

**18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the GBEP Steering Committee**  
**FAO Headquarters, German Room C-229-269**  
Rome, 13 November 2015

**Co-Chair Summary**

The GBEP Steering Committee held its 18<sup>th</sup> meeting on 13 November 2015 at FAO Headquarters in Rome.

Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Paraguay, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, United States of America, ECOWAS, FAO, IEA (through IEA Bioenergy), SE4ALL and UNEP participated in the meeting as Partners and Observers.

Italy and Brazil co-chaired the meeting. Mr. Giovanni Brunelli, Director of Sustainable Development Division of the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, represented Italy while Amb. Maria Laura da Rocha, Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO, IFAD and WFP, represented Brazil.

**Welcome speech**

Mr. Giovanni Brunelli and Amb. Maria Laura da Rocha gave brief speeches at the outset of the Steering Committee meeting to thank Partners and Observers for their work.

Mr. Olivier Dubois, Leader of the Energy Programme of the Climate, Energy and Tenure Division (NRC) of FAO, gave the official welcome speech on behalf of Mr. Martin Frick, Director of NRC of FAO. In his speech, he highlighted the growing importance of bioenergy, which has led to an increased global interest in the sector. He highlighted a tendency amongst decision makers to oversimplify the discussion on bioenergy despite the fact that the picture is much more complex than that as well as a tendency to demonize bioenergy at all costs. GBEP will continue to play a fundamental role in raising awareness and building capacities in the coming years as it is the only recognized and trusted international forum on bioenergy. FAO was a founding member of GBEP and have been heavily involved in its work since then. Mr. Olivier Dubois thanked all supporters and asked them to continue their joint work.

**GBEP Programme of Work**

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

Mr. Bah Saho from ECOWAS, co-chair of WGCB, informed the Steering Committee of the results of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- ***Activity Group 2 – “Raising awareness, and sharing of data and experience on the implementation of the GBEP indicators”*** (co-led by Germany and Indonesia)

Activity Group 2 heard two presentations from representatives of Argentina and Jamaica on the implementation of the Sustainability Indicators. To capture the wealth of experience gained, the Working Group invited Activity Group 2 to compile a set of lessons learned and recommendations from the nine countries that have completed their implementation of the sustainability indicators. These templates, which should be submitted to the GBEP Secretariat by 31 March 2016, will then be turned into a living document to be housed on the GBEP website.

- **Activity Group 3 – “Study Tour for capacity building and training”** (led by Brazil)  
Activity Group 3 heard a presentation on the key messages and outcomes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bioenergy Week in Medan, Indonesia, in May 2015. The Group agreed to hold the 4<sup>th</sup> Bioenergy Week, which will be focused on themes of direct interest to Eastern Europe and Central Asia, in June 2016. The exact date and location will follow in due time. A zero draft of the agenda will be shared with Partners and Observers in a month to give them ample time – by 15 February 2016 – to suggest additional agenda items and speakers. The Group supported the proposals raised by some Partners to host future Bioenergy Weeks in their Country/Region.
  
- **Activity Group 4 – “Towards sustainable modern wood energy development”** (led by FAO)  
Activity Group 4 heard a presentation on the key outcomes of the webinar “Towards sustainable modern wood energy development”. The Group decided to hold a workshop on wood energy development in Africa, in Benin, in April 2016. ECREEE kindly offered to co-host the event. A zero draft of the agenda and list of potential participants will be circulated shortly to gather participants’ feedback by 31 January 2016. Partners and Observers were invited to submit to the GBEP Secretariat templates with examples of good wood energy management by 31 January 2016, for collection and sharing during the Benin workshop.
  
