

9th meeting of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability

FAO Headquarters

Rome (Italy), 29 September – 1 October 2010

Chair Conclusions

The GBEP Task Force on Sustainability held its ninth meeting on 29 September – 1 October 2010. Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mauritania, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, ECOWAS, FAO, IDB, IEA, IFAD, UN Foundation, and UNEP participated in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by the United Kingdom, the leading partner for this work.

Discussion of the draft GBEP sustainability indicators

Discussion of the indicators led to provisional agreement on a number of indicator names and descriptions, and to the identification of indicators where further work and discussion were required between this and the next meeting of the Task Force to help reach consensus. Some interdependencies between decisions on various indicators were also noted.

Discussion of other aspects of the first draft report on the GBEP sustainability criteria and indicators for bioenergy

Criteria and baskets

One Partner proposed to eliminate the criteria from the final product, since they did not add useful information to the list of indicators, and to delink the indicators from the three baskets, to adopt a holistic approach. The proposal also involved selecting the same number of indicators from each of the three current baskets. The Task Force determined that more time was needed to consider this proposal before taking a decision on it.

Contextual information, cross-cutting recommendations and the overall nature of the report

Some Partners proposed significantly to streamline the first draft report on ‘the GBEP Sustainability Criteria and Indicators for Bioenergy’, in order to increase its practicality. The inclusion of a concise executive summary or summary for policymakers was highlighted as important. Some Partners noted that some of the more detailed information in the current draft would be necessary for those who would be using the indicators. Some also suggested the use of annexes in the report or the GBEP website for more detailed background information. It was agreed that the indicators, including the methodology sheets, should be at the heart of the report.

Some Partners suggested that contextual information needed for the measurement of the indicators should be contained in the methodology sheets. There were differing views as to whether other contextual information such as considerations on an enabling environment, a summary of the GBEP process and the relation of this work to the international policy context would add value to the final product. Furthermore, some Partners highlighted the need to keep track of important issues identified by the group over the last years of work, beyond the final list of agreed criteria and indicators.

The Chair invited the Secretariat to reflect upon views expressed and to develop text that met the approval of everyone, in conjunction with Sub-Group leaders and any Partners who wished to participate.

Report to the G20

The Task Force agreed to report on progress made to the G20, in addition to the G8. The main motivation for this is the recognition that the G20 is gradually addressing issues that were previously dealt with within the G8, including energy and climate change.

Piloting and consultation on the GBEP criteria and indicators

The Chair stated that in his opinion it would be very important to pilot the indicators and to seek views on them from outside GBEP. He asked the Secretariat to draft proposals for discussion at the next meeting of the Task Force or at least before publication of the report.

Next steps

The Task Force discussed a possible timeline for its work. One Partner proposed to organize the work around three consequential steps: agreement on the indicator names and descriptions, development and agreement of the related methodology sheets, and discussion and agreement on the report. Other Partners recognized that the fine tuning of the methodology sheets, indicator descriptions and contextual information could not be disassociated from the phase of piloting the indicators. This testing phase would be useful for the definition of the final product and could be undergone in parallel.

The Chair proposes the following tentative timeline in light of the outcomes of the meeting:

- **By 25 October 2010:** Sub-Group leaders to have coordinated discussion amongst interested Partners on indicators where further work was determined to be necessary in the weeks between this meeting and the next. Partners are invited to inform the Secretariat of their interest in being involved in discussion on particular indicators immediately;
- **25 October 2010:** Sub-Group leaders will inform the Secretariat about progress made in discussions on indicators and draft revised indicators will be circulated by the Secretariat to all interested Partners for comment by 29 October 2010;
- **2 November 2010:** Secretariat will circulate revised draft indicators for discussion at the next Task Force meeting;
- **By 5 November 2010:** Agreement by the Task Force and Steering Committee (by email) on the report on the GBEP criteria and indicators to be submitted to G20 Summit in South Korea. The Secretariat will circulate a draft for comment by 25 October 2010;
- **10 November 2010:** Secretariat will circulate information paper on indirect land-use change (ILUC) as background for ILUC session of the next Task Force meeting;
- **16-18 November 2010:** 10th meeting of the Task Force on Sustainability, including session on ILUC due to bioenergy (Rome, FAO Headquarters). Main objective of meeting is to agree the list of GBEP indicator names and descriptions;
- **March 2011:** 11th meeting of the Task Force on Sustainability. Anticipated objectives are agreement of the methodology sheets for the GBEP indicators and a decision on piloting and consultation of the package, as well as discussion of next steps for the Task Force;
- **May 2011:** 12th meeting of the Task Force on Sustainability. Anticipated objective is agreement of the initial report on GBEP indicators and next steps for the Task Force.