

19th Meeting of the GBEP Steering Committee
FAO Headquarters, Lebanon Room D-209 Bis
Rome, 2 December 2016

Co-Chairs Summary

The GBEP Steering Committee held its 19th meeting on 2 December 2016 at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The meeting was preceded by a site visit and reception at the Case Romane – a Roman residential complex - to celebrate the 10th GBEP Anniversary (1 December 2016, late afternoon).

Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Paraguay, Spain, Sweden, United States of America, Vietnam, EUBIA, European Commission, FAO, IEA, IEA Bioenergy, IRENA and UNEP participated in the meeting as Partners and Observers.

Italy and Brazil co-chaired the meeting. Mr. Giovanni Brunelli, Director of Sustainable Development Division of the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, represented Italy on behalf of Francesco La Camera (GBEP Chair), while Mr. Antonio Ricarte, Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Brazil to FAO, IFAD and WFP, represented Brazil on behalf of Reinaldo Salgado (GBEP Co-Chair).

Welcome speech

Mr. Giovanni Brunelli and Mr. Antonio Ricarte gave brief speeches at the outset of the Steering Committee meeting to thank Partners and Observers for their continued work.

Mr. Martin Frick, Director of Climate and Environment Division of FAO gave a welcome speech. In his speech, he made reference to the recent developments in the UNFCCC and highlighted the importance of bioenergy in terms of energy and land use concerns that are central to the climate change issue. In this, bioenergy can make contributions to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and help in establishing a low-carbon responsible energy system. He also discussed FAO's commitment to GBEP under the cross-cutting theme of climate change within the organisation. Mr. Martin Frick thanked all supporters and invited them to continue their joint work.

GBEP Chairmanship

The Steering Committee discussed and agreed on the extension of the current chairmanship of Italy and Brazil to the next biennium (2017-2018).

GBEP Programme of Work

Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy (WGCB)

Mr Miguel Almada, co-chair of WGCB, informed the Steering Committee of the results of the 8th meeting.

- *Activity Group 2* will continue its work in the future to support the TFS in the development of the implementation guide as new experiences become available from countries where implementation of the GBEP indicators is ongoing or planned.
- *Activity Group 3 will organize the 2017 Bioenergy Week focused on themes of direct interest to the Africa region in July 2017 in Ghana* (exact date and venue will follow)

in due time). The GBEP Secretariat requests inputs from Partners and Observers by 15 January 2017 on potential themes and speakers to be invited at the Bioenergy Week in Ghana, so that a draft agenda can be developed and circulated.

The 6th Bioenergy Week will be held in Argentina in 2018. Details will be circulated in due time.

- **Activity Group 4** has completed its work under the small-scale energy management workstream and will now explore the second workstream of industrial-scale wood energy.
To this end, Partners and Observers are invited to provide input by 15 January 2017 to the GBEP Secretariat that will collate the research already conducted in this area, with the view to produce a list of relevant literature on the theme of industrial wood energy. This list will inform future AG4 discussions during the next regular GBEP meetings in 2017.
- **Activity Group 6** will develop a 2017 Scope of Work to potentially include to: contribute to the GBEP TFS work on indicators; prepare a “memo” regarding SDGs implementation and bioenergy/water; and propose an AG6 event during the 2017 World Water Week (Stockholm, 27 August – 1 September 2017).
These proposed activities will be complemented by electronic contributions from AG6 members, received by the GBEP Secretariat until 23 December 2016 and will form the basis for a Scope of Work. A draft will be prepared by AG6 leader for circulation and discussion by 13 Jan 2017. A final Scope of Work will be submitted for approval by GBEP Partners and Observers by 3 February 2017.
- **Future Activities** were discussed at the meeting. **Biogas** and **advanced biofuels** were highlighted as potential areas where GBEP could add value. The GBEP Secretariat will prepare background notes on these topics, which will be circulated March/April 2017. Discussions among Partners and Observers for clarification and decision-making purposes could be held electronically or with a teleconference, if deemed necessary. In light of these discussions, if considered appropriate, the Activity Groups could be approved remotely and start working prior to the GBEP regular meetings in November 2017.

The Steering Committee endorsed the proposed next steps under the WGCB.

The Steering Committee was reminded by a Partner of the broad mandate of GBEP, which includes but it is not limited to the sustainability indicators. This was with a view to not reduce the GBEP scope of work and instead remain open to new opportunities that may arise in the future. Some Partners highlighted that GBEP represents a unique initiative in terms of the open collaboration and contributions of Partners and Observers, as well as of the high value added in its 10 years of activities.

In a time when financial resources are limited, collaboration with existing and newly launched initiatives was emphasised in order to make best use of available resources for bioenergy in the international arena. The need to avoid overlap and duplication was also stressed, as well as the fact that there are no enduring empty spaces for important emerging matters in the multilateral fora.

Task Force on Sustainability (TFS)

Mr. Sven Olov Ericson from Sweden and Mr. Kwabena Ampadu Otu-Danquah from Ghana, Co-Chairs of the TFS, informed the Steering Committee on the proceedings and conclusions of the 14th TFS meeting.

The *TFS re-instated the Environmental, Social and Economic sub-groups*, with leadership provided by the following Partners: Germany and UNEP (Environmental); FAO and Argentina (Social); and Italy and Japan (Economic). The sub-groups will mainly work electronically via e-groups and teleconferences if need be. The GBEP Secretariat requests expression of interest to join the sub-groups by the 31 December 2016, in order to support sub-group leaders to create electronic groups. The e-groups will be operational starting from January 2017.

The GBEP Secretariat will re-circulate the Scope of Work of the TFS that contains the table on country experiences of the implementation of the GBEP indicators and will represent the basis for the work of the sub-groups.