- **Activity Group 6 – “Bioenergy and Water”** (led by IEA on behalf of IEA Bioenergy)  
Activity Group 6 heard a presentation on the highlights of the “Examples of Positive Bioenergy and Water Relationships” workshop, which was held in Sweden earlier in 2015. The Group concluded that: an AG6 electronic document will be finalized by the end of 2015 as a collection of the submissions for good examples on positive bioenergy and water relationships; the roster of experts for this Activity Group should be reopened for Partners and Observers to make any additions (proposals to be sent to the GBEP Secretariat by 31 December 2015); two regional webinars will be organized in 2016; a LinkedIn group will be created; and a contribution to the agenda of the 2016 Bioenergy Week will be proposed. The Group also agreed to develop, by February 2016, a work plan related to additional activities to be developed next year by the Group, with a view to submit it to IEA Bioenergy ExCo in March 2016 for support and related funding allocation.

The Steering Committee endorsed the proposed next steps under the WGCB.

### **Task Force on Sustainability (TFS)**

Mr. Sven Olov Ericson from Sweden, Chair of the TFS, informed the Steering Committee on the proceedings and conclusions of the 13<sup>th</sup> TFS meeting.

The re-opened TFS discussed the importance of nominating potential candidates to cover the role of co-chair. In light of this, the group supported the nomination of Mr. Kwabena Ampadu Otu-Danquah from Ghana. Furthermore, the TFS re-instated the environmental, social and economic sub-groups; however, previous leaders/co-leaders will get back to the TFS to confirm their availability to continue leading the sub-groups. It was agreed that the Task Force would work primarily via email and teleconference, while physical meetings – in addition to meetings in person once a year back-to-back to regular GBEP meetings in Rome – would be organized as necessary and subject to the availability of funds.

In view of the development of the Implementation Guide, the Task Force suggested discussing issues that cut across all or several indicators, while the relevant sub-groups would deal with those issues related to specific indicators. The TFS then had a lengthy debate on crosscutting issues, including the definition of modern bioenergy, attribution and good practices. The group decided not to update the definition of modern bioenergy but rather to include a compilation of definitions from relevant international organizations and initiatives to provide future users with more guidance. On the important issue of attribution, it was agreed that the TFS would either hire an external consultant (subject to availability of funds) or collaborate on a technical report that would provide further guidance on this topic. To this end, the collection of lessons learned on the implementation of GBEP indicators, under WGCB Activity Group 2, will represent a good basis of work.

The Task Force also agreed to include in the Implementation Guide a reference to the linkages between the SDGs and GBEP Indicators, both in terms of how the indicators could contribute to the SDGs and vice versa. Additional discussions will follow on this issue in light of the forthcoming discussions in the SDGs context.

The Steering Committee endorsed the proposed next steps under the TFS.

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

The GBEP Secretariat presented the “2015 Financial Report” and the “2016 Budget Estimation” for the implementation of GBEP activities. The GBEP Secretariat also announced that the GBEP website would be updated and moved under the “fao.org” domain with the generous support of FAO.

With a view to implement the GBEP programme of work, discussed and agreed upon by the 18<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 G7 and G20 Summits 2015**

The Steering Committee was informed that the “GBEP Report to the 2015 G20 Summit” was successfully transmitted to the G20 Turkish presidency in view of the G20 Summit taking place in Antalya on 15-16 November 2015. The Steering Committee also confirmed the importance for GBEP to continue strengthening its linkages with the G7 and G20 Summits, for which a coordination and support from countries among the GBEP members is essential.

### **Next steps**

- ***4<sup>th</sup> Bioenergy Week to be focused on themes of direct interest to Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and to take place in June 2016.*** By mid-December 2015 the GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details including a draft agenda of the event on which inputs from Partners and Observers are kindly requested by 15 February 2016.
- ***Workshop on wood energy management to be held in Benin, in April 2016.*** The GBEP Secretariat will circulate soon further details including a draft agenda of the event on which inputs from Partners and Observers are kindly requested by 31 January 2016.
- ***Workshop on bioenergy and water to take place in 2016***, subject to approval of the 2016 AG6 programme of work and related availability of funds. Confirmation of this event, as well as exact location and date, will be communicated by the GBEP Secretariat in due time.

- ***19<sup>th</sup> GBEP Steering Committee meeting to take place in Rome (FAO Headquarters), in November 2016.*** It will be preceded by the 8<sup>th</sup> Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy and 14<sup>th</sup> Task Force on Sustainability. The GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details in due time.