

Overview

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Steering Committee held its 18th meeting in person on 26 September 2022. The meeting was chaired by Cécile Siewe, Acting Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Branch, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and 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, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Air and Radiation, United States. Delegates from 9 Steering Partner Countries participated, including Canada, Ecuador, Finland, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Turkey, and the United States; a delegate from Argentina also participated. A list of the participants is provided in Appendix A.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions about the strengths and expertise of GMI vis-à-vis other global organizations focused on methane mitigation and identify opportunities for GMI's leadership, gather additional feedback on the draft Steering Committee Engagement Strategy, finalize the Joint High-Level Statement to be issued by GMI and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), and hear from representatives of the Global Methane Hub. Steering Committee participants engaged in open discussions to provide their input and recommendations. The presentation 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 (Steering Committee Chair)

C. Siewe (Steering Committee Chair, Canada) opened the meeting.

2: Meeting Objectives; Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting objectives were approved and the agenda was adopted.

3: Introductions and Country Updates

C. Siewe invited a representative from each country to introduce themselves and provide a brief update on country actions.

- D. de Kerckhove (Canada) announced Canada's release of a [new methane strategy](#) on September 24, 2022, that provides a holistic picture on how Canada plans to address methane emissions. The new strategy outlines actions in three major sectors: oil and gas, waste, and agriculture. The goal is to strengthen methane regulations to achieve at least 75% emission reductions by 2030. Canada has committed to spend \$2 million over the next 4 years to fund GMI Partner Country projects in developing countries and has received recommendations from the GMI Biogas and Oil & Gas Subcommittees for potential projects.
- G. Fraga (Ecuador) was unavailable to provide a country update.
- K. Kupiainen (Finland) described recent developments surrounding the Global Methane Pledge (GMP), noting that Finland is currently reviewing national action plans and templates and is finalizing their methane action plan. The national methane action plan will include an overview of policies in key sectors, primarily agriculture and waste. The Ministry is compiling methane emissions data from 1990 to today to include in the action plan. Finland has reduced methane

emissions by almost half since 1990, mostly due to waste sector improvements and extensive capture and control of landfill gas.

- C. Patra (India) presented on behalf of the delegation from India and noted that he works for a public sector company, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI) Ltd. CMPDI conducts the most coal research in the world and has published a report every two years related to methane emissions from coal mines. He described India's plan to be net zero by 2070, which includes methane mitigation initiatives in the agricultural, land use and forestry, waste, industry, and energy sectors. India is also focused on new national policies related to biofuels and clean coal technology and has embarked on an ambitious capacity-building program for waste to energy.
- R. Kartono (Indonesia) participated in place of Kholiq Muhammad Abdul who was unable to attend the meeting. He reviewed several current efforts underway to reduce methane emissions and confirmed that Indonesia signed the GMP and passed new regulations to accelerate emission reductions. Indonesia has set a goal to reduce emissions by half by 2040. In order to achieve this goal, the country is trying to reduce its use of coal although they are finding this challenging. Developing environmentally friendly waste management is also a priority. GMI is an important partnership for Indonesia.
- F. Musa (Saudi Arabia) discussed Saudi Arabia's development of policies to reduce emissions that go beyond the oil and gas sector and stated Saudi Arabia's commitment to achieve zero routine flaring no later than 2030 through flare minimization and gas recovery. He also noted that Saudi Aramco is the main energy supplier and employs technologies including satellites; adding that Saudi Aramco is also committed to reducing emissions through advanced technology and research. A fleet of researchers are developing local sensors to centralize and integrate monitoring of methane to inform reduction efforts. Saudi Arabia is also developing nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in addition to other programs, policies, and initiatives.
- G. Vujic (Serbia) attended the meeting on behalf of Dragana Mehandžić who was unable to attend the meeting. He has worked with GMI for 15 years in the wastewater and municipal solid waste sectors and commented on the challenge of making progress on methane mitigation in Serbia. The most important goal for the country is to divert biowaste from landfills to reduce methane emissions. He explained that Serbia has close connections with the European Union, but it is not always easy to cooperate with them as Serbia is not on the same level as more developed countries. He mentioned a composting project in Novi Sad supported by GMI and GIZ. Working with GMI is very important for helping Serbia connect with countries in similar situations which helps them make progress together and share experiences.
- H. Erdoğan (Turkey) noted that Turkey is heavily reliant on coal for energy. There are several incentives for energy generation in Turkey that could lead to an increase in installation of power plants. Turkey is trying to increase renewable energy capacity; more than 50% of electricity installed power is based on renewable energy, biogas, or other renewable sources.
- P. Franklin (United States) shared data on methane emissions by source, noting that oil and gas systems account for 32% of methane emissions in the United States. She described how the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working to improve U.S. data through the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP) and Greenhouse Gas Inventory. In April 2022, EPA proposed significant amendments to the provisions of the GHGRP to improve the quality of data collected. EPA has recently made improvements to quantification of U.S. emissions from oil and gas systems. She also provided an overview of the U.S. Methane Emissions Reduction Action Plan released in 2021 that reinforces the commitment of the U.S. leadership to address methane emissions on a global scale.

