

11th meeting of the GBEP Task Force on Sustainability

Münchenbryggeriet
Stockholm (Sweden), 15–17 March 2011

Chair Conclusions

The GBEP Task Force on Sustainability held its 11th meeting on 15–17 March 2011 in Stockholm, kindly hosted by the Government of Sweden. Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mauritania, Mexico, Netherlands, Paraguay, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, ECOWAS, FAO, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), UN Foundation, and UNEP participated in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Sweden.

Discussion of the GBEP sustainability indicators

Discussion of the two outstanding indicators with respect to the provisional agreement reached in the 10th meeting of the Task Force and some minor edits to other indicators led to provisional agreement on a full set of twenty-four indicator names and their descriptions. (This full set of indicator names and descriptions are reported in Annex I to this document.)

Discussion of criteria, baskets and representation of the set of indicators

The Task Force agreed to change the term “baskets” to “pillars”, amending the “economic and energy security” heading to simply “economic”. These two changes reflected common usage in international discussion on sustainable development. Furthermore, the Task Force agreed to change the term “criteria” to “themes”, noting that this in fact better represented the nature of the eighteen provisionally agreed category headings under which indicators had been developed. The Task Force agreed to retain the names of the former criteria for the themes, with the exception of the food one, which will use the title of the food indicator. Furthermore, the Task Force agreed to label the indicators simply with numbers from one to twenty-four, but always to represent each sub-set of eight indicators separately under its respective pillar. The Task Force also agreed to retain the footnote relating to indirect effects with the insertion of the word “indirect” before “impacts on prices of agricultural commodities”, and to include it in the listing of the full set of indicators, not in the summary table. (This summary table is shown in Annex I to this document.)

Discussion of interlinkages across pillars, themes and indicators

The Task Force agreed that interlinkages across the environment, social and economic pillars should be noted. It also discussed interlinkages between indicators and themes and among indicators, and how best to represent these in the output of GBEP’s work on sustainability indicators. Whilst matrices showing interlinkages between themes and indicators (i.e. an 18 by 24 matrix) or among indicators (i.e. a 24 by 24 matrix) were proposed, it was also pointed out that the completion and agreement of such matrices would be a rather complex and lengthy process and that indicators with more linkages might be perceived to be more important than those with fewer, which would not be an appropriate message to convey. The Chair concluded that the Task Force should continue to work on different options for

conveying such interlinkages in the methodology sheets, whilst also retaining the ambition to present them also elsewhere in the report, even if not by means of a matrix.

Discussion of the draft methodology sheets

The Task Force discussed briefly each methodology sheet, beginning with a status update from the respective Sub-Group leader, followed by some comments and questions from Task Force members and the expression of interest in working collaboratively on the methodology sheet between this and the next meeting of the Task Force. (The groups of interested Task Force members are shown in Annex II to this document.) The procedure for finalizing the methodology sheets was also discussed and the Chair's proposal is set out in the Next Steps section below.

The cross-cutting suggestion was made that in some cases a comparison with total agricultural production (in addition to the previously agreed comparison with other energy sources) would be relevant. Comments made specific to one indicator will be used to inform work on methodology sheets.

Discussion of the report on the GBEP sustainability indicators

The Task Force agreed that the GBEP Report on sustainability indicators should include the following sections:

- i) background about GBEP, introductory text to the full set of indicators agreed, and contextual information for this GBEP work on sustainability indicators;
- ii) summary table;
- iii) full list of indicators names and descriptions separated under the three pillars;
- iv) methodology sheets.

The GBEP Report to the 2011 G8 Summit will be drafted in light of the above mentioned work. It will be discussed and finalized at the next Task Force meeting.

Next steps

The work of the Task Force will now focus on refining the methodology sheets for the provisionally agreed indicators, drafting the text of the GBEP report on sustainability indicators and of the GBEP report to the G8. The Chair proposed the following timeline in light of the outcomes of the meeting:

Methodology sheets for the GBEP sustainability indicators

Guiding Principle: The goal with the methodology sheets is to provide enough specificity to be technically sound by upholding our commitment to relevance, practicality, and science while maintaining a level of generality so that countries have the flexibility to implement the methodology sheets according to their local needs and circumstances.

