

GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
7TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Washington, DC, USA
March 2016

GMI7/Doc.4

**Strategic Partnerships with CCAC and UNECE
Discussion Paper**

I. Purpose

This paper provides an overview of how GMI is seeking to better align its work in the future with other Initiatives, particularly the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC), to encourage greater information sharing and increased capacity building through reduction in duplication of effort.

II. Background

Across GMI, CCAC, and UNECE, there are a number of common partners. CCAC and GMI have some 24 country partners in common; GMI and UNECE have 15 partners in common (see Appendix A). Having partners in common facilitates communication and reinforces the importance of these efforts. It is anticipated that increasing cross-initiative collaboration in these important methane mitigation efforts will expand the overall awareness and participation in these efforts.

Both CCAC and UNECE have methane-specific activities that align with or complement GMI activities.

CCAC has three sector-focused initiatives that include methane mitigation as a primary objective, as well as several cross-cutting initiatives that impact methane mitigation more broadly:

- Agriculture
- Municipal Solid Waste
- Oil & Gas
- Significant National Action Planning
- Regional Assessments
- Financing

The UNECE has convened a Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane over the past decade that has worked to identify Best Practices for Coal Mine Methane drainage, in collaboration with GMI. The UNECE also convenes a Group of Experts on Oil & Gas; though to date, UNECE's work in that sector has not focused on methane mitigation.

The GMI Task Force made a number of recommendations about how GMI should align with other initiatives to increase GMI's effectiveness in reducing global methane emissions. Specifically, the task force recommended that the Initiative:

“Align GMI more effectively with existing initiatives/organizations, with adequate flexibility to engage with new initiatives that have yet to emerge. Seek to broaden participation in GMI (and in other initiatives) by increasing access both of GMI Partners and Project Network members and their counterparts in CCAC and other methane-directed efforts.”

Specific task force recommendations pertaining to CCAC:

- GMI should seek “non-state” partner status as a member of the Coalition and seek other mechanisms to actively engage with CCAC at an institutional level. These actions would enable broader recognition of GMI activities in a more cross-cutting way among CCAC coalition members and provide an opportunity for greater information exchange about methane mitigation opportunities and strategies.
- At the sector/initiative level, the task force recommended that GMI subcommittees formally align with CCAC counterparts (where applicable), opening GMI subcommittee meetings to relevant CCAC initiative counterparts. GMI would request that in turn, CCAC initiatives invite GMI subcommittee/sector counterparts to participate in (relevant) meetings/workshops/events.

Specific Task Force recommendations pertaining to UNECE:

- GMI should align its coal mine sector work with the UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane. This collaboration would more formally bring together an engaged group of key stakeholders and experts, building on very successful collaboration over the past decade. It also offers the opportunity to convene meetings regularly at a centralized venue (Geneva) that offers simultaneous translation.
- The GMI Oil & Gas Subcommittee should also explore a similar collaboration with the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division Group of Experts on Natural Gas.

Specific Task Force recommendations pertaining to the World Bank:

- GMI should continue exploring opportunities to align with World Bank’s climate change group, including through efforts such as the Pilot Auction Facility for Methane and Climate Change and the Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership.

III. Actions Taken

GMI and CCAC have already begun collaborating and sharing information about their respective work areas. Over the course of 2015, GMI representatives gave a number of brief updates to the CCAC Steering Committee and Working Group. Those updates resulted in CCAC incorporating reference to collaborating with GMI in their 5-year strategic plan, and in the co-organization of the Global Methane Forum in Washington, D.C. in March 2016.

At the same time, the collaboration at the sector / Initiative level with CCAC has continued productively. Several different sectors have jointly planned meetings and workshops to be held during the Global Methane Forum to share technical information and discuss plans for future collaboration and sharing of expertise:

- GMI Biogas Subcommittee (Agriculture sector) and the CCAC Agriculture Initiative
- GMI Biogas Subcommittee (MSW sector) and the CCAC MSW Initiative
- GMI Oil & Gas Subcommittee and the CCAC Oil & Gas Initiative

On behalf of GMI, the ASG submitted a letter to the CCAC seeking Non-State Partner status for GMI (Appendix B). This request was approved by the CCAC Steering Committee in late February 2016 and formally approved in March, after the required two-week review period by the CCAC Working Group. Becoming a Non-State Partner in CCAC allows GMI to send an official representative to participate in CCAC Working Group meetings. The Steering Committee would need to decide whom to send to

represent GMI at the CCAC meetings. The task force recommendations provided three options for the Steering Committee to consider:

- GMI Administrative Support Group staff
- GMI Steering Committee designee
- Rotating membership of the GMI Steering Committee

The GMI Steering Committee briefly discussed these options. One proposal (by Canada) in a recent Steering Committee meeting was for the ASG to act as the GMI representative at CCAC Working Group meetings. In the near term, GMI has an opportunity to send an official representative to the CCAC Working Group meeting in Washington, DC on 1 April 2016.

