

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Secretariat created an “Executive Task Force” to bring together a variety of perspectives to discuss topics related to the future of the GMI. The series of meetings were held virtually in the summer of 2020, in lieu of the GMI Steering Committee meeting that was scheduled for 23 March 2020 and canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the Executive Task Force participated in the series of virtual meetings, which were designed to gather information and feedback related to questions compiled in advance by the Secretariat. The collective feedback of the Executive Task Force in response to those questions are presented below. During the virtual meetings, additional questions were raised with the Executive Task Force; observations and recommendations associated with those questions are presented at the end of this document under “Other Questions.”

GMI Charter

How long should the GMI charter be extended (e.g., 5 years to 2026? Or 10 years to 2031? Or some other duration?)

- There was support for extending the GMI charter by 10 years to 2031 (based on informal polling of the Executive Task Force) following a comparison of potential actions that could be achieved under a 5 year and 10 year extension, presented by the chair. However, it should be noted that there was not a full discussion by the participants on the specific merits of extending for 5 years vs. 10 years or a different duration
- In the context of the re-chartering, there was support for formalizing relationships with additional partners (recommendation based on informal polling of the Executive Task Force).
- Some participants suggested that the extension of the GMI charter be moved to 2030 to harmonize GMI with the Paris Agreement, the United Nations (UN) Year or Decade of Methane Management, and Sustainable Development Goals.

Mission and Implementation of GMI

What specific objectives should GMI Partners aim to achieve in the next 5 to 10 years?

- Collaborate with key Strategic Partners to foster high profile opportunities (e.g., using an International Year or Decade of Methane Management to gain true international focus on methane mitigation, and encourage partners to include methane into national commitments).
 - Track and report on the achievements of member countries; promote successes through the Global Methane Challenge – an awards program could be one effective mechanism.
 - Grow membership and participation by member countries, particularly those with large potential for methane reduction in the GMI subsectors.
 - Engage governments in identifying methane emission reduction opportunities and their subsequent implementation.
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- Consider deeper engagements (with perhaps fewer) target countries to enable better implementation of reduction opportunities.
- Focus on policy development and tools to support implementation of the year or decade of methane management.
- Position GMI to be the resource to help countries achieve the most ambitious reductions possible whether by national, subnational, or local level.
- Become a “hub for all things methane” and improve the accessibility of GMI information, meetings, and events.
- Consider translating resources into languages that are key to continued success and growth.
- Conduct real-time virtual meetings and webinars online.
- Facilitate the communication and exchange of information among all parties of GMI, through GMI’s multilateral cooperation mechanism in the fields of methane recovery and utilization technologies, policy frameworks, investment financing mechanisms, and best practices.
- Partner with or sponsor local organizations and others to deliver Subcommittee events.
- Continue engaging with the private sector and others who are less visible in other climate change organizations.

How should the work of GMI adapt, complement, and leverage the work of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the International Energy Agency (IEA), etc.?

- Continue strategic partnerships with CCAC and UNECE.
 - Formalize GMI’s engagement with the World Bank, IEA, UNEP, and WHO.
 - Explore further collaboration opportunities through different lenses: sectoral, geographic, technological, policy, etc.
 - Consider a joint committee between GMI and CCAC and others to develop an outline of action for collaboration.
 - Convene subject-specific task forces, made up of members from strategic partners, to develop practical work plans to achieve goals.
 - Focus on establishing relationships with regional and national organizations, rather than multilateral organizations.
 - Explore possibility of merging the Global Methane Alliance with the GMI.
 - Additional organizations that GMI could engage with include:
 - Environmental Research & Education Foundation
 - World Coal Association
 - Australian Coal Association
 - Solid Waste Association
 - World Biogas Association
 - Mining Geological & Metallurgical Institute of India
 - Arctic Council - Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane
 - Environmental nongovernmental organizations (ENGOS)
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How can GMI raise the level of ambition of methane mitigation?

- Consider how the GMI and the Global Methane Alliance could align or merge (GMA was formed in response to the UN Secretary General's call for increased ambition as part of the Global Climate Summit in September 2019).
- Conduct economic and cost-benefit analyses to seek greater political support for methane mitigation.
- Consider opportunities to achieve progress on methane mitigation during the global recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.
- Co-author flagship reports (e.g., social cost of methane and others).

What are the lessons learned from GMI over the last 15 years? What can we do to improve GMI?

