

# GEC Steering Group Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 4 July 2024, 13:00 – 14:30 (GMT)



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movement  
for green fair  
economies

**Attendees:** Steve Bass (IIED), Peter Poschen, Zeenat Niazi (DevAlt), Tom Mitchell (IIED), Alice Vozza (ILO, on behalf of Mustafa), Juha Siikamaaki (IUCN), Adebisi Odegbile (UN PAGE), Carla Vidussi (EC – INTPA)

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

**Apologies:** Mike Wilson (Smart Prosperity Institute), Moustapha Kamal Gueye (ILO), Marek Harsdorff (ILO), Tibor Sztaricskai (EC)

## Agenda:

1. February 2024 minutes for approval
2. Convenor news and reflections
3. Transition Overview
4. Steering Group Refresh
5. AOB

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS:

### 1. Minutes of February 2024 SG meeting

- JM shared the minutes from the Steering Group's February meeting for feedback and approval.
- All other historical Steering Group minutes are available on the GEC website [here](#).
- Feedback that the minutes often seem to be a description of Secretariat proposal, and then Steering Group feedback, but not a lot on action points or decisions - recommendation that this be improved upon for future meetings.

**ACTION:** Group to share any feedback / comments on Feb 2024 minutes with Jean or Ife.

**ACTION:** To introduce a way of tracking actions from the meeting

### 2. Convenor news and reflections

- OG shared that he will be stepping back from the role of Convenor after 13 years. OG thanked the Steering Group for their wisdom and support over the years, sharing that they have all been important in the development of the Green Economy Coalition and landscape. In particular, IIED were thanked for the hosting and strategic support. OG shared that with even more alignment, he feels the future is bright.
- OG shared that the organisation is in good shape, and the Secretariat team is ready for the next phase of the organisation's development. Over the past few years OG has been striving to make a pivot from the 'what' to the 'how', noting that a lot of work has already been done to argue and understand the 'what', and whilst there is still more to be done, it is important to now focus in on the processes and practices needed to transition.

- Members of the Steering Group shared anecdotes and expressed collective and personal thanks to Oliver, acknowledging the impact of his vision, skills, and leadership, which have led to many years of great contributions.
- TM expressed enthusiasm for the future of the GEC, noting that this transition presents an exciting opportunity to forge a next chapter where the coalition will need to focus on tackling some of the toughest challenges of the transition, and using the full weight of civil society to pull the necessary levers and connect various leverage points.
- PP expressed concerns over the current political landscape but hope for the resilience and momentum of the GEC to keep moving forward.

### 3. Transition Overview

- JM shared on the Transition Plan document (*GEC Transition Brief for Steering Group*) which was been created by the Secretariat with input from IIED and IIED Europe, incorporating insights from the Steering Group 121 sessions.
- JM confirmed that an Interim Convenor from within the Secretariat would be appointed to oversee the Coalition's key activities during the transition to a permanent Convenor. JM then invited thoughts and feedback on the Convenor Job Description which was shared with the Steering Group ahead of the call, and general reflections that could inform the recruitment of a new Convenor.

**ACTION:** SB to be involved in the selection of the Interim Convenor.

#### Steering Group Feedback on Transition Document:

- The Steering Group suggested that the Transition Plan should initially focus on the transition to a new Convenor, a reinvigorated network, and perhaps a good medium-term review of the strategy. The current document also implies an updated strategy, which may be too ambitious – Steering Group suggested that any strategic review be carried out once the permanent Convenor is appointed.
- PP shared the need to identify and clarify what the main goal of the interim period is, and what the role of the Steering Group will be, highlighting the fact that the Steering Group has not been as actively involved with budget / horizons up to this point, and therefore perhaps the Transition Document currently tries to do too many things. JM clarified that the aim of the document is highlight the key elements of work to be undertaken from now through until after a new permanent Convenor has taken over. JM noted that thoughts on membership engagement and the evolution of the strategy have already been happening behind the scenes. The Secretariat are keen to get input from the Steering Group and membership to enable a strategic evolution, recognising that the new Convenor will also bring their own thoughts, energy and expertise.
- TM and PP highlighted the necessity for ensuring that the process of recruiting a new Convenor is carried out in a way that helps to build trust and co-ownership. They proposed having members of the Steering Group closely involved in shaping the job description and the interview process. TM also highlighted the importance of ensuring that the timing of appointing a new Convenor and refreshing the Steering Group is well aligned.
- SB shared feeling that the composition of the proposed Interim Transition Group works well and volunteered to be one of the continuity members, emphasising the need to have representation from the membership and the hubs within the Steering Group as per the proposal.
- JM recognised that Oliver has a lot of trust and emphasised the need for a more active Steering Group in the transition period and beyond. JM also shared that the Secretariat are looking to be more accountable to the Steering Group and get more of their input into strategic plans.