4: Discussion: Global Methane Moment

T. Carbonell (Vice Chair, United States) opened the discussion by reiterating a goal for the meeting, which was to discuss activities that GMI and the Steering Committee delegates can undertake to produce the biggest impact on methane reductions. GMI operates in a landscape of institutions that sometimes overlap with respect to methane mitigation. He reviewed GMI's strengths as previously discussed and identified, which include sector-specific technical expertise, identifying barriers to reducing emissions, building capacity by developing technical resources and tools, and conducting policy analyses. Participants discussed the sustainability and value of future Forums—for example, a 2023 Forum in Geneva with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)—given the high level of interest in the 2022 Forum. Points raised during the discussion include:

- The ability of GMI to execute successful, high-profile events every two years should be carefully considered.
- Preparations conducted well in advance are important to ensure a valuable and productive Forum.
- Interest was expressed in shaping an agenda that would promote the sharing of individual country strengths and progress and country plans for the Global Methane Pledge.
- A suggestion was made to plan mentor-mentee pairings ahead of the Forum.
- Facilitation of matchmaking would be valuable for attendees.
- A recommendation was made to plan and deliver technical training courses at future Forums.
- Concerns were expressed by some participants that the same set of people participate in Forum events and awareness of “meeting fatigue”.
- There are benefits to meeting with UNECE's Group of Experts (GOE) meetings. The GMI Subcommittee Co-Chairs were asked for their input on the timing of a Forum held in conjunction with GOE meetings.
- It was noted that the GMI Secretariat may not have adequate time to prepare for a Forum in September 2023.

T. Carbonell then led a discussion about the best use of GMI's technical assistance capacity, which prompted the following responses:

- GMI should focus on climate finance with respect to the individual priorities of each Partner Country.
- Partnerships, for example with UNECE's GOE, are critical to the GMI Subcommittees. V. Roshchanka (Coal Mines Subcommittee Co-Chair, United States) referred to the long-standing relationship of the GMI Coal Subcommittee with UNECE's GOE on Coal and the value of overlapping events.
- The Subcommittee Co-Chairs expressed interest in enhancing interaction with country delegates to conduct training and host demo projects. The challenge is how to grow those demos into something more substantial.
- The Subcommittee Co-Chairs recommended that GMI return to localized, “on-the-ground” actions instead of huge global efforts. GMI could join with other organizations for country-level, local language events to expand reach and provide more assistance. Regional events should be organized to focus on needs of specific countries and regions.
- It was noted that GMI events are located far from people doing the technical work in the field.
- GMI should help countries accelerate the application of technologies.
- Explore how to make GMI's trainings, tools, and information available in more than one language; accessibility is a challenge.
- Consider inviting educational entities to partner with GMI, specifically entities focused on growing carbon markets.