An outline of a *technical report on Attribution*, kindly contributed by Germany, was presented at the meeting and its content discussed. It is to be based on templates compiled by AG2 of the Working Group on Capacity Building. This will then feed into the guidance provided in the Implementation Guide. Given that the attribution issue is cross-cutting to all indicators, this work will cover all sub-groups and their work on the respective indicators.

As agreed at the 13th Meeting of the TFS, it is important to understand the GSIs in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To this end, the linkages between the SDGs and GSIs were presented, both in terms of how the GSIs could contribute to the SDGs and vice versa. A zero-draft of a *technical paper on the relation between SDGs and GSIs*, kindly contributed by Germany, was therefore presented at the meeting. Contributions and inputs from Partners and Observers on this technical paper are welcome. The leading Partner for this technical paper will explore the possibility to involve UNESCO in the SDG work, and specifically on the water related indicators.

Germany was praised for their strong support to the Task Force on Sustainability and specifically, not only on their leadership on the technical drafts on attribution and the linkages between SDGs and GSIs, but also in generously sponsoring the following related events:

- Workshop on linkages between SDGs and GSIs (June/July 2017) at UN Campus (Bonn) to discuss interim results on the technical paper, with the view to have a final draft before 15th TFS meeting November 2017 (Rome).
- Workshop on the Implementation Guide, including the issue of attribution of impacts to bioenergy, to be held back-to-back to the GBEP regular meetings (November 2017).
- Workshop on the Implementation Guide, including the issue of attribution of impacts to bioenergy, to be held in Bonn mid-2018, if deemed necessary.

The Task Force's work will be conducted primarily via email and teleconference. Whenever physical meetings are required, remote participation will be facilitated as a priority.

The Steering Committee endorsed the proposed next steps under the TFS.

GBEP programme of work and funding arrangements

The GBEP Secretariat presented the "2016 Financial Report" and the "2017 Budget Estimation" for the implementation of GBEP activities. Partners and Observers were prized for their contributions, both financially and in kind, that made the activities of 2016 possible. This

includes the projects funded by Germany, on the implementation of the GBEP indicators in Paraguay and Vietnam, and the Horizon 2020 project funded by the European Commission.

With a view to implement the GBEP programme of work, discussed and agreed upon by the 19th Steering Committee, Partners and Observers were invited to contribute, both financially and in-kind, to the GBEP Secretariat and to GBEP's future activities.

GBEP link with the G7 and G20 Summits 2016

The Steering Committee was informed that the "GBEP Report" to the 2016 G7 and G20 Summits were successfully transmitted respectively to the G7 Japanese and G20 Chinese Presidencies, and that again this year GBEP successfully received a renewed mandate from the G20 Leaders. The Steering Committee also confirmed the importance for GBEP to continue strengthening its linkages with the G7 and G20 Summits, for which a coordination and support from countries among the GBEP members is essential. In view of this, it is important to join forces to receive a reference to GBEP in the respective Summit Declarations. Italy, as holding the presidency of the G7 for 2017, stressed the opportunity to make reference to GBEP at the Environment Ministers' Meeting in Bologna next year.

Further channels for improving the visibility of GBEP were also discussed. It was suggested that Partners and Observers could make reference to GBEP at their respective regional groups for relevant FAO Committees, such as Committee on Agriculture (COAG), Committee on Forests (COFO), etc., as well as other regional and international fora (OECD, etc.). Interested parties and the GBEP Secretariat should communicate to facilitate this process.

Conclusions and Next steps

- ***5th Bioenergy Week to be focused on themes of direct interest to the Africa region and to be held in July 2017 in Ghana*** (exact date and venue will follow in due time). The GBEP Secretariat requests inputs from Partners and Observers by 15 January 2017 on potential themes and speakers to be invited at the Bioenergy Week in Ghana, so that a draft agenda can be developed and circulated.
- ***Exploration of the second AG4 workstream of industrial-scale wood energy***. To this end, Partners and Observers are invited to provide input by 15 January 2017 to the GBEP Secretariat that will collate the research already conducted in this area, with the view to produce a list of relevant literature on the theme of industrial wood energy. This list will inform future AG4 discussions during the next regular GBEP meetings in 2017.
- ***Bioenergy and Water event to be organized at the World Water Week in Stockholm to take place in 2017***, subject to approval of the 2017 AG6 programme of work and related availability of funds. Confirmation of this event, as well as exact location and date, will be communicated by the GBEP Secretariat in due time.
- ***Exploration of future activities within the themes of biogas and advanced fuels***. The GBEP Secretariat will prepare background notes on these topics, which will be circulated March/April 2017. Discussions among Partners and Observers for clarification and decision-making purposes could be held electronically. In light of these discussions, if considered appropriate, the Activity Groups could be approved remotely and start working prior to the GBEP regular meetings in November 2017.
- ***TFS sub-groups (Environmental, Social and Economic) were reopened***. The GBEP Secretariat requests expression of interest to join the sub-groups by the 31 December

2016, in order to support sub-group leaders to create electronic groups. The e-groups will be operational starting from January 2017.

- ***Workshop on linkages between SDGs and GSIs (June/July 2017)*** at UN Campus (Bonn) to discuss interim results on the technical paper, with the view to have a final draft before 15th TFS meeting November 2017 (Rome). The GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details in due time.
- ***Workshop on the Implementation Guide***, including the issue of attribution of impacts to bioenergy, to be held back-to-back to the GBEP regular meetings (November 2017). The GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details in due time.
- ***20th GBEP Steering Committee meeting to take place in Rome (FAO Headquarters), during the last week of November 2017 (27 November – 1 December 2017)***. It will be preceded by the 9th Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy and 15th Task Force on Sustainability. The GBEP Secretariat will circulate further details in due time.