

7th meeting of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability

Hague Academy of International Law

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2

The Hague, Netherlands

17-19 March 2010

Chair Conclusions

The GBEP Task Force on Sustainability held its seventh meeting on 17-19 March 2010. Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, France, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mauritania, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA, FAO, IEA, IDB, UN Foundation, UNEP and UNIDO participated in the meeting. Additional sustainability experts Barbara Bramble (Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels) and David Willers (Better Sugarcane Initiative) also participated. The meeting was chaired by the United Kingdom, the leading partner for this work.

Mr Bernard Ter Haar, Director General for Environmental Protection, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, made a welcome address on behalf of the hosting partner, the Netherlands.

General issues relating to GBEP work on indicators

- *Application of GBEP criteria and indicators*

The Task Force agreed that the GBEP sustainability criteria and indicators were principally intended to be applied to modern bioenergy, though it did not wish to be too prescriptive. One of the main uses of the set of criteria and indicators would be to assess the contribution of modern bioenergy to sustainable development and the evolution of this contribution over time. The set could also be used to make a comparison of the contribution to sustainable development between different kinds of modern bioenergy, between modern bioenergy and another energy source (such as fossil fuels or traditional bioenergy, depending on the national context), and between modern bioenergy and an alternative to achieving a given policy objective other than producing energy (such as adding value to a nation's agricultural sector or improving the national foreign exchange balance). Whilst the set of current criteria and indicators did not apply to traditional bioenergy in its entirety, certain elements could be used to assess – at least partially – the contribution of traditional bioenergy to sustainable development and the evolution of this contribution over time.

The Secretariat was asked to propose a definition of modern bioenergy for the purposes of the GBEP work, based on the one proposed during the meeting (*viz.* electricity, liquid and gaseous fuels and mechanical power derived from non-fossil biomass), but taking into account comments regarding inclusion of heating and cooling applications. This might form part of a glossary of terms to be included in the GBEP report on criteria and indicators.

- *Dealing with the chapeaux (“0 indicators”) and/or cross-cutting recommendations*

In light of views expressed by Partners and Observers in the meeting, a proposal was developed in order to facilitate agreement on how to deal with the legal, policy and institutional framework and governance aspects (considered in the second draft under

ENV0A, ENV0B, SOC0 and ECO0). It was circulated by the Secretariat for comment by 9 April 2010.

Detailed discussion of indicators

The Chair introduced the second draft of indicators and said that a great deal of work had been undertaken since the 6th Task Force meeting in Jakarta in November 2009 through two written consultations. As a result, and expressing the wishes of the Steering Committee at its 8th meeting, the list of indicators being suggested as core was substantially reduced from the number discussed in Jakarta. The Chair thanked the sub-group leaders and the Secretariat for their excellent work in producing a further draft in a relatively short period of time, and Partners and Observers for their contributions over the last few months. The Chair stated the objective of the meeting was to make as much progress as possible towards agreeing a set of core indicators, to be finalized and endorsed at the next meetings of the Task Force and Steering Committee in Tunisia on 5-6 and 7 May 2010, respectively, and then piloted by volunteer countries with capacity-building assistance as required.

The second draft of indicators was discussed by the Task Force and some indicators were agreed as core while others were marked as requiring further development and discussion. Various amendments were suggested and consideration would be given to how to reflect them in the next draft. It was also agreed that the templates underpinning the selected core indicators should be improved where necessary and possible. The Chair reminded all present of their obligations as members of the Task Force to contribute to finding solutions, and encouraged everyone to work closely with the sub-group leaders over the next few weeks to address any remaining challenges in order to facilitate agreement at the forthcoming meetings in Tunisia.

Indirect effects of bioenergy

The joint leader of the environmental sub-group responsible for the indirect effects workstream referred to the draft indicator template made available for further discussion and comments in the meeting. He informed the Task Force that no progress had been made in the development of the briefing paper on the status of indirect land-use change and other indirect effects of bioenergy or the inventory of relevant policies as work in the EU, USA and Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels, which would provide useful inputs, was still ongoing. This work would also inform the further development of indicators on the indirect effects of bioenergy.

The indirect effects workstream leader highlighted that a "status paper" on ILUC could be prepared by summer 2010 giving an overview of the key discussions on ILUC in the different fora mentioned above. He recommended postponing the workshop on indirect effects of bioenergy until mid-November 2010 and invited Task Force members to propose a location. There was not time to discuss these suggestions; a revised work programme will be prepared for discussion in Tunisia.

Next steps

The following timeline was briefly outlined by the Task Force Chair without discussion:

- **19 April 2010:** revised (third) draft of criteria and indicators (C&I) and outline of report on C&I as well as proposal for which content to submit to the G8 Summit will be circulated by Secretariat.
- **3 May 2010:** deadline for written comments on third draft of criteria and indicators from Partners and Observers.

- **5-7 May 2010:** Task Force on Sustainability (5-6 May) and Steering Committee (7 May) meetings seeking to agree GBEP C&I, piloting, consultation and the development of the GBEP report on C&I as well as the content for submission to the G8 Summit.
- **By early June 2010:** agree (by email) Task Force on Sustainability part of the GBEP report to the G8 Summit, including any final adjustments to the C&I.
- **July 2010:** agree report (by email and possibly a Task Force meeting) on the GBEP C&I to be used as the basis for piloting of and consultation on the C&I.
- **July-December 2010:**
 - Partners and Observers offer to pilot (test for feasibility) the indicators, devise a national strategy for measuring the indicators and assist developing countries where necessary;
 - conduct open consultation on C&I;
 - refine C&I in light of above work;
 - collate examples of best practice in bioenergy policy, production and use for each indicator
- **January-March 2011:** draft, agree and publish a further report on the C&I containing the C&I (revised in light of piloting and consultation) and examples of best practice.