

Overview

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Steering Committee held its 19th meeting virtually on 13 April 2023. Cécile Siewe, Director General, Industrial Sectors and Chemicals Directorate, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Chair of the GMI Steering Committee led the meeting. Delegates from 8 Steering Partner Countries participated, including Canada, China, Colombia, Finland, Ghana, India, Saudi Arabia, and the United States; a delegate from Poland also participated. Representatives of the United Nations Economic Committee for Europe (UNECE), the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), and the Global Methane Hub also participated. A list of the participants is provided in Appendix A.

The purpose of the meeting was to share leadership news, hear from GMI Partner delegates about methane mitigating activities in their countries, participate in a strategic planning discussion about how to enhance collaboration across methane initiatives, discuss plans for 2023 and the 2024 Global Methane Forum, and obtain concurrence with the criteria and process for securing strategic partners. The featured PowerPoint presentation and other materials discussed during the meeting are available on the [Steering Committee website](#). The agenda is included in Appendix B.

Agenda Highlights

1: Welcome, Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of Agenda

C. Siewe (Steering Committee Chair, Canada) opened the meeting. The meeting objectives were approved and the agenda was adopted.

2: Leadership News

C. Siewe confirmed concurrence with the nomination of the United States as Chair of the Steering Committee and India as a Vice Chair. She welcomed M. Nagaraju, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, India, who succeeded Vinod Tiwari who retired in late February. Tomás Carbonell, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Stationary Sources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Air and Radiation, United States, thanked Canada for their leadership of GMI since 2016. Noting that the United States is honored and excited to be stepping into this leadership role, he stated that the U.S. looks forward to collaborating with the Partner Countries to achieve ambitious and meaningful action on methane.

3: Tour de Table and Country Updates

C. Siewe invited a representative from each country to introduce themselves and provide a brief update on country actions. Delegates from Colombia and Ghana provided updates about methane-focused activities in the oil and gas and biogas sectors, respectively.

Colombia. Lina María Castaño Luján, Ministry of Mines and Energy, reviewed the adoption of a resolution in 2022 that established technical requirements for leak detection and repair (LDAR) and the use, burning, and venting of natural gas during exploration. The resolution made Colombia the first South American country to regulate methane emissions from the oil and gas sector. Colombia faces challenges regarding the implementation of the resolution, and they are focused on making several improvements, including defining an accreditation standard for organizations that intend to conduct verification activities, allowing evaluations to be carried out by first or third parties, and requiring that quantification instruments be calibrated by accredited laboratories.

Ghana. Daniel Akwetey Lamptey provided an overview of methane activities in the biogas sector. He noted the nationwide installation of more than 100 biogas plants but acknowledged challenges to many due to design and operational issues. Ghana's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) includes plans to install institutional biogas facilities which will strengthen the nation's energy transition goals to implement clean cooking solutions.

4: Strategic Planning Discussion: How to Enhance Collaboration Across Methane Initiatives to Maximize Mitigation in the Coming Year(s)

T. Carbonell opened the discussion by welcoming guest speakers from UNECE, the Global Methane Hub, and CCAC who shared updates about their priorities.

Secretariat-suggested Ideas to Strengthen Collaboration

- Cross-promote each other's materials, events
- GMI Secretariat to schedule regular update calls with each organization on activities, priorities, opportunities
- Invite each other to relevant board meetings/steering committee meetings, and other business-related discussions
- GMI experts could advise the Global Methane Hub on project proposals to facilitate selection of most promising investments and provide implementation support
- Consider creating pipeline of bankable projects
- Develop documents jointly
- Co-host or co-locate annual meetings, trainings, and workshops; add additional days devoted to technical trainings, peer exchange
- Foster connections between funders (GMH), minister-level officials (CCAC), and technical experts (GMI, CCAC)
- Collaborate on methane events at COP28

Dario Liguti, UNECE. UNECE's priorities for methane-focused activities include continuing to work with the International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane in Poland and China and focusing on reporting and verification to ensure accuracy of data. D. Liguti expressed support for strengthening relationships across methane initiatives which will strengthen impacts for all stakeholders, and is interested in exploring a pipeline of bankable projects, noting the need for assistance to transform projects into business opportunities.

Patty Rhee, Global Methane Hub. Satellite projects are the Hub's main goal this year – exploring how to make sure satellite data is actionable by countries and how to maximize data use. The Hub is working to convene sector-specific collaboration meetings this year for satellite data to be available in 2024 and plans to hold a kick-off meeting in late June. She hopes to engage GMI Partners for these meetings and welcomes opportunities to collaborate on resources. She also mentioned an event to be held in Africa in late April and an upcoming announcement about mitigation of enteric methane.