- SB requested that the Steering Group be briefed on the importance and significance of IIED Europe in the Transition Plan. TM clarified that IIED and IIED Europe are two separate, independent entities, however due in part to the structure of the funding from the European Commission, the GEC Secretariat team is currently split across and being supported by both entities. TM highlighted the fact that IIED Europe's voice is currently missing, and so proposed that the Steering Group continue to explore how best to ensure IIED Europe is part of this process as a key stakeholder.

**ACTION:** Secretariat to update the Transition Document to make it clear that the focus of the next phase is the appointment of a new Convenor with the aim of working towards a more mobilised membership and a refreshed Steering Group.

**ACTION:** TM / IIED to share a paper giving the Steering Group more context on the structure and arrangement of the GEC Secretariat's support from IIED and IIED Europe.

#### **Steering Group Feedback on the draft Convenor Job Description**

- PP shared that whilst the draft Job Description touches on all the appropriate areas, there are a few items to be clarified including some wording which feels redundant / contradictory (i.e. around teams and management).
- PP, ZN and SB stated that there needs to be confirmation on who the Convenor will report to, and SB recommended that this be Tom Mitchell as IIED Executive Director for regular accountability, and the Steering Group to hold an annual performance review with the convenor.
- ZN suggested including specifics around the desired temperament / personality of the incoming Convenor e.g. someone who is pragmatic and objective, but also a dreamer.
- SB requested that the convening, dialogue and sharing skills to be emphasised more in the Job Description (currently it sits last), but for this to be balanced out the desired personality.
- SB suggested outlining the team development / facilitator role under the responsibilities.
- SB shared "extensive experience in advocacy, and campaigns" should be moved from desirable to essential, as one of the core purposes of the Convenor's role is to change policy and systems.
- ZN queried how wide the net would be cast for the Convenor role and highlighted the opportunity to recruit globally, but flagged the implications this could have on the legality of employment. TM confirmed that IIED can recruit globally and proposed that the Steering Group leverage all networks to cast the net as wide as possible, especially since the list of desired attributes (team leader, fundraiser, policy/advocacy intellectual leader, catalyst of the network) is broad.
- JS recommended clarifying what sort of role the group envision for the Convenor, to better inform the job description i.e. will the role be more focused on ensuring everything runs smoothly, being a visionary thought leader, or something else.
- TM stressed the need to be clear on the highest priority attributes being sought out in the new Convenor.

**ACTION:** Steering Group to share further feedback and reflections on the draft Convenor Job Description with JM via email by 20/08/2024.

**ACTION:** Steve and Zeenat to be involved in the selection process for the next Convenor

#### **4. Refreshing the GEC Steering Group**

- TM endorsed the proposal to recruit a new Convenor in a way that solidifies a stronger governance through the Steering Group, and proposed that the Convenor's line of accountability be primarily to the Steering Group.
- The Steering Group agreed to move forward with overseeing decisions during the transition period by maintaining the current group (with the inclusion of a few additional representatives) and making some adaptations around meeting more frequently with a more consistent level of engagement from all. It was also noted that this may not be feasible for all Steering Group members due to time constraints within their own organisations.

**ACTION:** Secretariat to clearly outline tasks to be completed by the Steering Group through the transition phase

**ACTION:** Secretariat to invite additional representatives from IIED Europe, another GEC Hub, and one additional partner to join the Steering Group.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, 21 August 2024; 12:30 – 14:00 (BST)

