

10th Meeting of the GBEP Steering Committee

FAO Headquarters - Philippines Room

Rome, 19 November 2010

Chair Summary

The 10th Steering Committee meeting of the Global Bioenergy Partnership was held in Rome, FAO Headquarters, on 19 November 2010. Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Mauritania, Netherlands, Paraguay, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, FAO, IDB, IEA, UN Foundation and UNEP participated as Partners. Egypt, Indonesia, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) participated as Observers.

Opening Remarks

The Steering Committee was opened by a welcome address of Mr Peter Holmgren, Director of the Climate, Energy and Tenure Division, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department of FAO, who highlighted the importance of pursuing sustainable bioenergy development, and mentioned current activities and tools developed by FAO to this end.

GBEP Membership and Chairmanship

Colombia, Mauritania and the European Commission became Partners by signing the GBEP Terms of Reference.

The Steering Committee welcomed and agreed on the proposal to extend the Italian Chairmanship and the Brazilian Co-Chairmanship for another year (2011).

GBEP Programme of Work

1. GBEP Task Force on Sustainability

Sweden, newly appointed Chair of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability, updated the Steering Committee on the work of the Task Force. He reported to the Steering Committee that the discussion in the Task Force led to a significant level of provisional agreement on the indicators. Further discussion is still necessary in order to reach consensus also on food security, land rights and allocation, structure and content of contextual information to support the use of GBEP criteria and indicators, as well as on the proposals of one Partner to remove the list of criteria and delink the list of indicators from the three baskets (environmental, social, and economic and energy security). Alongside this work, the Task Force will also refine the methodology sheets for the provisionally agreed indicators, and will discuss the content and structure of the final GBEP report on this issue towards finalization. Resolution on these topics would be the focus of the Task Force's efforts over the coming months.

The Steering Committee welcomed the new Task Force Chair. It acknowledged the major progress recently made and highlighted the importance of continuing to work to address the various points of view towards a final consensus. The Chair and co-Chair of the Steering

Committee invited interested Partners to work closely to this end, through the Secretariat and/or bilaterally, using a pragmatic approach. The Steering Committee endorsed the timeline proposed by the Task Force Chair to finalize this GBEP work on sustainability.

2. GBEP Technical Working Group – Discussion on the new GBEP Task Force

Italy, co-Chair of the Technical Working Group (TWG), informed the Steering Committee that since last meeting in Tunis, bilateral discussions took place, with the support of the GBEP Secretariat, to facilitate the establishment of the new GBEP Task Force on Capacity Building and Technology Cooperation for Sustainable Bioenergy. In order to facilitate the finalization of the current work of the Task Force on Sustainability, it was decided to give priority to it and postpone the discussion on the programme of work of the new Task Force to March 2011. At that time a final agreement is foreseen, with a view of a formal endorsement by the 11th Steering Committee in May 2011.

The GBEP Secretariat in Tunis was asked to explore the possibility of creating a search tool on the GBEP website to facilitate access to relevant information contained in the two reports that the TWG finalized at that time (“Financing options for bioenergy projects and programmes” and “Analytical tools to assess and unlock sustainable bioenergy potential”). The GBEP Secretariat formally announced that the search tools are up and running on the GBEP website since the beginning of October 2010.

The Steering Committee invited the TWG to meet in March 2011 in the occasion of the next GBEP meetings, and encouraged a swift agreement on the scope and programme of work of the new Task Force.

3. GBEP Task Force on GHG Methodologies

UN Foundation, co-Chair of the GBEP Task Force on GHG Methodologies, updated the Steering Committee on the work of the Task Force and submitted the finalized “GBEP Common Methodological Framework for GHG Lifecycle Analysis of Bioenergy – Version One” for approval. The Task Force co-Chair also announced that proposals of capacity building and awareness raising activities related to the work of this Task Force will be submitted to the TWG for due consideration in the discussion related to the new Task Force.

The Secretariat presented the “Clearing House on GHG methodologies” developed on the GBEP website by the Italian Institute of Agricultural Economics (INEA) with the support of the Secretariat. This tool is intended to be a useful platform for more effective communication among experts and for comparisons of results on GHG studies, as well as to inform users of different methodological approaches and scientific developments. Partners and Observers were encouraged to provide the Secretariat with any relevant document and/or study for posting on the clearing house. It will be publicly available online from January 2011.

The Steering Committee endorsed the “GBEP Common Methodological Framework for GHG Lifecycle Analysis of Bioenergy – Version One” and the clearing house web tool under finalization. In light of the importance recognized to capacity building and awareness raising activities related to the GBEP methodological framework, the Steering Committee invited Partners and Observers to start those activities through bilateral discussions. To facilitate this, Partners and Observers are contributing in-kind to the translation of the GBEP methodological framework from English. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) announced to contribute with its translation in French, Spanish and Portuguese.

GBEP programme of work and budget

The discussion so far brought to a general agreement on planned future activities of GBEP.

Besides recent contributions received in the shape both of direct financial contributions and hospitality of meetings, Partners and Observers were encouraged to provide financial support for GBEP future activities. The United States announced an upcoming financial contribution to GBEP.

Next steps

- **11th Task Force on Sustainability and 8th Technical Working Group meetings** – March 2011. Further details on the exact date and location will be provided by the Secretariat in due course.
- **11th Steering Committee meeting and technical meetings** – May 2011. Further details on exact date and location will be provided by the Secretariat in due course.