

**3rd Steering Committee of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)
New York, 8 May 2007
UN Building**

Chair Summary

Participants

The 3rd Steering Committee meeting of the Global Bioenergy Partnership registered the participation of the following Partners: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States of America, IEA, FAO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, and UN Foundation. Brazil and Tanzania participated in the meeting as observers.

GBEP Programme of Work

1. Report on Bioenergy Policies, Data and Best Practices

Following up on the recommendations of the GBEP Technical Working Group meeting of 26-27 February 2007, FAO presented a progress update on the preparation of the “Report on Bioenergy Policies, Data and Best Practices”, that will present existing information on the current state of bioenergy development in G8 +5 countries. FAO acknowledged the substantial support received from UN Foundation and Italy on the policy analysis and strong IEA collaboration on data and best practices.

The Steering Committee agreed to include information related to bioenergy and sustainability when developing the Report, and endorsed the approach proposed by FAO in order to finalize the Report by the end of September.

The Steering Committee also agreed to organize a GBEP event in October 2007, preferably back-to-back to the next Steering Committee meeting, inviting private sector and civil society representatives. This event will offer the opportunity to formally present the results of the Report and hold an open dialogue on the critical issues for bioenergy.

A number of partners commented on the surge in regulatory development on bioenergy in several GBEP member countries, and suggested that GBEP should contribute to the debate on the development of appropriate regulatory frameworks, especially relating to sustainability.

2. Contributing to the reduction of GHG emissions through bioenergy

The Steering Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Technical Working Group meeting of 26-27 February 2007 on the importance of GBEP involvement in the activities of other fora/initiatives currently working on methodologies for measuring the reduction of GHG related to bioenergy use.

The United States presented a draft proposal on “Methodologies to measure GHG benefits of biofuels used for transportation”, and a possible focus on the harmonization of methodologies was discussed.

The United States accepted the invitation of the Steering Committee to take the lead on this issue and to submit a more detailed proposal as soon as possible. The Technical Working Group will then discuss this proposal, possibly by the end of July 2007. Numerous other Partners expressed strong interest in contributing to this work.

3. Awareness raising and information management

The Steering Committee endorsed the recommendations of the last Technical Working Group that “information provision” remains a priority activity for GBEP and acknowledged GBEP’s visual identity developed in its logo, leaflet and website.

Partners welcomed the inauguration of the website, launched on 7 May 2007, to promote information sharing on bioenergy (www.globalbioenergy.org). The website provides information on the activities and programme of work of the Partnership and also offers links to sources of information on bioenergy.

Regarding website content development, Partners agreed the following:

- GBEP Secretariat should continuously update the information on the website; Partners will assist the Secretariat by suggesting weblinks, events, news and relevant documents;
- All GBEP related information will be kept in the public domain unless Partners signal a specific objection;
- On the “Bioenergy info” webpage the Secretariat will make available selected information and documentation related to the GBEP programme of work, and a first step could be to post the “Report” and links to main documents/data sources used in its preparation. Although originally encouraged by the 2nd Steering Committee, because of a proliferation of similar tools on the Web (BioenergyWiki, FAO bioenergy webshore, etc.) the Secretariat should refrain from developing a clearing house for information on bioenergy on the site.

Working in synergy with other relevant international initiatives

1. The Steering Committee invited Brazil to share information on the International Biofuel Forum (IBF). Brazil highlighted that the IBF’s programme of work was under development and that there would be opportunities for future collaboration between GBEP and IBF.
2. The Steering Committee invited Tanzania to share information on its bioenergy programme, in particular related to the Kitomondo Plantation project.
3. Partner provided highlights of recent and future work relevant for GBEP activities.

GBEP Membership

The Steering Committee briefly discussed the approach to welcoming new Partners. In particular it endorsed the enlargement of the GBEP membership, by invitation, to Brazil, India, South Africa, Tanzania, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, European Commission and World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD). Tanzania which had submitted a request to join GBEP through the Chair, will become a GBEP partner during the next Steering Committee (October 2007), when a signing ceremony for new Partners will be organized. It was also agreed that the issue of new members should be included as an item in the agenda of the next Steering Committee meeting.

In order to facilitate the engagement of African Countries, the Steering Committee agreed to organize a meeting in Africa in July/August 2007, preferably in conjunction with another relevant international event.

The Steering Committee finally agreed to continue interactions/dialogue with representatives of NGOs/Civil Society and Private Sector. The GBEP Secretariat referred to the results of the GBEP dialogue with representatives of Private Sector (Bruxelles, 7 March 2007) and of

NGO/Civil Society (New York, 7 May 2007), circulated in writing to partners prior to and during the meeting. In both meetings the importance of policies to ensure sustainability of bioenergy systems and, in particular, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions was highlighted and flagged as priority areas for GBEP involvement.

Next steps

- GBEP will report to the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm, 6-8 June 2007. The text will be circulated among GBEP Partners for approval.
- Upon invitation by the German Presidency of the G8, the GBEP Chair will hold a press conference during the G8 Summit on GBEP activities and programme of work.
- The next TWG meeting, which should focus on the US proposal for GHG methodologies, will be convened as soon as the proposal will be submitted.
- In order to facilitate the engagement of African Countries, GBEP will organize a meeting in Africa in July/August 2007.
- The 4th Steering Committee meeting will be held in October 2007.
- The Report on Policies, Data and Best Practices will be presented in a meeting with private sector and civil society representatives, preferably back to back to the 4th Steering Committee meeting.