James Morris, CCAC. CCAC is gearing up for their upcoming [call for proposals](#), coordinating the development of methane roadmap action plans, and initiating projects in developing countries. Approximately \$7M has been allocated for country plans and outreach and \$14M for country-driven, sectoral, and transformative projects. CCAC is discussing the establishment of project preparation facilities to identify and address investment barriers for capacity building projects and has plans to develop a clean air flagship this year that will be announced at CCAC's ministerial at COP28. He noted the successful, ongoing collaboration with GMI for the waste hub, and expressed interest in discussing the pipeline of bankable projects.

The participants then engaged in a brainstorming session to share ideas and recommendations for how GMI and its Strategic Partners can leverage, complement, and promote each other's efforts, which prompted the following responses:

- Support was generally expressed for the collaboration ideas presented on the slides. A recommendation was also made to consider prioritizing the ideas.
- Interest was expressed in following up on the pipeline of bankable projects.
- It was noted that GMI technical experts could help the Hub review potential projects to help identify and/or select those with the greatest potential for methane reductions.
- Saudi Arabia proposed several ideas to strengthen collaboration, including:
 - (1) An invitation to co-locate the fall GMI Steering Committee meeting in conjunction with the Middle East and North Africa Climate Week (MENACW) on 9-12 October which Saudi Arabia is hosting. There are possibilities to co-host side events.
 - (2) Explore options to enhance GMI's visibility at COP28. For example, could GMI host an independent pavilion? Saudi Arabia will host the 2nd largest pavilion and could offer to host GMI if GMI is unable to host an independent pavilion.
 - (3) A suggestion that the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) be considered a potential strategic partner of GMI.
- CCAC, UNECE, and the Global Methane Hub were encouraged to invite GMI to participate in their meetings, as appropriate, to ensure a two-way flow of information.
- Participants requested information about CCAC's clean air flagship. J. Morris noted that the flagship will be discussed at the upcoming Climate and Clean Air Conference scheduled for late May in Bangkok.
- It was noted that co-locating the CCAC and GMI meetings at the 2022 Global Methane and Clean Air Forum provided valuable opportunities for increased networking and collaboration.
- A Subcommittee Co-Chair suggested that GMI reach out to eligible partners to ask them what they need; GMI, in turn, could match the requests against a database of needs and requests. Items that cannot be funded by CCAC could be shared with all partners, including development agencies, to determine the funding that might be available from other sources. He expressed interest in working together with GMI to discuss concrete plans.

T. Carbonell thanked participants for the thoughtful discussion and sharing of ideas.

5: Subcommittee Co-Chair Updates

Volha Roshchanka (Coal Mines Subcommittee Co-Chair, United States) reviewed highlights of the recent Coal Subcommittee meeting held in March in Geneva attended by in-person and virtual representatives of 17 countries. Attendees participated in a brainstorming session focused on prioritizing actions to address barriers to methane reduction projects. Next steps include evaluating solutions based on effort required and potential impact and coordinating with other organizations, such as UNECE, the International Energy Agency, EMBER, and technology providers.

James Diamond (Oil & Gas Subcommittee Co-Chair, Canada) spoke about the positive collaboration happening across the sectors, citing the buildup of momentum from the Covid pandemic and the importance of deploying GMI's technical expertise and resources. The Oil & Gas Subcommittee meeting, held in March in Geneva, brought together in-person and virtual representatives of 20 countries for technical presentations and case studies. Next steps include planning technical webinars, getting ready for the 2024 Global Methane Forum, and continued integration with UNECE and OGMP 2.0.

Matt Hamilton (Biogas Subcommittee Co-Chair, Canada) confirmed recent leadership changes and welcomed Monica Shimamura, recently appointed as a Co-Chair. They are seeking a 3rd Co-Chair,

preferably someone with a background in agriculture. Plans are underway for an in-person Subcommittee in May in Bangkok, in conjunction with CCAC's annual Climate and Clean Air Conference.

6: Secretariat Update

Denise Mulholland (Secretariat) reviewed plans for 2023 and 2024, highlighted the 2024 Global Methane Forum to be held in Geneva during the week of 18 March 2024, and invited delegates to consider joining the Executive Planning Committee for the Forum. Delegates were encouraged to renew their membership on the Steering Committee for the next 2-year term and review the proposed criteria for Strategic Partners (details provided in [Background Packet](#)). The Secretariat will soon share resources to enhance GMI's engagement efforts.

7: Wrap Up and Next Steps

C. Siewe thanked participants for a fruitful and exciting meeting, noting that Canada has tremendously enjoyed being in a leadership role. She also thanked the Secretariat for their wonderful work.

