

5th Steering Committee of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)

Palácio do Itamaraty - Av. Marechal Floriano, 196

Rio de Janeiro, 18 June 2008

Chair Summary

Participants

The 5th Steering Committee meeting of the Global Bioenergy Partnership registered the participation of the following Partners: Brazil, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Sudan, Tanzania, United Kingdom, United States of America, FAO, IEA and UN Foundation. Colombia participated as observer.

GBEP Membership and Chairmanship

- Sudan and Tanzania became Partners by signing the GBEP ToR. The Steering Committee expressed the willingness to enlarge the partnership to other Countries in the near future.
- The Steering Committee approved the extension of the Italian Chairmanship and the nomination of Brazil as Co-Chair for the next biennium.

GBEP Programme of Work

1. Sustainable development of bioenergy

At the last GBEP Steering Committee meeting in November 2007 the UK agreed to put forward suggestions for the future focus of GBEP on sustainable development of bioenergy. In April 2008 the GBEP Technical Working Group recommended the establishment of a GBEP Task Force on Sustainability.

As leading Partner, the UK presented the scope and programme of work of the Task Force on Sustainability, aiming at facilitating a coherent international discussion with a view to broadening understanding of sustainable bioenergy and effective ways of achieving it.

The Steering Committee endorsed the establishment of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability and agreed on a revised version of its scope and programme of work. Working within the consideration that sustainability includes environmental and economic performance as well as social considerations, the Task Force will:

- Develop an inventory of existing initiatives on sustainable bioenergy, with a view to identify and discuss commonalities and differences in approaches as well as issues requiring further consideration;
- Facilitate an effective dialogue on the exchanging of experiences on bioenergy technologies, norms and regulations as well as the sharing of information, and data, experiences and best practices relating to sustainable bioenergy production and use;
- Develop a set of global science-based criteria and indicators regarding the sustainability of bioenergy. This will provide a useful platform for those engaged in current work on bioenergy sustainability;
- Develop a final report summarising the work and conclusions of the Task Force as well as any recommendations to the Steering Committee for further work.

The 1st meeting of the Task Force on Sustainability was convened in the same venue in Rio de Janeiro on 19 June 2008.

2. Methodological framework on GHG emission reduction measurement from the use of biofuels for transportation and solid biomass

As leading Partner of the GBEP Task Force on GHG methodologies, the United States reported back on the 2nd Task Force meeting held in Washington D.C. on 6-7 March 2008.

The Task Force decided that rather than developing a universal GHG methodology, the main deliverable of the GBEP Task Force, expected to be finalized by March 2009, will be a harmonized methodological framework to guide policy makers and institutions when calculating GHG emissions from biofuels. This framework is intended to contribute to climate change mitigation and energy security increase.

The US informed that the Task Force had decided that the methodological framework would consist of a series of ten questions derived from the checklist agreed at the previous meeting. The Task Force also recognized the need to develop more specific sub-questions and formed four sub-groups to address these questions and where possible identify where it is possible to dig deeper:

- Land use change and feedstock production (led by US);
- Biomass processing (led by the European Commission);
- Fuel transportation and use (led by Germany);
- Biofuel usage compared to fossil fuels (led by Brazil).

The four sub-groups are currently working in order to complete initial considerations of the sub-questions soon, with a view to providing a draft methodological framework available for public comment by late 2008.

The Steering Committee welcomed the outcomes achieved by the GBEP Task Force on GHG methodologies so far and encouraged the Task Force to continue proceeding on the basis of its programme of work.

3. Bioenergy field projects

As leading Partner, the UK presented a discussion paper on GBEP facilitation of collaborative bioenergy field projects.

The Steering Committee had an initial discussion on the paper. Some Partners suggested using the “library” concept to facilitate the exchange of information about experiences on bioenergy, also taking advantage of the comprehensive information contained in the IEA database of best practices.

Partners were invited to send their comments on the discussion paper as well as their views and proposals about the possible role of GBEP in facilitating joint initiatives.

4. Awareness raising and information management

The Secretariat updated the Steering Committee on the launch of the “GBEP Bioenergy Database” posted on the GBEP website since 15 January 2008. It offers selected information and documentation related to bioenergy with a user-friendly interface and a multiple search system. Partners were kindly invited to forward to the Secretariat relevant documents for posting on the GBEP online database.

The Secretariat also informed that a revised version of the GBEP Report “A review of the current state of bioenergy development in G8 +5 Countries” was posted on the website, reflecting views and comments received by Partners.

The Steering Committee invited the GBEP Secretariat to develop a draft “GBEP communication strategy paper” that would propose activities and estimate resource implications. The main purpose of this strategy would be to strengthen communications on GBEP activities, to further raising our profile as well as to strengthen our relationships with other international institutions to help take forward GBEP aims. This strategy paper will be submitted to the next Steering Committee meeting.

GBEP Report to the 2008 G8 Summit

The last Technical Working Group (London, 9-10 April 2008) agreed that the GBEP Report to the G8 should include an overview of the current programme of work and activities of the Global Bioenergy Partnership, in response both to the 2005 G8 mandate and to the renewed mandate received by the 2007 G8 Heiligendamm Summit.

In light of this recommendation and taking into account comments and views received by Partners, the GBEP Secretariat developed a draft report for approval by the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee expressed appreciation of the content of the draft report and invited the Secretariat to shorten the paper to give it more impact. Partners were invited to submit their comments and views as soon as possible in order to finalize the report by the end of June 2008. The report would then be forwarded to the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit (7-9 July 2008) through the GBEP Chair and G8 Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas.

Next steps and next GBEP events

- **GBEP Report to the G8 - Partners were invited to submit comments to the Secretariat by 22 June.** In light of these comments, the Secretariat will circulate a revised version to be approved by 30 June and forwarded to the G8 Summit.
- **Bioenergy field projects - Partners were invited to send comments on the discussion paper to the Secretariat by 31 July 2008,** in order to identify the possible role of GBEP in facilitating joint initiatives.
- **Rome (FAO), 25-26 September - 3rd GBEP Task Force on GHG Methodologies and 2nd GBEP Task Force on Sustainability.** Further details will be provided by the GBEP Secretariat in due course.
- **San Paolo (Brazil), 18-19 November 2008 – 6th Steering Committee meeting** (18 Nov. 2008 in the morning); **4th GBEP Task Force on GHG Methodologies** (18 Nov. 2008 in the afternoon); **3rd GBEP Task Force on Sustainability** (19 Nov. 2008) **and a GBEP side event** (19 Nov. 2008, 5.00-7.00 pm.) will be organized in the occasion of the International Conference on Biofuels (San Paolo, Brazil, 17-21 November 2008). Further details will be provided by the GBEP Secretariat in due course.
- **Poznan (Poland), 1-12 December 2008 - GBEP will organize a side event during the UNFCCC COP14.** Further details and confirmation about time and venue will be provided by the GBEP Secretariat in due course.