

## **7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP)**

Millennium UN Plaza Hotel, New York

14 May 2009

### **Chair Summary**

#### **Participants**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting of the Global Bioenergy Partnership registered the participation of the following Partners: Brazil, Fiji Islands, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, FAO, IEA, UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP, UN Foundation and UNIDO. Argentina, Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Mozambique and Tunisia participated as Observers.

#### **Opening Remarks**

The Steering Committee was opened by welcome addresses of Ambassador Reno Harnish (Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State, United States of America); Minister Stefania Prestigiacomo (Minister for the Environment Land and Sea, Italy) and Matthias Machnig (State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Germany).

#### **GBEP Membership**

Fiji Islands and Switzerland became GBEP Partners by signing the GBEP Terms of Reference.

#### **GBEP Programme of Work**

##### **1. GBEP new Task Force on Deployment of Technologies for Sustainable Bioenergy**

At the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GBEP Steering Committee (Rome, 15 December 2008), Partners and Observers were invited to put forward suggestions for where GBEP might focus future efforts to support the sustainable development of bioenergy, with a suggested theme of innovation and sustainability. The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG), held in Heidelberg (Germany) on 18 March 2009, considered a discussion paper prepared by the GBEP Secretariat presenting proposals received from Partners and Observers and suggested that a new Task Force should be established to work chiefly on the subject of technology cooperation. Collection and dissemination of good practices as well as elements of the work proposed on advanced biofuel technologies should also be included.

The GBEP Secretariat reported to the Steering Committee on the conclusions of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Technical Working Group and presented the proposed scope and programme

of work of a new GBEP Task Force on Deployment of Technologies for Sustainable Bioenergy which includes three phases of work.

The Task Force would undertake both conceptual work related to enabling conditions to promote the deployment of technologies for sustainable bioenergy and appropriate frameworks for technology cooperation in bioenergy and, subsequently, also pilot collaborative field projects. The work will consider all technologies related to the bioenergy value chain.

The Steering Committee remarked the importance of technology cooperation for GBEP as well as the significance of the valuable and ambitious programme of work proposed. The Steering Committee decided not to formally establish the new Task Force for the time being, but invited Partners and Observers to have informal discussions under the umbrella of the TWG, possibly in the occasion of the forthcoming UNIDO International Energy Conference 2009 (Wien, 22-24 June 2009) as well as back-to-back with the next meeting of the Task Force on Sustainability (Paris, 8-9 July 2009), in order to better identify programme of work and terms of reference of the new Task Force. The Steering Committee welcomed the offer of UNIDO to be Chair of these informal discussions.

## **2. GBEP Task Force on GHG Methodologies**

The UN Foundation, co-Chair of the GBEP Task Force on GHG Methodologies, reported to the Steering Committee on the achievements of the Task Force, including the finalization of the report and options for next steps.

The Task Force had completed the “Version Zero” of the GBEP Common Methodological Framework for GHG Emissions from Bioenergy, intended to guide policy makers and stakeholders when assessing GHG impacts by which the methodologies of GHG lifecycle assessments could be compared on an equivalent and consistent basis. “Version Zero” is the first product of what is expected to be an on-going process of improvements and updates based on user experience.

The proposed next steps included to perform test applications of the Framework; solicit stakeholders feedback; disseminate the Framework through the GBEP website; improve the Framework in response to user experience; and create an inventory of LCA methodologies offered by users of the Framework.

The Steering Committee endorsed the “Version Zero” Framework and its publication.

The Steering Committee also welcomed the proposed next steps and invited United States and UN Foundation to continue leading the Task Force submitting a proposal of work to Partners and Observers soon.

## **3. GBEP Task Force on Sustainability**

The United Kingdom, Chair of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability, updated the Steering Committee on the progress of the Task Force. The Task Force was focusing on developing a set of global science-based criteria and indicators regarding the sustainability of bioenergy. Good progress had been made in the first four Task Force meetings such that a provisional list of criteria has been drafted and the Task Force is now starting work on indicators.

