

20th Meeting of the GBEP Steering Committee
FAO Headquarters, German Room C-229-C269
Rome, 1 December 2017

Co-Chairs Summary

The GBEP Steering Committee held its 20th meeting on 1 December 2017 at FAO Headquarters in Rome.

Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Paraguay, Spain, United States of America, Vietnam, AFREC, ECOWAS, FAO, IEA and UN Environment participated in the meeting as Partners and Observers.

Italy and Brazil co-chaired the meeting. Mr. Cristiano Piacente, Coordinator at the Sustainable Development Division of the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, represented Italy on behalf of Francesco La Camera (GBEP Chair), while Mr. Antonio Ricarte, Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO, IFAD and WFP, represented Brazil on behalf of Min. João Genésio de Almeida Filho (GBEP Co-Chair).

Welcome speech

Mr. Alexander Jones, Director of Climate and Environment Division of FAO gave a welcome speech. In his speech, he conveyed how FAO is keenly aware of the challenges of simultaneously working towards achieving all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and how modern bioenergy can play an integral role in delivering more food with cleaner energy. He also expressed his gratitude for the financial contributions provided to GBEP over the past eleven years by Italy and Brazil as co-Chairs, and by the Governments of Germany, the United States of America, the Netherlands, the UK and Sweden, as well as by the other Partners that have been contributing through their in-kind support and hosting GBEP events. He concluded by highlighting how GBEP is a unique forum for governments, international and UN organizations, as well as other stakeholders to address the challenges we are facing and ensure that bioenergy is an engine of sustainable development.

Further to numerous interventions by Partners and Observers expressing appreciation to the work done by GBEP in the last eleven years, Mr. Cristiano Piacente and Mr. Antonio Ricarte thanked Partners and Observers for their continued work and officially adopted the meeting's agenda.

GBEP Programme of Work

Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB)

Mr. Miguel Almada (Argentina) and Mr. Bah Saho (ECREEE/ECOWAS), Co-chairs of WGCB, informed the Steering Committee of the results of the 9th meeting, held on 30 November 2017.

Activity Group 2 is currently collecting experiences of measurement of the GBEP Sustainability Indicators in Italy, Viet Nam and Paraguay. It will continue this work in the future to support the TFS in the development of the Implementation Guide as new experiences become available from countries where implementation of the GBEP indicators is ongoing or planned.

Activity Group 3 praised the success of the 2017 Bioenergy Week held in Accra, Ghana. It will organise the 2018 Bioenergy Week in Buenos Aires, Argentina in June 2018 (week of 12 June) focused on themes of direct interest to the Americas (exact date and venue to follow in due time). The GBEP Secretariat requests inputs from Partners and Observers by 19 January 2018 on potential themes and speakers to be invited to the Bioenergy Week in Argentina, so that a draft agenda can be developed and circulated.

Having carried out activities on small-scale wood energy and investigated research on the industrial-scale, **Activity Group 4** will now focus on the sustainable transition from traditional to modern uses of wood energy in emerging and developing countries (transcending small and large scale). Under this new focus, the option to have a dedicated session in the Bioenergy Week 2018 in Buenos Aires was proposed, and inputs from Partners and Observers on country experiences are requested by 19 January 2018. The possibility of a webinar to share best practices presented in the above context, in synergy with other relevant initiatives (e.g. IEA Bioenergy, IRENA, etc.), will be explored.

Activity Group 6 has completed its Scope of Work and has been closed. The leaders and members of the Activity Group were thanked and applauded for their successful efforts. The relations between bioenergy and water remain among GBEP's priorities and will be integrated, as appropriate, to their work in TFS (Implementation Guide) and other Activity Groups - in particular as a possible topic in future Bioenergy Weeks.

Activity Group 7 on biogas was officially established. Interested Partners and Observers may appoint experts to participate in their discussions. A stocktaking document was proposed as the first activity of AG7 to show the state-of-the-art of biogas and to guide the future activities of the Activity Group. The co-chairs will propose a template for this document; inputs on this template will be requested from Partners and Observers. The CESC paper on "State of Biogas in the World: 2017" was presented at the meeting and inputs will be requested from Partners and Observers by March 2018. E-learning webinars are also proposed as deliverables for 2018, kindly hosted by Consorzio Italiano Biogas (CIB) and CIBiogas-ER (Brazil).

