



**2nd Steering Committee of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)
Rome, 17-18 October 2006
FAO Headquarters**

Chair Summary

Participants

The 2nd Steering Committee meeting of the Global Bioenergy Partnership registered the participation of the following Partners: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, People's Republic of China, United Kingdom, United States of America, FAO, IEA, UN Foundation, EUBIA, UNEP, UNCTAD, UNIDO, WCRE. Brazil and the World Bank participated in the meeting as observers.

GBEP Membership

1. UNDESA (represented by FAO), UNIDO and WCRE became Partners by signing the ToR of the GBEP.
2. The Steering Committee decided to welcome the participation of UNCTAD, UNEP, and UNDP as Partners without signing the ToR.
3. The World Bank will continue to participate as an observer.
4. The Steering Committee briefly discussed the approach to welcoming potential new Partners. The Steering Committee agreed that as a global Partnership GBEP should welcome new members in the future. However, in order to manage the Steering Committee in an efficient way with a potential growing membership, the Chair proposed to consider new partners only if and when they commit to participate in specific parts of the programme of work of the Partnership. It was agreed that the issue of new members should be included as an item in the agenda of the next Steering Committee meeting.

GBEP Programme of Work: Short-Medium Term Actions

Action 1: Update the inventory of existing networks, initiatives and institutions dealing with bioenergy in order to avoid duplications, and allow integration and leverage of international activities

The Steering Committee decided to keep the document of Action 1 as a basis for a living inventory/database, and that the Secretariat should update the information based upon the contributions made by Partners. This inventory/database provides the starting point for facilitating the exchange of information among Partners and should be more comprehensive on global and regional initiatives and less detailed on national policies and bilateral projects. Additional details (web links, contact details of focal point, outputs/outcome) should be made available by Partners wherever possible. Once the GBEP website is established the inventory will be put on the web and eventually be converted into a searchable database.

Action 2: *Identify gaps in knowledge or areas of weak understanding*

The Steering Committee agreed that at this point in time a detailed gap analysis is neither needed nor useful. In order to identify gaps and areas of weak understanding, the Partnership should use information contained in the updated inventory/database of Action 1 as well as in the matrix of Action 2 (updated version of Annex 3 of the White Paper). Partners also agreed that sharing gap analyses developed by Partners could be useful and the Secretariat will collect such documents for distribution among the Partners.

Action 3: *Carry out scoping of feasibility studies for market building activities, in cooperation with interested developing countries*

The Steering Committee agreed that the partnership should start collaborating on two themes “Trade” and “Sustainability”. Italy will take the lead on “Trade” and UNEP on “Sustainability”. Each leading partner will develop a suggested programme of work for the Partnership on the theme. Suggestions and contributions from other Partners to the preparation process are welcome. The two proposals will include a budget estimate (financial and/or in kind) and will be circulated to the Steering Committee by mid-November 2006.

Partners will provide feedback on the proposals and identify activities for collaboration and human and financial support within the proposed programme of work. The programme of work will be discussed with a view to reaching agreement on a joint implementation schedule in a Technical Working Group meeting in December 2006 or January 2007.

The emphasis of the programme of work will be to build upon existing activities by partners related to the theme, fostering sharing of information and lessons learnt from existing studies and projects. The programme of work on “Trade” should lead to suggestions for consideration by decision-makers based upon the best possible assessment of the implications of trade decisions for bioenergy development, in particular in developing countries. GBEP will not issue recommendations for decision-making in trade negotiations. The programme of work on “Sustainability” will provide a systematic overview of sustainability criteria building upon the diverse range of expertise and thematic coverage of GBEP partners.

Action 4: *Establish mechanism for raising awareness and dealing with issues of international relevance (e.g. environmental standards, food security/MDG1, trade) and gaps in technology and policy*

The Steering Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Technical Working Group regarding the three priority tools for awareness raising: leaflet, standard slides for Partner presentations and the GBEP website. The primary target group for GBEP awareness raising activities should be decision makers in developing countries. The website will be an important information provision tool, but for the key target group additional mechanisms will have to be considered (for instance targeted regional events). The Steering Committee decided that all GBEP related information should be public unless Partners signal a specific objection.

GBEP through its website could establish a role as a clearing house for information on bioenergy and dissemination of best practice. It could collect and offer selected useful information on bioenergy for the different target groups. GBEP Secretariat will develop a proposal to establish such a clearing house function, outlining different options and budgetary implications. Partners will assist the Secretariat by suggesting weblinks and contacts to institutions/people running successful similar clearing house functions on other themes. The Secretariat will submit the proposal to the Steering Committee by email.

Action 5: Formulate standard guidelines to measure the greenhouse gas emission reductions through the promotion and use of biofuels in the transport and energy generation sectors. This would include the development of baseline methodologies and monitoring tools to be used for project activities in the bioenergy field.

The Steering Committee decided to act on two levels:

1. in preparation of COP12 – inviting FAO, UNEP, UNDP, UNCTAD and other interested Partners to continue working in an “informal working group”;
2. beyond COP12 – inviting Partners to further develop the work with a view to the major markets for greenhouse gas emission reductions including those beyond the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto protocol, and to the contribution of bioenergy to GHG reductions in general.

Partners noted that this activity may be integrated into the programme of work on “Trade” and “Sustainability” under Action 3. FAO will revert to the Chair after further discussion with the Partners collaborating on this activity regarding who could take the lead beyond COP 12.

Modus Operandi of the Partnership

Each Partner could nominate a specific “Technical Focal Point” as primary point of contact for the GBEP Secretariat and for other partners related to technical and operational matters. The Technical Working Group (TWG) that met in preparation of the Steering Committee meeting will continue as a group composed of the Technical Focal Points and other partner representatives at operational level. The TWG will meet as required and/or as requested by the Steering Committee. The primary mode of interaction of the TWG will be virtual (email, phone, website). “Ad hoc” working groups or task forces may be created to lead and work on specific items of the GBEP programme of work. GBEP Secretariat tasks will be defined in relation to the specific programme of work.

Other matters

1. The Steering Committee invited Brazil as a special guest to share information on the Brazilian biofuels experience.
2. The Steering Committee meeting offered a good opportunity to exchange information and identify potential synergies between GBEP and other relevant initiatives.
3. The Steering Committee agreed to register GBEP as a Partnership with the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

Next steps

1. GBEP side event in Nairobi (COP12), November 2006;
2. Technical meeting on the programme of work, in particular related to Action 3, by the end of 2006/beginning of 2007;
3. CSD 15 (New York, 30 April-11 May 2007) - 3rd Steering Committee meeting to be held during the CSD meeting;
4. G8 Summit (Heiligendamm, Germany, 6-8 June 2007): GBEP will aim to inform the G-8 on progress of GBEP activities.