

**4th Steering Committee of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)
Rome, 12 November 2007
FAO Headquarters**

Chair Summary

Participants

The 4th Steering Committee meeting of the Global Bioenergy Partnership registered the participation of the following Partners: Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States of America, FAO, IEA, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UN Foundation and EUBIA. Austria, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Sweden, Tanzania, European Commission and the World Bank participated in the meeting as observers.

GBEP Membership

1. The Netherlands became Partner by signing the GBEP ToR.
2. Brazil became Partner expressing a firm commitment and will officially sign the GBEP ToR in the near future.
3. The Steering Committee briefly discussed the approach to welcoming new Partners. In particular, it endorsed the enlargement of the GBEP membership to all Countries and Organizations participating in the 4th SC meeting as observers. In order to be in the position to manage the Steering Committee in an efficient way with a growing membership, the Steering Committee agreed to include this item on the agenda of its next meeting.

GBEP Programme of Work

1. GBEP Report - “A Review of the Current State of Bioenergy Development in G8 +5 Countries”

In February 2007 the GBEP Technical Working Group recommended the preparation of a report presenting an overview of the current state of bioenergy development in G8 +5 Countries. Following up on the agreement of the 3rd GBEP Steering Committee (May 2007), FAO led the preparation of the GBEP Report aimed at providing a platform for future work of GBEP towards the sustainable development of bioenergy.

FAO presented the main messages contained in the Report and acknowledged the substantial technical contribution received in drafting this Report from GBEP Partners as well as by other countries and organizations.

The GBEP Report was discussed and considered as a good GBEP working paper for further discussion on best practices and bioenergy field projects.

The Steering Committee noted that the views expressed in the Report did not necessarily reflect the views of all GBEP Partners. This would be reflected in the report.

The Steering Committee agreed that Partners would submit comments on the GBEP Report to the GBEP Secretariat. The comments will represent the basis for a short GBEP report to the 2008 G8 Summit (Japan, Hokkaido Toyako, 7-9 July 2008).

2. “The way forward” and “Facilitating collaboration on bioenergy field projects”

The GBEP Secretariat introduced a concept note circulated to stimulate initial discussion of the GBEP Steering Committee on how the GBEP Report and the 2007 G8 mandate could guide the Partnership’s future work towards the sustainable development of bioenergy and facilitate collaboration on bioenergy field projects.

Partners agreed that exchanging information on best practices and collaborating on field projects could facilitate the sustainable development of bioenergy.

The United Kingdom, at the Chair’s invitation, agreed to put forward suggestions for the future focus of GBEP on sustainable development of bioenergy and bioenergy field projects for discussion at the next GBEP Technical Working Group. Several Partners expressed strong interest in contributing to this work and some Partners underlined how sustainability is a key issue to be addressed when designing pilot projects.

3. Harmonization of methodologies on GHG emission reduction measurement from the use of biofuels for transportation

As leading Partner of the GBEP Task Force on GHG methodologies on biofuels for transportation, the United States reported back on the 1st Task Force meeting (Washington DC, 9-10 October 2007) and introduced the proposal of work for consideration by the Steering Committee.

The main scope of work of the proposal is to encompass the full well-to-wheel lifecycle of transport biofuels and address all significant sources of GHG emissions. A preliminary checklist of parameters and inputs which the 1st Task Force agreed will be addressed when assessing the GHG impact of a biofuel. The harmonized methodology will be for the use of policy makers in all countries (developed and developing) and will be applicable to any type of transport biofuel. The main deliverable will be the template or best practice guidance on the harmonized methodology for conducting GHG lifecycle assessments of biofuels. A list of the major methodological assumptions necessary for conducting such assessments would be included.

The Steering Committee discussed and endorsed the proposed scope and programme of work for the GBEP Task Force on GHG methodologies for transport biofuels.

The 2nd Task Force will meet again in the first months of 2008, possibly in the context of the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference - WIREC (Washington DC, 4-6 March 2008) .

UN Foundation highlighted the need to expand and include solid biomass in the framework of this GBEP Task Force. Germany accepted to be the GBEP leading Partner on this issue and to develop a proposal of work with the support of UN Foundation.

This proposal of work will be discussed at the 2nd Task Force meeting on GHG on transport biofuels.

4. Awareness raising and information management

The Secretariat updated Partners on several worldwide events in which the Partnership participated and announced the GBEP events organized in the context of the 20th World Energy Congress – Rome 2007, in particular the GBEP Press Conference for presentation of the GBEP Report (Rome, 13 November 2007).

The Secretariat informed Partners of the GBEP media communication campaign at international level and of the extensive media coverage of the GBEP's activities on print and online formats.

Finally, the Secretariat updated Partners on the work in progress to develop the "Bioenergy info" section of the GBEP website, which will offer selected information and documentation related to the GBEP activities and programme of work.

Working in synergy with other relevant international initiatives

- The Chair invited Brazil to share information on the International Biofuel Forum (IBF). On the basis of the 2nd IBF meeting (New Delhi, 30 October 2007), Brazil highlighted that the IBF has created two working groups: one on information exchange on biofuels and GHG emission reductions, and another on standards and codes for ethanol.
- The Chair invited Mozambique to share information on its national bioenergy programme, particularly relating to the feasibility studies for the promotion of biofuels production.
- Partners provided highlights of recent and future work relevant for GBEP activities.

Next steps and next GBEP events

1. Partners will submit comments on the GBEP Report to the GBEP Secretariat by 11 January 2008. Those will be the basis for a short GBEP report to the 2008 G8 Summit (Japan, Hokkaido Toyako, 7-9 July 2008) which represents the end of the two year cycle of the Gleneagles Plan of Action, where GBEP received its first mandate.

The GBEP text will be discussed in its next Technical Working Group and circulated among Partners for approval.

2. The United Kingdom will put forward suggestions for the future focus of GBEP on sustainable development of bioenergy and bioenergy field projects, by the end of December 2007. This proposal will be circulated for comments and discussed at the next GBEP Technical Working Group.

3. The next GBEP Technical Working Group will be organized around mid February 2008. Further details about time and venue will be provided by the GBEP Secretariat in due course.

4. The 2nd GBEP Task Force on GHG methodologies will meet again in Washington DC, 3-4 March 2008, in the context of the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference - WIREC (Washington DC, 4-6 March 2008). The US will continue to collect contributions from experts on the checklist and on the various methodologies currently applied.

5. Germany, with the support of UN Foundation, will develop a proposal of work on GHG methodologies on solid biomass, possibly by mid January 2008. This proposal will be circulated for comments and discussed at the 2nd GBEP Task Force on GHG methodologies.

6. GBEP would organize a side event at the UNFCCC COP 13. The side event would be titled "Promoting bioenergy towards sustainable development and climate change mitigation: the GBEP challenge". It will take place in the Bali Hyatt Hotel on 12 December 2007, from 1.00 to 3.00 pm. The GBEP Secretariat will distribute a draft agenda by end November 2007. GBEP Partners and Observers are kindly invited to participate.