

**GLOBAL BIOENERGY PARTNERSHIP (GBEP)
FIRST MEETING of the STEERING COMMITTEE**
(New York, USA - May 12, 2006)

Chair's Summary

1. Participants

Representatives of Countries and Organizations that have signed the GBEP Terms of Reference (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, People's Republic of China, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States of America, FAO, IEA, UN Foundation, EUBIA) participated as Parties in the First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the GBEP.

Due to legal constraints UNEP, UNCTAD and UNDP were not in the position to sign the ToR but participated also in this First Meeting of the Steering Committee of GBEP.

2. Election of the GBEP Steering Committee Chair and co-Chair

Italy and Mexico were elected Chair and Co-Chair, respectively of the GBEP Steering Committee for a period of two years. This represents the first decision taken by the GBEP Steering Committee.

3. Conclusions from the roundtable discussion

- An enlargement of the GBEP to include those Countries/Organizations that did not sign the ToR in New York is indeed important (Brazil, India, South Africa as well as other African countries, European Commission, World Bank and WWF International).
- An active involvement by private sector entities, financial institutions and other non-governmental organizations is essential to build capacity, transfer technology and promote investment for increasing competitiveness.
- Preparation of guidelines on baseline methodologies and monitoring tools to be used for CDM project activities in the bioenergy field should be promoted.
- Linkages to ongoing international activities in the bioenergy field will be essential in order to avoid duplication of efforts. Build a Partnership network (e.g. with IPHE, M2M, REEEP, IBEP) would help on this.
- One of the main intentions of the GBEP will be that the production of bioenergy is done in a manner that it supports sustainable development, focusing on the overall biomass supply chain.

- The GBEP will be developed on the basis of three main pillars: Energy Security - Food Security - Environmental Security. Negative competition between food security and bioenergy should be avoided.
- Consideration of the linkages between bioenergy and trade is essential, including trade flows and tariffs as well as relevant non-tariff barriers. On this issue it is important to follow the WTO process and take advantage of the GBEP “informal setting” to discuss challenging negotiating issues.

4. Next steps and meeting

- The Chair proposed the development of a “*Programme of Work*” for the GBEP to be developed by the Secretariat in close cooperation with Partners that will have the opportunity to identify their respective interests and roles within the GBEP.
- The *Second Meeting of the Steering Committee* will be held in Rome indicatively on 16 – 18 October 2006 (dates to be confirmed). For this occasion the Steering Committee will be preceded by a Technical Working Group that will finalize the Programme of Work of the GBEP and forward it to the Steering Committee for approval.