GMI and UNECE have continued their successful ad hoc collaboration in the coal mines sector. The GMI Coal Subcommittee co-chairs have held subcommittee meetings in collaboration with UNECE's Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and has discussed future collaborations with UNECE, which welcomes this collaboration. UNECE has hosted multiple GMI Coal Subcommittee meetings since 2005 and has collaborated on important projects such as creating the *Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines*. UNECE's Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane is scheduled to host the next Coal Subcommittee meeting (Geneva, Switzerland in October 2016). In the oil and gas sector, the GMI Oil & Gas Subcommittee has planned to take the opportunity afforded by the Global Methane Forum to hold a joint meeting and discussion with CCAC and UNECE to discuss a path forward on better collaboration in this sector across all three initiatives.

IV. Summary/Action Items

- Related to CCAC and GMI's participation as a Non-State Partner: How does the Steering Committee recommend that GMI should be represented at CCAC Working Group meetings? In the near term, GMI has the opportunity to send an official representative to the Working Group Meeting in Washington, DC on April 1.
- Subcommittee Updates: Would the Steering Committee like to request an update—prior to or at its next meeting—from the three GMI subcommittees (Biogas, Coal, and Oil & Gas) about the progress of collaboration with their counterparts in CCAC and UNECE?

APPENDIX A
GMI, UNECE, CCAC PARTNERS/MEMBERS and OGMP COMPANY HEADQUARTERS

Country	GMI Partner	UNECE member	CCAC Partner	HQ of OGMP Companies
Albania	X	X		
Andorra		X		
Argentina	X			
Armenia		X		
Australia	X		X	
Austria		X		
Azerbaijan		X		
Bangladesh			X	
Benin			X	
Belarus		X		
Belgium		X		
Bosnia and Herzegovina		X		
Brazil	X			
Bulgaria	X	X		
Cambodia			X	
Canada	X	X	X	
Central African Republic			X	
Chad			X	
Chile	X		X	
China	X			
Colombia	X		X	
Cote d'Ivoire			X	
Croatia		X		
Cyprus		X		
Czech Republic		X		
Denmark		X	X	
Dominican Republic	X		X	
Ecuador	X			
Estonia		X		
Ethiopia	X		X	
European Commission	X		X	
Finland	X	X	X	
France		X	X	Total
Georgia	X	X		
Germany	X		X	
Ghana	X		X	
Guinea, Republic of			X	
Greece		X		

Country	GMI Partner	UNECE member	CCAC Partner	HQ of OGMP Companies
Hungary		X		
Iceland		X		
India	X			
Indonesia	X			
Iraq			X	
Ireland		X	X	
Israel		X	X	
Italy	X	X	X	Eni
Japan	X		X	
Jordan	X		X	
Kazakhstan	X	X		
Kenya			X	
Korea, Republic of	X		X	
Kyrgyzstan		X		
Laos			X	
Latvia		X		
Liberia			X	
Liechtenstein		X		
Lithuania		X		
Luxembourg		X		
Maldives, Republic of			X	
Mali			X	
Malta		X		
Mexico	X		X	PEMEX
Moldova		X	X	
Monaco		X		
Mongolia	X		X	
Montenegro		X		
Morocco, Kingdom of			X	
Netherlands		X	X	
New Zealand			X	
Nicaragua	X			
Nigeria	X		X	
Norway	X	X	X	Statoil
Pakistan	X			
Paraguay			X	
Peru	X		X	
Philippines	X		X	
Poland	X	X	X	
Portugal		X		
Romania		X		

Country	GMI Partner	UNECE member	CCAC Partner	HQ of OGMP Companies
Russian Federation	X	X	X	
San Marino		X		
Saudi Arabia	X			
Serbia, Republic of	X	X		
Slovak Republic		X		
Slovenia		X		
Spain		X		
Sri Lanka	X			
Sweden		X	X	
Switzerland		X	X	
Tajikistan		X		
Thailand	X			PTT
Togo			X	
Turkey	X	X		
Turkmenistan		X		
Ukraine	X	X		
United Kingdom	X	X	X	BG Group, BP
United States	X	X	X	Southwestern
Uruguay			X	
Uzbekistan		X		
Vietnam	X			
The Former Yugoslave Republic of Macedonia		X		