

**17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the GBEP Steering Committee**  
**FAO Headquarters, Ethiopia Room C-285/289**  
Rome, 14 November 2014

**Co-Chairs Summary**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting of the Global Bioenergy Partnership was held on 14 November 2014 in Rome (FAO Headquarters).

Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Paraguay, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, Vietnam, ECOWAS, FAO, ICRAF, IEA, IRENA, OAS, UNEP and UN SE4All participated in the meeting as Partners and Observers.

The meeting was co-chaired by Italy and Brazil. In this circumstance Italy was represented by Mr Paolo Soprano, Director of Sustainable Development Division at the Italian Ministry of the Environment Land and Sea, while Brazil was represented by Amb. Maria Laura da Rocha, Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO, IFAD and WFP.

**Welcome speech**

The Steering Committee was opened by a welcome speech of Mr Paul MunroFaure, Director in charge, Climate Energy and Tenure Division of FAO. He highlighted the importance of pursuing sustainable bioenergy development and the need of exchanging experiences and field work to this end. He also stressed the great progresses of GBEP in the last years, and confirmed the support and commitment of FAO to GBEP.

**GBEP Membership and Chairmanship**

The Steering Committee welcomed Jamaica as new GBEP Observer.

The Steering Committee was informed that, further to Dr Corrado Clini retirement, Mr Francesco La Camera was nominated Director General *ad interim* at the Italian Ministry of the Environment Land and Sea, taking the role as GBEP Chair.

The Steering Committee discussed and agreed on the extension of the current chairmanship of Italy and Brazil to the next biennium (2015-2016).

**GBEP Programme of Work**

**Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB)**

The representative of ECREEE/ECOWAS, co-Chair of the Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy, informed the Steering Committee on the results of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WGCB:

- **Activity Group 2 - “Raising awareness, and sharing of data and experience on the implementation of the GBEP indicators”** (co-led by Germany and Indonesia)  
The Activity Group 2 held a very interesting session dedicated to share experiences and lessons learned from the pilot testing in progress of the GBEP indicators in Argentina, Egypt, Jamaica, Brazil, Colombia and Indonesia.

The Working Group invited the Activity Group 2 to continue its work and to draft, by February/March 2015, under the guidance of its co-Leaders, a proposed *scope of work* for the production of an Implementation Guide on the use of the GBEP Sustainability Indicators for Bioenergy. In order to allow the Steering Committee to discuss the scope of work for the production of the Implementation Guide and the possible establishment of the Task Force on Sustainability by mid 2015, an extraordinary session of the Steering Committee will be organized (potentially back to back to the Bioenergy Week 2015) or, in case it will not have the chance to meet in person by mid 2015, the decision can take place electronically (via email) to expedite the process.

- **Activity Group 3 - “Study Tour for capacity building and training”** (led by Brazil)

The Working Group discussed the successful results of the second “Bioenergy Week” held in Mozambique, Maputo, last May 2014, and agreed to hold the third “Bioenergy Week” in 2015 in Asia as to cover, after Latin America (Brazil 2013) and Africa (Mozambique 2014), also this continent. The Government of Indonesia offered to host the 2015 Bioenergy Week.

Partners and Observers proposed various agenda items to be considered in the draft agenda of the event, such as regulatory frameworks, increased food security, bioenergy for increasing energy access, water-food-energy nexus and social inclusion, aviation biofuels, biogas, cooking solutions, and smallholder involvement, as these themes are particularly relevant in the region. It was also raised the relevance to organize a field visit during the event. Partners and Observers were invited to share inputs by 31 December 2014. These inputs will facilitate to identify themes for the agenda, speakers, relevant experts to be invited, as well as private sector representatives to be involved in the various sessions. Partners and Observers were invited to investigate possible financial or in-kind means of support for the next Bioenergy Week.

- **Activity Group 4 – “Towards sustainable modern wood energy development”** (co-led by FAO, UNEP and UN Foundation/GACC)

The report “Towards sustainable modern wood energy development” was presented to the Working Group by Cornelia Sepp, ECO Consult, who conducted the study generously funded by GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation). The report was well received by the participants and it was considered informative and well structured.

As next steps for this activity, the Working Group agreed to organize a webinar to be focused on the recommendations of the report and on how to contribute to address them. The Working Group also agreed to organize opportunities for discussions between GBEP and active players in the sector of large scale industrial use of woody biomass for energy.

- **Activity Group 5 – “The Global Renewable Energy Atlas – Bioenergy Component”** (led by IRENA)

The Working Group acknowledged the work made by the Activity Group 5 and thanked IRENA for its leadership, in particular to assess the limitations of mapping sustainability parameters of bioenergy production through the use of the GBEP Indicators.