Participants discussed their interest in the Global Methane Hub (GMH) becoming a strategic partner, as follows:

- GMI's stakeholders overlap; generally, participants are in favor of an "open door policy" to invite organizations to join and present at GMI meetings.
- GMI can be more effective and broad reaching when partnering with other organizations which leads to an increased scale of communication.
- Questions were raised about the nature of strategic partnerships.
- Concerns were expressed with separate reporting formats (for example, for CCAC or GMH); can be burdensome for small countries.
- Delegates expressed interest in learning more about GMH before making a decision about inviting them to become a strategic partner.

5: Discussion: Draft Engagement Strategy

V. Tiwari (Vice Chair, India) led a discussion around the draft Engagement Strategy, commenting that it was a valuable segue from the methane moment discussion to the engagement strategy. He noted that GMI already engages with several stakeholders, including the World Bank, CCAC, UNECE, the International Energy Agency (IEA), and the GMH. GMI's key areas of focus are technical expertise and information sharing among partners. Feedback from participants included:

- Focus on strengthening GMI's engagement with the private sector; work to identify how GMI can improve collaboration with the private sector.
- In-person meetings and events are ideal although delegates also recommended that GMI continue to interact virtually with its stakeholders.
- Promote sector-specific events on the GMI website to ensure events have visibility; enhanced promotion helps the Subcommittees and builds awareness.
- Be more obvious with what GMI offers.
- Revisit and re-energize past GMI activities.

The delegates were asked to identify organizations with which they could partner.

6: Discussion: Draft High-Level Statement

C. Siewe reviewed the purpose of the High-Level Statement to be jointly published by GMI and CCAC before the 2022 Forum concludes. She welcomed feedback and noted that CCAC was undergoing the same process at their meeting with a goal to publish the Statement by 29 September 2022. It was noted that the statement was non-binding and would not be signed by individual countries or delegates nor attributed to a specific country. The Statement is intended to be palatable to countries that have existing methane reduction commitments; the Statement is not intended to dictate country-specific approaches.

Participants provided their feedback on the statement. The final comments were summarized to be shared with CCAC in the final version of the Statement. The GMI and CCAC Joint Statement was published on 29 September 2022 and is available on the [GMI website](#).

7: Secretariat Update

M. Shimamura (Secretariat) provided an update on GMI Secretariat activities undertaken since the previous Steering Committee meeting which were focused on preparing for the 2022 Forum and hosting the Steering Leadership meeting on 14 September 2022. She also reviewed the upcoming 2022 Forum, noting great interest from participants with registrants representing 91 countries from over 500 organizations.

8: Subcommittee Co-Chair Updates

J. Diamond (Oil & Gas Subcommittee Co-Chair, Canada), referred to discussions among the Subcommittee to take the step from demonstration to implementation and to translate what's happening in countries to solutions. He emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum, noting that if significant annual reductions do not take place by 2023, the goals of 2030 will not be met. The oil and gas sector is unique in its ability to execute solutions.

C. Patra (Coal Subcommittee Co-Chair, India) described several recent resources and trainings developed by the Coal Mines Subcommittee, including a report co-produced by GMI and UNECE on best practice guidance for effective management of coal mine methane which was released in December 2021. Three technical trainings related to coal mine methane are now available on the [GMI website](#). He reviewed recent accomplishments of the Subcommittee, including a coal bed methane project in India, construction of coal mine methane-fueled power plants in California, and abandoned mine methane flaring projects in California, and noted that the U.S. and India are collaborating on efforts to support coal sector emission information in India.

