

GEC Steering Group Meeting Minutes | Wednesday 28 February 2024, 12:30 – 14:00 (GMT)



Attendees: Carla Vidussi (EC – INTPA), Mike Wilson (Smart Prosperity Institute), Adebisi Odegbile (UN PAGE), Tom Mitchell (IIED)

GEC Secretariat: Oliver Greenfield (Convenor), Sofia Martinez (Global Policy Director), Jean McLean (Director of Engagement), Ife Fanibi (Project Manager)

Apologies: Juha Siikamaaki (IUCN), Kamal Gueye (ILO), Marek Harsdorff (ILO), Peter Poschen, Steve Bass (IIED), Tibor Sztaricskai (EC), Zeenat Niazi (Devalt)

Agenda:

1. November 2023 minutes for approval
2. GEC Draft Annual Workplan 2024
3. Developing Economic Systems Change Map
4. Refreshing the GEC Steering Group
5. AOB

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS:

01 Introductions

- OG introduced the group to the following members of the GEC Secretariat who have recently joined the Steering Group: Sofia Martinez (Global Policy Director), Jean McLean (Director of Engagement), Ife Fanibi (Project Manager, supporting with minute taking).
- OG shared that Sofia has established a strong working relationship with [Club of Madrid](#) (an august international policy group thinking in a similar way to the GEC), and highlighted the group's interest in social progress / the green economy transition through eco-social contracts.

02 November 2023 Minutes

- OG has shared the minutes from the Steering Group's November meeting for feedback and approval.
- All other historical Steering Group minutes are now available on the GEC website [here](#).

ACTION: Group to share any feedback / comments on Nov 2023 minutes by CoP 01-Mar-2024

03 GEC DRAFT Annual Workplan 2024 (OG)

- This draft annual workplan is still open for contributions and further discussion. It will form the basis for pitches to funders, increased connection to members and partners, and ongoing influence.
- The secretariat has built on the GEC's 10-year strategy (formed 2019 – "Economic Reform in a Generation") and have developed two new interventions with the 4-year EC foundation that has been secured. These are:
 - Shared Global Green Deal: finding the best global policy architecture to deliver a fair, structural, wellbeing-oriented, nature-positive green economy (leans into G20 and builds on Bridgetown Initiative.
 - Eco-social Contract: promoting processes of citizen engagement to ensure this is a "whole of society transition" where everyone has a stake in how things move forward, and structural inequalities are addressed.

What does success in 2024 look like?

- The group has determined what success will look like in 2024 through the 4 main areas of work which can be summarised as the following framework for communicating the GEC's approach: Build societal demand for transformative policy, which is underpinned by an active network and told within a story of transition.

The secretariat suggests there are two top priority work for this year:

1. 'Building and refreshing the coalition' – making it bigger, stronger, and more engaged with the work being done.

2. Hub funding and social contract programme funding

Additional proposed priorities:

- Build 3 Communities of Practice – being developed around communities / movements in particular need of better outcomes from social contracts / green deals, these are: **women, youth, and small businesses**.
 - Develop GEC MEL plan to improve impact measurement and reporting. (an action that has been carried forward from last year is to develop)
 - Continue developing social contract thought leadership and collaborating with others who are doing similar work at both a local and global level. UNRISD / GRAN (Global Research and Action Network) with the UN is now up to nine work groups and looking to establish a “how to do eco-social contracts” process with country hubs.
 - Continue building social contract messaging, highlighting the fact that there can be no transformative policy without social contracts/social mandate.
 - Catalyse policy exchange across regions and stakeholders to support collaborative policy for a ‘Shared Global Green Deal’ starts to emerge and will ensure this connects with UN PAGE and GGKP works.
- **Specific desired outcomes for the end of the year:**
- Re-energising the coalition so that the network is much more engaged with work on eco-social contracts / green architecture.
 - Support from the network with funding of GEC hubs so that they have practical programmes to deliver on behalf of the programme (currently there is global funding, but national funding needs to ramp up).
 - Secretariat to be fully funded for the final few years of 10-year strategy period.
 - Steering Group to be an active champion of the GEC’s work.
- The first energising moment of the year was the **GEC Network Meeting** held on 20-Feb-2024. There were 40+ attendees, many of whom were members, and some of whom the group are keen to invite to be members.
- **Feedback from Mike on the network meeting:** Mike shared that first network meeting held on 20 Feb 2024 was a great, level-setting session, with all members having the opportunity to introduce themselves, and share on the various topic agendas/geographic interests represented within the group. Mike shared feeling that this formed a good basis for identifying common areas of interested and great collaboration across the network.
- There are some key external moments which have been identified for this year as opportunities for collaboration with the coalition: The Summit of the Future (New York, September 2024) – top priority and a stepping stone to The World Social Summit in 2025; World Circular Economy Forum (Brussels, April 2024); Financing for Development Forum (New York, April 2024); G20 / T20 Summit (Brazil, November 2024); COP29 (Azerbaijan, November 2024).