Activity Group 8 on advanced biofuels was not officially established to allow for revision to the Scope of Work. It may focus on - and better explore - GBEP's comparative strengths, such as sustainability and capacity building, with relation to other relevant initiatives and search for opportunities to collaborate. Inputs from Partners and Observers on this new Scope of Work will be requested by March 2018.

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

Task Force on Sustainability (TFS)

Mr. Kwabena Ampadu Otu-Danquah (Ghana), Co-Chair of the TFS, **introduced the new co-chairs of the TFS**, namely, Mr. Takashi Hayashi (Japan), Ms. Annalisa Zezza (Italy) and Mr. Ahmed Abdelati Ahmed (Egypt). He then informed the Steering Committee on the proceedings and conclusions of the 15th TFS meeting, held on 29 November 2017, and of the preceding TFS Workshop on the Implementation Guide, held on 28 November 2017.

The first draft of a **Technical Report on Attribution**, kindly prepared by Germany, was presented at the Workshop. Inputs are requested by 19 January 2018 and a webinar is to be held early 2018 (or an event organized back-to-back to the 2018 Bioenergy Week, if possible) to discuss the revised document based on these inputs.

The final draft of a **Technical Paper on linkages between SDGs and GSIs** was also presented at the Workshop. This represents a kind contribution from Germany and is based on inputs from the Workshop held in Bonn, Germany in July 2017. Further inputs are welcomed by 19 January

2018 in order to definitively finalise the document and integrate it into the Implementation Guide. The next step is to solidify the linkages identified in the Technical Paper by integrating the work on the GSIs with national entities who are implementing the SDGs at country level and to raise awareness among supranational institutions.

The **Stepwise Approach** to implement the GSIs prepared by the GBEP Secretariat on the basis of the FAO experiences of projects in Colombia, Indonesia, Viet Nam and Paraguay was reported. Inputs are requested by 19 January 2018. Based on discussions at the TFS meeting, a ‘Step 0’ will be developed to guide practitioners in preparation for implementation of the GSIs, including self-assessment of national situation, definition of modern bioenergy, and determination of system boundaries. Germany has kindly agreed to develop a ‘flowchart’ representing the indicators and their links to required data, to be prepared by end of March 2018.

Further next steps agreed at the TFS Meeting were also mentioned in the report back to the Steering Committee. First, it was suggested that a **data collection repository** should be developed to provide links to generic databases that include data for bioenergy where national statistics are not available. Inputs on relevant international/regional databases to compile an online repository are requested from Partners and Observers. **Proxies and best practices** were also discussed and it was determined that guidance should be provided on their use. The GBEP Secretariat, with kind support from IRENA, will develop an information document on the use of proxies and best practices. Relevant studies to be included in this document are requested by 19 January 2018.

The **timeline for 2018 for the three sub-groups of TFS** was also agreed upon at the TFS Meeting in order to finalise the guidance on individual indicators for the Implementation Guide. By 19 January 2018 all inputs from Partners and Observers on the 2017 sub-group reports are requested. In early 2018, additional virtual meetings will be held to resolve open issues related to the indicators in order to draft sections of the Implementation Guide for each sub-group by April/May 2018. These drafts will be discussed during June 2018, through teleconferences, or potentially a side-event at the 2018 Bioenergy Week. In July/August 2018, final drafts will be prepared and circulated to Partners and Observers for discussion at the GBEP meetings (November 2018).

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

GBEP programme of work and funding arrangements

Maria Michela Morese (GBEP Executive Secretary) presented the “2017 Financial Report” and the “2018 Budget Estimation” for the implementation of GBEP activities. Partners and Observers were prized for their contributions, both financially and in kind, that made the activities of 2017 possible. This includes the project funded by Germany, on the implementation of the GBEP indicators in Paraguay and Vietnam, and the Horizon 2020 project funded by the European Commission, in which FAO is a Partner.