Action items for Steering Committee:

1. Renew membership and nominate countries for Vice Chair vacancy by 21 April.
2. Sign up to participate in the Executive Planning Committee for the 2024 Global Methane Forum by 28 April.
3. Provide feedback on the Strategic Partner criteria by 28 April.
4. Send to the Secretariat news about upcoming events to be promoted by GMI and shared with delegates.

Action Items for the Secretariat:

1. Follow up on identified opportunities for collaboration:
 - a. Explore options for incorporating a discussion of pipeline of bankable projects in future meetings and at the 2024 Forum.
 - b. Follow with James Morris about the CCAC's plans for a clean air flagship.
 - c. Explore the Global Methane Hub's strategic plan for synergies and opportunities to collaborate.
 - d. Discuss with the Global Methane Hub how GMI technical experts can help review potential projects to help identify and/or select those with the greatest potential for methane reductions.
 - e. Consider co-locating the fall GMI Steering Committee in conjunction with MENACW in early October.
 - f. Respond to the invitation from Saudi Arabia regarding GMI's participation at COP28.
 - g. Review the suggestion to consider ESCWA as a strategic partner.
2. Establish Executive Planning Committee for the Global Methane Forum 2024 and begin preparations.
3. Finalize renewal of Steering Committee members.
4. Finalize Strategic Partner criteria and invite new Partners as appropriate.
5. Begin planning for September Steering Committee meeting.
6. Share key messaging and outreach materials developed under the Action Plan and Engagement Strategy.
7. Send to Steering Committee members the invite to the GMI Biogas Subcommittee in May in Bangkok.
8. Distribute meeting presentation and meeting summary.

APPENDIX A

Meeting Participants (33)

Bempah, Juliana – Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana
Benefor, Daniel Tutu – Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana
Bialek, Maciej – Ministry of Energy, Poland (guest)
Castaño Luján, Lina María – Ministry of Mines and Energy, Colombia
Carbonell, Tomás – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
De Kerckhove, Diane – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Diamond, James – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Eichelman, Emma – Tetra Tech, United States
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
Jiaye, Han – China Coal Information Institute, China
Kerr, Jennifer – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Kupiainen, Kaarle – Finland Ministry of the Environment, Finland
Lan, Huang – China Coal Information Institute, China
Lamptey, Daniel – Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana
Liguti, Dario – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (guest)
McGill, Cathy – Tetra Tech, United States
Morris, James – Climate and Clean Air Coalition (guest)
Mulholland, Denise – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Musa, Faisal – Ministry of Energy, Saudi Arabia
Nagaraju, M. – Ministry of Coal of India, India
Patra, Chiranjib – Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd, India
Qurooni, Faisal – Ministry of Energy, Saudi Arabia
Rhee, Patty – Global Methane Hub (guest)
Rochberg, Daniel – U.S. Department of State, United States
Roshchanka, Volha – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Shimamura, Monica – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Siewe, Cécile – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Wang, Claire – U.S. Department of State, United States
Yadav, Ravi Shankar – Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd, India
Yingchun, Zhao - China Coal Information Institute, China
Zimmerman, Klara – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States

**GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
Steering Committee Meeting
13 April 2023**

7:30-9:30 AM EDT (UTC -4)

	Time	Topic	Lead
1.	7:30-7:33 am (3 minutes)	Welcome, Opening of Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Review of Meeting Objectives</i> • <i>Adoption of the Agenda</i> 	Cécile Siewe, Canada
2.	7:33-7:36 am (3 minutes)	Leadership News	Cécile Siewe, Canada and Tomás Carbonell, United States
3.	7:36-8:20 am (44 minutes)	Tour de Table and Country Updates	Steering Committee Delegates
4.	8:20-8:45 am (25 minutes)	Subcommittee Co-Chair Updates	Subcommittee Co-Chairs
5.	8:45-9:15 am (30 minutes)	Strategic Planning: How to Enhance Collaboration Across Methane Initiatives to Maximize Mitigation in the Coming Year(s) <i>A brainstorming discussion with key methane- focused organizations to identify ways we can work more strategically and collaboratively to support ambitious methane mitigation in 2023 and beyond.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) • Global Methane Hub (GMH) • Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) 	Tomás Carbonell (facilitator) Dario Liguti, UNECE Patty Rhee, Global Methane Hub James Morris, CCAC Open Discussion with all
6.	9:15-9:25 am (10 minutes)	Secretariat Updates & Reminders	Denise Mulholland, Secretariat
7.	9:25-9:30 am (5 minutes)	Wrap Up and Next Steps	Cécile Siewe, Canada
8.		Adjourn	Cécile Siewe, Canada

Total Time: 120 Minutes