Framework: The process of completing the methodology sheets will be done through collaboration between the Sub-Group leaders and the Task Force members who volunteered in Stockholm to work on specific methodology sheets. Unless they request to be added, the other Task Force members will rely on these smaller groups, which will be called electronic working groups or e-groups, to do the work of completing each methodology sheet. The list of the e-groups is included at Annex II to this document. The Secretariat's role in this process will be primarily as coordinator and also to assist the Sub-Group leaders with the implementation of this plan. In addition, the Secretariat can also provide additional information and/or clarification on the methodology sheets.

Timeline:

- **21 March – 6 April 2011:** The Secretariat and Sub-Group leaders will edit the methodology sheets, including consolidating the comments made in the 11th meeting of the Task Force, identifying areas that need further clarification or elaboration, and providing basic input to sections of the methodology sheets that are currently missing information. In this phase, the goal is not to finalize the information in the methodology sheets, but to provide enough information to keep the process moving forward.
- **6 April 2011:** The Secretariat will send out the methodology sheets in each pillar to all Task Force members with a note identifying the specific Task Force members who volunteered to work on particular methodology sheets (the list of e-groups) and asking if any other Task Force members are interested in joining the e-group or offering comments or input to a methodology sheet or sheets.
- **7 April – 27 April 2011:** The members of the e-groups, Sub-Group leaders included, will work collaboratively, through electronic communication and teleconferences, to refine and finalize the methodology sheets. Sub-Group leaders and, where appointed, e-group leaders will moderate the discussion on the methodology sheets. It is expected that the e-groups will work in the following way:

N.B.: The Sub-Group leader may request that another e-group member volunteer to lead the process of merging comments. If all the e-group members agree to a volunteer assuming this role, this e-group leader will be responsible for consolidating and forwarding the final draft to the appropriate Sub-Group Chair. The purpose of allowing for the designation of different e-group leaders is to divide the work and not place the entire burden of managing the collaboration for eight indicators on the Sub-Group leaders.

- a. **7 April – 14 April 2011:** E-group members will solicit input from their technical experts and incorporate their changes and comments;
 - b. **15 April – 21 April 2011:** E-group members will share their work with each other and start the process of generating a consolidated draft;
 - c. **26 April – 27 April 2011:** Sub-Group leaders (or e-group leaders, if different) will finalize the consolidated draft, in light of e-group discussion. This work will include addressing issues, if any, identified by e-group members as needing additional input.
 - d. **28 April – 29 April 2011:** Sub-Group leaders will circulate the consolidated draft methodology sheet to the e-group, requesting comments and facilitating consensus among the e-group on a final draft.
- **2 May 2011:** The Sub-Group Chairs will email the final methodology sheets to the Secretariat, with a carbon copy to the e-group members, and the Secretariat will then circulate them to all Partners and Observers and request comments, if any, by 9 May prior to the next meeting of the Task Force.

Text of the GBEP report on sustainability indicators

- **21 March – 7 April 2011:** The Secretariat will develop a proposal on the basis of the first draft text dated 27 July 2010 and in light of initial discussion at the Stockholm meeting.
- **7 April 2011:** The Secretariat will circulate the draft proposal to the whole Task Force, along with the list of Task Force members who have expressed an interest in joining the e-group for the refinement of this text. Task Force members will be invited again to inform the Secretariat if they wish to add themselves to the e-group on this issue.

- **7 April – 27 April 2011:** The Secretariat, in support of the Task Force Chair, and e-group members will collaborate via electronic communication and teleconference on finalizing the introductory text.
- **27 April 2011:** The Secretariat will circulate draft text as agreed by the e-group to all members of the Task Force requesting comments prior to the next meeting in order to facilitate consensus in view of finalizing the work of the report.

Drafting of the GBEP report to the G8 Summit 2011

- **21 March – 27 April 2011:** The Secretariat will prepare a draft of the GBEP report to the G8 Summit in light of the provisional agreement reached in the Stockholm meeting and in light of the e-group discussion related to the text of the GBEP report on sustainability indicators. The Secretariat will circulate a draft to all Partners and Observers for agreement at the 11th meeting of the Steering Committee (Washington D.C. 20 May 2011, tbc). The intention is that this report should consist of a two-page summary of progress made since the GBEP report to the 2010 G8 Summit, plus annexes for details.

Next meeting

- **17–18 May 2011 in Washington, D.C.:** 12th meeting of the Task Force on Sustainability. Anticipated outcomes for the endorsement of the 11th meeting of the Steering Committee are:
 - agreement of the initial report on GBEP indicators, including methodology sheets and introductory text;
 - agreement on the GBEP report to the G8 Summit 2011 (26–27 May, Deauville, France); and
 - decision on next steps for the Task Force.