Feedback from the group on the Draft Workplan:

- **MW:** Michael commended the draft workplan, the priority areas identified, and shared feeling it is comprehensive workplan. Michael also shared the following items for consideration:
 - Importance of sharing the narrative – Smart Prosperity Institute have launched a podcast called the “[Missing Middle](#)” exploring why the middle class in Canada is disappearing, and sharing how young people can attain middle-class prosperity for themselves and middle-of-the-ground political positions
 - Consideration around the integration of industry-led stewardship initiatives alongside civil society engagement in a way that doesn’t dilute the ambition of the GEC network.
- **CV:** Carla commended the draft workplan, sharing that it is comprehensive and ambitious. Carla reiterated INTFA’S willingness to support in facilitating any collaboration with UN PAGE and GGKP.
- **AO:** Ade shared that UN PAGE are in the process of finalising their plans for global, regional work, starting from 2024. Ade confirmed that once this is complete, there are plans to explore the best areas and opportunities for collaboration with GEC.
- **TM:** Tom shared that the workplan sounds like a good culmination of targets for the year off the back of feedback and comments shared by the Steering Group.

04 Developing Economic Systems Change Map

- Sofia shared the GEC Systems Change Map which is being developed by the GEC Secretariat as a tool to define policy debates, map partnership activities and priorities, and assist with advocacy.
- Focus areas include: Reforming the global financial system; Green Deals; Tackling inequalities, Just Transition; Land, water, oceans and forests; Circular economy, SCP; LGEs, local value chains
- **MW:** Mike shared on not having concerns over the breadth of the agenda, adding that someone had to hold the agenda in its entirety, and if the goal of the GEC is to reestablish the social contract between people and their governments / people and societies, the agenda needs to hold this level of breadth. Mike highlighted the need to double down on efforts to connect partners in order to achieve this and open up more doors and opportunities for collaboration. Also, the need to for the Coalition / Secretariat to grown in its ability to facilitate the right connections to move things forward.
- **TM:** Tom reiterated seeing the value of the GEC in acting as a viral network of organisations, working together with the right support to trigger the changes that we need to see to other in a way that shares lessons, insights, and expertise, and can adjust tactics etc. In light of this, Tom raised a query on what the practical tools are that the GEC Secretariat can be engaging to help facilitate and support the conversations that are happening E.G. money to hubs, civil society engagement, formation of new partnerships. Tom also highlighted that a more targeted, political engagement strategy may be missing from the agenda.
- **AO:** Ade shared that there is a lot of alignment between the Systems Change Map that has been developed by the GEC and the areas of focus that have been identified by PAGE, although this may be narrowed more into 2024, especially on Circularity and Just Transition.

05 Refreshing the GEC Steering Group

- There is a desire to refresh the GEC Steering Group to ensure there is more hub representation, a new main funder to replace the MAVA Foundation, more social contract / green deal architecture work, more locations and specialisations represented, and perhaps representation from the communities of practice.
- Jean will lead on this process with guidance and recommendations from the current Steering Group, and so will be reaching out to the group for one-on-one calls, and welcomes feedback and contributions from all on what is needed to direct and steer the coalition.
- Desire to seek out private-sector champions who can assist in driving forward the integration of industry-led stewardship.
- The Secretariat have been considering hosting a global meeting for the coalition, over and above the bi-monthly network meetings.

Next meeting: Wednesday, 24 April 2024; 12:30 – 14:00 (BST)