With a view to implement the GBEP programme of work, discussed and agreed upon by the 20th Steering Committee, Partners and Observers were invited to contribute, both financially and in-kind, to the GBEP Secretariat and to GBEP’s future activities. A special call to a replenishment of the GBEP Secretariat was made.

GBEP link with the G7 and G20 Summits 2017

The Steering Committee was informed that the “GBEP Report” to the 2017 G7 and G20 Summits were successfully transmitted respectively to the G7 Italian and G20 German

Presidencies. 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. In view of this, it is important to join forces to receive a reference to GBEP in the respective 2018 Summit Declarations.

Conclusions and Next steps

- ***6th Bioenergy Week to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in June 2018 (week of 12 June) focused on themes of direct interest to the Americas*** (exact date and venue to follow in due time). The GBEP Secretariat requests inputs from Partners and Observers by 19 January 2018 on potential themes and speakers to be invited at the Bioenergy Week, so that a draft agenda can be developed and circulated.
- ***Activity Group 4 will focus on the sustainable transition from traditional to modern uses of wood energy*** in emerging and developing countries (transcending small and large scale). The option to have a dedicated session in the Bioenergy Week 2018 in Buenos Aires was proposed, and inputs from Partners and Observers on country experiences are requested by 19 January 2018. A webinar opportunity will be explored.
- ***Activity Group 6*** has completed its Scope of Work and has been closed.
- ***Activity Group 7 on biogas was officially established.*** A stocktaking document was proposed as the first activity of AG7 and the Co-chairs will propose a template for this document. Inputs on this template will be requested from Partners and Observers. Inputs on the CESC paper on “State of Biogas in the World: 2017” will be requested from Partners and Observers by March 2018. E-learning webinars are also proposed for 2018, kindly hosted by Consorzio Italiano Biogas (CIB) and CIBiogas-ER (Brazil).
- ***Establishment of Activity Group 8 on advanced biofuels was postponed*** to allow for revision to the Scope of Work. Inputs from Partners and Observers on this new Scope of Work will be requested by March 2018.
- ***First draft of Technical Report on Attribution*** was presented. Inputs on this report are requested by 19 January 2018 and a webinar (or an event back-to-back to the 2018 Bioenergy Week, if possible) is to be held early 2018 to discuss the revised document based on these inputs.
- ***Technical Paper on linkages between SDGs and GSIs*** was presented and inputs are welcome by 19 January 2018 in order to definitively finalise the document and integrate it into the Implementation Guide.
- ***A Stepwise Approach for implementation of the GSIs*** was presented and inputs are requested by 19 January 2018. Germany has kindly agreed to develop a ‘flowchart’ of how the indicators are interlinked and the most efficient order of measurement, to be prepared by end of March 2018.
- ***Data collection repository*** – inputs on relevant international/regional databases to compile an online repository are requested from Partners and Observers by March 2018.
- ***An information document on the use of proxies and best practices*** will be developed by the GBEP Secretariat, with kind support from IRENA. Relevant studies to be included in this document are requested by 19 January 2018.
- ***Timeline for sub-groups of TFS*** was agreed upon:

- 19 January 2018 – All inputs from Partners and Observers on the 2017 sub-group reports are requested
 - Early 2018 – Additional virtual meetings held to resolve open issues
 - April/May 2018 – Draft sections of the Implementation Guide for each sub-group drafted
 - June 2018 – Teleconferences, and potentially a side-event at the 2018 Bioenergy Week, held to discuss drafts
 - July/August 2018 – Final drafts prepared and circulated to Partners and Observers for discussion at the GBEP meetings (November 2018).
- In terms of ***funding arrangements***, Partners and Observers will investigate replenishment opportunities for the GBEP Secretariat with a view to guarantee a medium/long-term programme of work of GBEP.
 - ***Linkages with the G7 and G20*** should continue to be strengthened, and Partners and Observers will support this endeavour through their national processes.
 - ***21st GBEP Steering Committee meeting to take place in Rome (FAO Headquarters), during the last week of November 2018 (26 – 30 November 2018)***. It will be preceded by the 10th Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy and 16th Task Force on Sustainability. The GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details in due time.