N. Elger (Biogas Subcommittee Co-Chair, United States) provided a brief Biogas Subcommittee update. He announced that Jorge Hilbert, Subcommittee Co-Chair from Argentina, is departing the Subcommittee and a new Co-Chair will need to be identified. He described the technical work that the Subcommittee is currently focused on, which includes a series of webinars related to monitoring, reporting, and verification, and the development of biogas-related tools such as the AD Screening Tool and OrganEcs estimation tool. The Subcommittee is interested in improving engagement across its delegates and is seeking help from the Steering Committee to identify contacts in their ministries to participate in the Biogas Subcommittee.

9: Strategic Partner Update.

A strategic partner update did not take place during the meeting.

10: Global Methane Hub Introduction

Representatives of the GMH were invited to participate in the meeting. P. Rhee, Chief Partnerships Officer, provided an overview of the organization which was established in March 2021 as a result of the GMP. Based out of Santiago, Chile, the GMH has 15 staff members with diverse technical expertise who are located around the world. GMH focuses on three sectors: fossil fuels, waste, and agriculture. Twenty-two of the largest philanthropies in the world have provided funds to support countries who have signed the Pledge. GMH's goal is to distribute \$230 million in support of GMP projects in the next three years while continuing to raise funds for GMP projects. The state of California also has committed \$100 million for methane mitigation projects. She was joined by several colleagues who provided comments.

Hayden Montgomery, Program Director for Agriculture, is in the midst of strategic plan development. His focus area overlaps with CCAC, and he commented that the GMH is funding several CCAC projects. He expressed interest in supporting GMI and other related work to improve emissions reporting and make emissions measurement work better for the agriculture sector, stating the GMH's strong focus on innovation and leveraging and localizing investments in Research and Development. One of his goals is to increase the pipeline of projects seeking financing.

Carolina Urmeneta, Program Director, Circular Economy, spoke about the importance of the waste sector. The waste sector needs to have action plans and projections that consider organic waste management. She noted that there are different realities in different regions, and GMH has good representation in Africa. She spoke about the importance of getting financing to the waste sector and acknowledged the challenges of demonstrating how waste projects are cost effective. She also commented that environmental justice groups should be included in these conversations.

Alexander Ege, Program Director, Energy, focuses on addressing emissions from coal mines and the oil and gas sector. He expressed GMH's interest in providing technical assistance in these areas and creating an enabling environment to support implementation of existing technologies, including pilot projects to demonstrate cost-effective technologies.

The Steering Committee delegates were invited to ask questions and share how the GMH can support GMI. Comments and questions were as follows:

- In response to a question about the intake process for projects, P. Rhee explained that Hayden, Carolina, and Alexander are putting together the sectoral programs and are the points of contact for new projects. They will help develop the projects and then the GMH's advisory board will review and approve the projects. P. Rhee emphasized the importance of showing progress on projects.
- A question was raised about the GMH's work in India. Currently, GMH is not working in India although they recently hired a regional director who is putting together a strategy for India.
- In response to questions about the criteria for projects, it was confirmed that GMH is open to projects all over the world, including short- and long-term projects.
- GMH is limited on how many small pilot projects they can fund; it is more likely that GMH would support a pilot project and then help identify other sources of funding to scale up the pilot project.
- GMH is exploring how to access private finance; determine how private finance could be available for methane mitigation applications.
- GMH's initial commitment is three years although they expect to operate for a decade.

11: Wrap Up and Next Steps

In summary, the following action items were agreed to:

- GMI Secretariat:
 - Prepare a meeting summary.
 - Incorporate comments into the Engagement Strategy and share a final version for review and approval.
 - Define the roles and responsibilities of strategic partners and the process for identifying and securing strategic partners.
 - Pursue discussions about inviting the Global Methane Hub to become a GMI Strategic Partner.
 - Confirm 2023 meeting dates and share with the Steering Committee.
- ECCC:
 - Send comments and edits to the Engagement Strategy; incorporating suggestions raised during the Steering Committee meeting.