It was agreed that no additional work on mapping related matters is foreseen and therefore that this Activity Group 5 is closed. IRENA will develop a Report summarizing the work done by the Activity Group 5, to be submitted to the next Steering Committee meeting.

- **New Activity Group 6 - “Bioenergy and Water”** (led by IEA Bioenergy, on behalf of IEA)

The Working Group discussed a scope of work of a new proposed Activity Group 6 on “Bioenergy and Water”, and agreed on its establishment under the leadership of IEA Bioenergy (on behalf of IEA). Partners and Observers were invited to express their interest to co-lead this new group. The Working Group specifically discussed to allow the participation of a list of identified experts to future meetings and discussions of this activity group. Further discussions on this matter will follow. The same approach on a “case-to-case” basis has been agreed by the Working Group to be applied to other Activity Groups regarding participation of external experts.

- The 6<sup>th</sup> Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB) was preceded by the **Workshop “Introduction to AGLINK-COSIMO model for the measurement of Indicator 10”**, held on 10-11 December 2014.

During this workshop, the Trade and Markets Division of FAO (Economic and Social Development Department) presented the Agricultural Outlook and the Partial Equilibrium model, used for the preparation of the AGLINK-COSIMO model. This model is used by FAO to produce the scenarios presented in the annual Agricultural Outlook, published in collaboration with OECD. In the Outlook, agricultural markets expectations for the future (*forecasts*) based on clearly defined assumptions (*baseline*) are presented. The forecasts are made over a ten-year projection of global supply, demand and trade accompanied by the assessment of driving factors in commodity markets. The Agricultural Outlook contains all major agricultural commodities, including biofuels, and is continuously growing its scope including fish, cotton, land, fertilizers in its latest iteration.

In addition to the theoretical explanations of the model, its role and its capabilities, a demonstration of the procedure to measure the Tier III component of GBEP Indicator 10 was given. This demonstration was based on the outcomes of the project “Pilot Testing the GBEP Sustainability Indicators in Indonesia” led by FAO.

- The 6<sup>th</sup> Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB) was followed by the **Roundtable Discussion on “How to develop a sustainable bioenergy sector through a collaborative approach”**.

Several private sector and stakeholder representatives, also among those involved in the SE4All initiative - HIO on Sustainable Bioenergy, participated and showcased their work on bioenergy and had the chance to begin discussions with GBEP members on best alternatives for deployment of commercial scale bioenergy projects.

The Roundtable discussion represented a very good opportunity to confirm the GBEP and HIO members’ support to the SE4All initiative, as well as to stress the importance of working together towards sustainable bioenergy playing a key role not only in bringing universal access to modern energy services, but also in transitioning countries away from the unsustainable use of traditional biomass for cooking and heating.

The Steering Committee endorsed the way forward discussed and agreed by the 6<sup>th</sup> Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB).

### **GBEP programme of work and funding arrangements**

The GBEP Secretariat presented to the Steering Committee the “2014 Financial Reporting” and the “2015 Budget estimation” for the implementation of the GBEP activities. With a view to implement the GBEP programme of work, discussed and agreed by the 17<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee, Partners and Observers were invited to contribute, both financially and in-kind, to the GBEP Secretariat and to GBEP’s future activities.

### **GBEP link with the G8 and G20 Summits 2014**

The Steering Committee was informed of the “GBEP Report to the 2014 G20 Summit” that was transmitted to the G20 Australian presidency in view of the G20 Summit taking place in Brisbane on 15-16 November 2014. The Steering Committee also confirmed the importance for GBEP to continue strengthening the linkage with the G8 and G20 Summits, for which a coordination and support from G20 countries among the GBEP members is essential.

### **Next steps**

- ***3<sup>rd</sup> Bioenergy Week to be held in Asia, Indonesia, April/May 2015.*** The GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details in due time. Inputs from Partners and Observers on the agenda of the 2015 Bioenergy Week are kindly requested by 31 December 2014.
- ***Meetings of the Activity Groups of the WGCB, June/July 2015.*** Confirmation of these meetings, as well as exact location and date will be communicated by the GBEP Secretariat in due time.
- ***18<sup>th</sup> GBEP Steering Committee meeting to take place in Rome (FAO Headquarters), in November 2015.*** It will be preceded by the 7<sup>th</sup> Working Group on Capacity Building. The GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details in due time.
- ***The Steering Committee could be asked to meet in an extraordinary session*** back-to-back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bioenergy Week in Indonesia or electronically, via email, to discuss the scope of work for the production of the Implementation Guide on the use of the GBEP Sustainability Indicators for Bioenergy and the possible establishment of the Task Force on Sustainability. The GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details in due time.