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Implementing the Revised Terms of Reference: Charge to the Subcommittees

Discussion Paper

1. Purpose

The purpose of this discussion paper is to provide an overview of the changes to the Terms of Reference (TOR) as they relate to the Subcommittees. It also provides items for the Steering Committee's consideration in preparation of the Charge to Subcommittees.

2. Background

At the March 2010 meeting in New Delhi, the Steering Committee discussed and agreed to several modifications and additions to the TOR that impact the work of the Subcommittees. Specifically, the Steering Committee recommended revised language that affects Subcommittee leadership, expands the Partnership's scope to include methane abatement, and adds wastewater treatment as a focus area.

3. Review of Subcommittee Leadership

The Partnership has been fortunate to have strong Subcommittee leadership over the last 6 years (see Appendix A for current and previous chairs). However, the original TOR did not articulate a process for changing Subcommittee leadership over time to provide other countries with an opportunity to demonstrate their leadership. There also was no mechanism for other Partners to express their interest in serving as chair. During the TOR renewal discussions at its March 2010 meeting, the Steering Committee made the following modifications and additions to the TOR:¹

“Each Subcommittee ~~will elect~~ will select two Partners as co-chairs, ideally one from a developed and the other from a developing country or country with an economy in transition. At their discretion, Subcommittees may select one additional co-chair. Every three years, Subcommittees should review their leadership to provide other Partners the opportunity to act as co-chair.”

It was also determined that selection would be consensus-driven.

Suggested Next Steps:

During the upcoming meetings, the Subcommittees should review current leadership and/or query delegates to determine if there might be other Partners interested in serving as chair(s). Based on expressed interest, the Subcommittees could submit a proposed slate of co-chairs for selection by the members and/or nominate a single individual for a vacant chair.

¹ Italics and strike-out text indicates changes agreed to by the Steering Committee during its March 2010 Steering Committee meeting. The final TOR text will be formally adopted at the September 2010 meeting.

4. Opportunities for Methane Abatement

During its recent meeting, the Steering Committee revised the language of the Terms of Reference to expand the Partnership's scope to include methane "abatement" in addition to recovery and use.

"The Partnership will focus on the development of strategies and markets for the *abatement*, recovery, and use of methane..."

The Subcommittees were subsequently charged to note the Steering Committee's interest in expanding the Partnership's scope to include methane abatement and to consider how that might impact their work.

Suggested Next Steps:

Subcommittees should be requested to evaluate the role of methane abatement in their sectors and update their Action Plans accordingly to reflect these new approaches.

Future development of Partner Action Plans should incorporate these issues as appropriate.

5. Status of Wastewater Sector

Interest in addressing methane capture and use from wastewater treatment was initially raised by Chile in January 2009 and the Steering Committee subsequently directed the ASG to explore the issue. At the September 2009 Steering Committee meeting, the ASG presented a scoping paper exploring opportunities for this sector. The paper provided brief background on the sector, discussed existing international activities, and outline potential reduction opportunities. Finally, the paper presented possible options for incorporating wastewater into the Partnership, either as part of an existing Subcommittee or as a new Subcommittee. At its March 2010 meeting, the Steering Committee discussed this issue and agreed to add the sector to the Partnership. The Steering Committee agreed to the following modification to TOR language to add this sector:

"...in the areas of agriculture, coal mining, landfills, oil and natural gas systems, *and wastewater treatment...*"

At its March 2010 meeting, the Steering Committee also decided to convene a Wastewater Task Force via conference call to assess Partner interest and engagement, evaluate possible inclusion in the Landfill Subcommittee, and discuss other issues pertaining to the wastewater sector. Accordingly, the Wastewater Task Force convened its first meeting via teleconference on 15 July 2010. Based on these discussions and expressed Partner interest, the ASG proposed holding a Wastewater Task Force Meeting in conjunction with the Landfill & Agriculture Subcommittee meetings on 11- 12 November 2010 in Venice, Italy. Following this session, the Wastewater Task Force will prepare a memorandum with recommendations for the Steering Committee's consideration at its next meeting.

Suggested Next Steps:

All Partners should be requested to consult internally within their government to determine if there is interest in participating on the Wastewater Task Force.

Following the meeting in November 2010 the Task Force should develop recommendations to the Steering Committee.

6. Items for Steering Committee Consideration

Leadership Review: Does the Steering Committee wish to charge the Subcommittees to review current leadership and/or query delegates to determine if there might be other Partners interested in serving as chair(s)?

Opportunities for Abatement: Does the Steering Committee wish to charge the Subcommittees with determining the role of methane abatement within each sector, and updating their Subcommittee Action Plans accordingly?

Wastewater: Does the Steering Committee wish to charge Partners with identifying additional participants for the Wastewater Task Force? Does the Steering Committee approve of the plan for a Task Force meeting in November 2010 and subsequent development of recommendations to the Steering Committee?

Appendix A

Current and Previous Subcommittee Chairs

Agriculture	Coal Mines	Landfills	Oil & Gas
Current			
<p>Jorge Hilbert, Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA), Argentina (2004 – Present)</p> <p>Anil Dhussa, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India (2009 – Present)</p>	<p>Huang Shengchu, China Coal Information Institute (CCII), China (2004 – Present)</p> <p>A.K. Singh, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDI), India (2008 – Present)</p> <p>Pamela Franklin, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), United States (2005 – Present)</p>	<p>Gabriel Blanco, Secretariat of Environment & Sustainable Development, Argentina (2008 – Present)</p> <p>Sandra Lopez Tovar, Ministry of Environment, Housing & Territorial Planning, Colombia (2009 – Present)</p> <p>Rachel Goldstein, U.S. EPA, United States (2009 – Present)</p>	<p>Michael Layer, Natural Resources Canada, Canada (2006 – Present)</p> <p>Cruz Ernesto Hernandez Ramirez, Petróleos Mexicanos, Mexico (2009 – Present)</p> <p>Kaplan Basniev, Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, Russia (2006 – Present)</p>
Previous			
<p>Jeremy Eppel, Dept. for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), United Kingdom (2004 – 2010)</p>	<p>Subrata Chaudhuri, CMPDI, India (2005 – 2007)</p> <p>Clark Talkington, U.S. EPA, United States (2004 – 2005)</p>	<p>Roberto Urquizo, Ministry of Environment, Ecuador (2006 – 2007)</p> <p>Atilio Savino, Ministry of Environment & Sustainable Development, Argentina (2004 – 2007)</p>	<p>Javier Bocanegra Reyes, Petróleos Mexicanos, Mexico (2006 – 2009)</p> <p>Carlos de la Parra, Mexico (2004 – 2005)</p> <p>Alexander Gritsenko, Russia (2004 – 2005)</p>