APPENDIX A

Meeting Participants (28)

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
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
Ege, Alexander – Global Methane Hub (guest)
Erdoğan, Hasan Hüseyin – Turkish Coal Enterprises, Turkey
Fraga, Galo – Embassy of Ecuador, Ecuador
Franklin, Pamela – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States
Hifthi, Ahmed – Ministry of Energy, Saudi Arabia
Hamilton, Matthew – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Hilbert, Jorge – National Institute of Agriculture Technology, Argentina
Kartono, R. Wira – Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology, Indonesia
Kumar, Manoj – Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd, India
Kupiainen, Kaarle – Finland Ministry of the Environment, Finland
McGill, Cathy – Tetra Tech, United States
Montgomery, Hayden – Global Methane Hub (guest)
Morin, Stephanie – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada
Musa, Faisal – Ministry of Energy, Saudi Arabia
Patra, Chiranjib – Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd, India
Rhee, Patty – Global Methane Hub (guest)
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
Tiwari, Vinod Kumar – Ministry of Coal, India
Urmeneta, Carolina – Global Methane Hub (guest)
Vujic, Goran – University of Novi Sad, Serbia

**APPENDIX B
AGENDA**

**GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
Steering Committee Meeting
26 September 2022**

1:00-4:20 PM EDT

| | Time | Topic | Suggested Lead |
|-----|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. | 1:00-1:05 PM (5 minutes) | Welcome, Opening of Meeting | Cécile Siewe, Canada |
| 2. | 1:05-1:10 PM (5 minutes) | Meeting Objectives; Adoption of Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introductions and Country Updates</i> • <i>Global Methane Moment</i> • <i>Draft Engagement Strategy</i> • <i>Draft High-Level Statement</i> • <i>Secretariat Update</i> • <i>Subcommittee Updates</i> • <i>Strategic Partner Update</i> • <i>Global Methane Hub Introduction</i> | Cécile Siewe, Canada |
| 3. | 1:10-1:55 PM (45 minutes) | Introductions and Country Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>5 minutes including short introduction (name and affiliation) and update on country actions</i> | Steering Committee Delegates |
| 4. | 1:55-2:15 PM (20 minutes) | Discussion: Global Methane Moment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discuss the specific strength, expertise, and role of GMI in methane mitigation efforts globally</i> | Tomás Carbonell, United States |
| 5. | 2:15-2:30 PM (15 minutes) | Discussion: Draft Engagement Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Overview of draft Engagement Strategy</i> • <i>Discuss comments/feedback</i> • <i>Next steps on Engagement Strategy</i> | Vinod Tiwari, India |
| | 2:30-3:00 PM (30 minutes) | <i>Coffee Break with members of the Climate Change and Clean Air Coalition Board</i> | |
| 6. | 3:00-3:15 PM (15 minutes) | Discussion: Draft High-Level Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brief overview of draft high-level statement</i> • <i>Discuss comments/feedback</i> • <i>Next steps for high-level statement</i> | Cécile Siewe, Canada |
| 7. | 3:15-3:25 PM (10 minutes) | Secretariat Update | Monica Shimamura, Secretariat |
| 8. | 3:25-3:55 PM (30 minutes) | Subcommittee Co-Chair Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>10-minute updates from Subcommittee Co-Chairs</i> | Subcommittee Co-Chairs |
| 9. | 3:55-4:05 PM (10 minutes) | Strategic Partner Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>World Bank provide updates</i> | |
| 10. | 4:05-4:15 PM (10 minutes) | Global Methane Hub Introduction | TBD; facilitation TBD |

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|----------------------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introduction to the Global Methane Hub, Patty Rhee, Chief Partnerships Officer</i> | |
| 11. | 4:15-4:20 PM (5 minutes) | Wrap Up and Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Summarize key decisions and next steps</i> • <i>Invitation to attend meet and greet and reception</i> | Cécile Siewe, Canada |
| 12. | 4:20 PM | Adjourn | Cécile Siewe, Canada |

Total Time: 200 Minutes