- Develop a clear mandate and common messaging between partners that outlines the roles of different organizations working towards similar goals, to help stakeholders understand how the organizations are working together.
- Conduct consistent and coordinated messaging across organizations, and co-brand where appropriate.
- Hold events in tandem or through partnerships to make engagement of stakeholders more efficient.
- Catalyze further actions by maintaining a flow of information among partners.
- Clarify roles of strategic partners by identifying the strengths and needs of each organization to determine how they can be better supported by others.

Role of Global Methane Challenge Moving Forward

Should the Challenge be extended beyond its current expiration at the end of 2020?

- Resounding yes to continue the Challenge, as indicated by informal poll.

If it is extended, should the Challenge be modified in any way?

- Suggestion to "Recognize Challenge champions", which would require exploration into what that would entail, what level of achievement would be recognized as a "champion".
 - Consider a recognition or awards element to the Challenge, which could include recognizing "Challenge champions".
 - Collaborate with strategic partner organizations to expand the Challenge's outreach activities and to encourage further participation.
 - Explore opportunities to further connect with the Global Methane Alliance.
 - Profile economic stimulus actions that are related to methane.
 - Categorize projects by technology cycle steps or technologies.
 - Create a logo/badge for Global Leaders in Methane Mitigation to recognize participating organizations.
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Activities to Develop and Support the UN International Year (or Decade) of Methane Management

What would constitute the proposed program of activities and how could GMI support, sponsor, or engage in these activities?

- Support for an International *Decade* of Methane Management, (based on informal polling of the Executive Task Force). (The group did not have an opportunity to discuss in depth the pro's and cons of an international "year" versus "decade" designation, associated cost implications or other commitments, etc.)

What resources would be required?

- Consider involving the private sector to help sponsor actions and to secure further funding for activities.

What is the process for achieving this designation?

- Develop a plan and next steps for preparing the General Assembly declaration; establish a task force to move things along at an accelerated pace.
- Work to identify at least one country, or a coalition of countries, to "own" or "champion" and lead the process for the General Assembly declaration.

Which GMI Partners would be "champions?"

- *No recommendations were provided by the Executive Task Force.*

What could GMI do collectively to support this?

- Work to advance and raise support for the International Year or Decade of Methane Management at the United Nations General Assembly.
- GMI Partner countries could conduct diplomatic outreach.
- Use GMI's Global Methane Challenge program to maintain momentum related to an international year or decade of methane management, as a steppingstone.
- Partner countries could explore opportunities and appetite within their country for pursuing this at the UN General Assembly.
- Develop a public education and awareness campaign.
- Explore options to increase grassroots participation; get individuals involved.
- Engage as many countries as possible to mobilize their in-country networks.

Other Questions

What are the greatest opportunities for methane mitigation?

- The International Energy Agency's Methane Tracker tool shows that the oil and gas sector continue to hold opportunities to reduce methane at low or zero net cost.
 - There are opportunities globally to develop wastewater and municipal solid waste infrastructure projects.
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- The Pilot Auction Facility for Methane and Climate Change, an innovative mechanism to incentivize methane emissions reductions presented by the World Bank, showcased how financial mechanisms can drive progress by protecting against carbon price collapses.
- Continued technological advancements in the detection of methane at multiple scales, from field measurements to satellite measurements, will enable tracking progress and identification of further opportunities for reduction.
- Significant opportunities remain to reduce emissions from the agricultural sector. Agriculture is not an energy sector which is the focus of IEA and UNEP; the agricultural sector is a priority for CCAC and GMI.
- Many countries including GMI partners are including methane reduction commitments or targets in their national commitments; opportunity remains to promote enhancement of Nationally Determined Contributions by working with environmental ministries.

How can GMI advocate for methane mitigation to be considered as part of the global economic recovery from the COVID crisis?

- Develop or promote best practices for mitigation measures, particularly for measurement, reporting and verification (MRV), specifically targeted to COVID recovery. Document these best practices in a comprehensive guide that countries could use to meet or set national goals.
 - Conduct research and webinars on opportunities for methane mitigation during global economic recovery.
 - Craft an easily adopted/adapted framework of easy measures or best practices that can easily be incorporated into national actions as countries move towards recovery.
 - Ensure that GMI tools and resources are widely available to demonstrate that methane recovery from oil & gas, coal mines, and biogas systems can be an effective and economic source of energy.
 - Promote the economic benefits of methane mitigation.
 - Use the Global Methane Challenge to do special profiles on recovery efforts that mitigate methane.
 - Sponsor an information campaign on net-zero cost solutions.
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