Three sub-groups were established in the Heidelberg meeting: Environmental, Social, and Economic and Energy Security under the leadership, respectively, of Germany and UNEP,

FAO, and IEA and UN Foundation. A work stream on indirect effects within the Environmental sub-group will be led by Germany. The purpose of these sub-groups is to develop indicators for the provisional GBEP sustainability criteria. Both the indicators and criteria are expected to be further refined through an iterative process over the coming months. Most of the work done by sub-groups to develop indicators is expected to be conducted by electronic discussion, with sub-groups meeting at Task Force meetings to help ensure consistency and to share lessons learnt. Consistency across sub-groups and cross-cutting recommendations would be also assured by an *ad hoc* group composed of the Secretariat, the TF Chair and the sub-group leaders.

A final report containing the agreed criteria and indicators, together with recommendations on their use would be published by May 2010 for submission to the 2010 G8 Summit in Canada. In addition to reporting back to the G8 Leaders on the results achieved by the Task Force on Sustainability, some Partners proposed to report also to the CSD-18 next year, not only because GBEP is a CSD Partnership, but also because CSD-18 will be focused on the Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, Transport, and Waste Management.

The Steering Committee commended the work of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability thus far, recognising the GBEP added value to work on building a global consensus on this issue.

The next meeting of the Task Force on Sustainability will convene on 8 and 9 July, in Paris, kindly hosted by UNEP, back-to-back with a workshop on biodiversity mapping and biodegraded land.

#### **4. GBEP Report to the G8 Summit 2009**

The Secretariat circulated a draft of the “GBEP Report to the G8 Summit 2009” at the Steering Committee meeting. The draft Report includes an overview of the current programme of work and activities of the Global Bioenergy Partnership, in response to the recent G8 mandates. The draft Report also provides - in two annexes - information on progresses of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability as well as an introduction to the achievements of the GBEP Task Force on GHG Methodologies.

Partners were invited to submit their comments and views by 28 May 2009 in order to finalize the report by the end of June 2008. The report would then be forwarded to the G8 L’Aquila Summit (8-10 July 2009) through the GBEP Chair and G8 Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas.

#### **5. GBEP funding and arrangements for the next biennium (2010–2011)**

The Steering Committee was invited to discuss about GBEP’s arrangements in particular in terms of funding and chairmanship for the next biennium (2010-2011).

The Chair, Corrado Clini, stated that Italy will continue to provide financial support to the GBEP Secretariat based in FAO despite his chairmanship will formally expire by the end of 2009. Besides recent contributions received by GBEP (in the shape both of financial contributions and hospitality of GBEP meetings), Partners and Observers were encouraged to provide financial support to GBEP activities towards a further development and strengthening of GBEP.

Partners were invited to have bilateral consultations with the GBEP Secretariat regarding GBEP chairmanship for the next biennium as well as financial contributions. The GBEP Chair and co-Chair for the next biennium (2010-2011) will be announced at the next Steering Committee meeting in November 2009.

### **Next steps**

#### **GBEP Steering Committee**

The *8<sup>th</sup> GBEP Steering Committee meeting will be held mid November* in order not to conflict with UNFCCC COP-15 in Copenhagen (30 November – 11 December 2009) and preparatory meetings. The GBEP Secretariat will have bilateral consultations with Partners and Observers that would like to host the meeting. Exact location and date will be provided by the GBEP Secretariat in due course.

#### **GBEP Task Force on Sustainability**

The *5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force on Sustainability will be held in Paris on 8-9 July 2009*, kindly hosted by UNEP.

#### **Technical Working Group – Focus on technologies for sustainable bioenergy**

- The *Technical Working Group* is invited to hold an informal meeting in Vienna, on the occasion of the UNIDO International Energy Conference 2009 (22-24 June 2009), in order to contribute to better define programme of work and terms of reference of the new proposed Task Force on Deployment of Technologies for Sustainable Bioenergy. Further information will be provided by the GBEP Secretariat in due course.
- The *5<sup>th</sup> Technical Working Group*, to be focused on the deployment of technologies for sustainable bioenergy, *will be held in Paris on 8-9 July 2009*, kindly hosted by UNEP.

#### **GBEP Task Force on GHG Methodologies**

- *Partners and Observers are invited to test the GBEP methodological framework* by using it to review their methodologies and to share results with the Task Force.
- *United States and UN Foundation, with the support of the GBEP Secretariat, will submit a proposal of work on next steps* to Partners and Observers.