond to advance information sharing on methane mitigation at the national, regional, and sectoral levels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a joint working plan with CCAC to best leverage each organization's expertise and resources and avoid duplication. 	Secretariat	Subcommittees may wish to cooperate directly with CCAC on sector-specific work
Strengthen cooperation with the World Bank, the International Energy Agency (IEA), and the Arctic Council, among others, to minimize duplication.	Leadership, Steering Committee members, and Secretariat	
Explore further opportunities to collaborate with sector-specific environmental groups.	Subcommittees	

Priority 2: Continue to engage with the private sector

Potential Activities	GMI Entity Involved in Implementation	Additional Considerations
Provide guidance to the Global Methane Pledge Secretariat, as appropriate, including potentially advising on impactful ways to invest in methane mitigation efforts globally.	Leadership, Steering Committee members, Subcommittees, Secretariat	The mechanics of the funding under the Pledge are not yet clear.

Engage Project Network members to participate as delegates on Subcommittees.	Subcommittees	
GMI acts as a matchmaking organization between solution providers and those looking for mitigation solutions.	Steering Committee, Subcommittees	
Determine GMI's value-added for the private sector and communicate this to potential Project Network members to bolster active participation.	Leadership, Steering Committee members, Subcommittees, Secretariat	

Priority 3: Position GMI as a “methane resource center”

Potential Activities	GMI Entity Involved in Implementation	Additional Considerations
Capacity building: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help countries to identify, implement, and promote national and subnational mitigation policies and programs to achieve methane emission reductions. - Collaborate with Strategic Partners to assist in identifying financing opportunities. - Work with financial institutions to lower the risk on methane finance. 	Leadership, Steering Committee members, Subcommittees, Secretariat	
Direct technical assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connect Partners who can directly engage and provide assistance and training to develop and implement methane mitigation policies and address barriers to mitigation projects. 	Subcommittees	
Disseminating knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote best practices and information on managing methane among the biogas and fossil fuel industries. - Facilitate peer exchange on methane recovery and utilization technologies, policy frameworks, investment financing mechanisms, and best practices. 	Steering Committee members, Subcommittees, Secretariat	