



Attendees: Clara Axblad, Steve Bass, Emily Benson, Aline Brandstatter, Oliver Greenfield, Kamal Gueye, Laura Kelly, Peter Poschen, Juha Siikamaki, Holger Schmid, Steven Stone, Zeenat Niazi

Apologies: Mike Wilson, Andy Norton, Asad Naqvi.

Agenda 11th November 2020:

1. Welcome and introduction to Aline. (EC)
2. August minutes for approval.
3. GEC November: **2020 rapidly changing context, SG updates and implications for GEC**
4. Reporting
5. AOB

1. **Welcome and introduction to Aline Brandstatter (EC)**. Aline is our new EC lead. Thibaut Portevin remains as alternate and copied into all communications.

2. **Draft – August Minutes – attached**

- **SG Approved. Action - post on GEC website.**

3. **2020 – COVID - Our rapidly evolving context** **The trends, what this means for each of organisation and what it means for us collectively at the GEC**

- COVID-19 has changed the world. A year on from the first case in China, Steering group debate some of the key developments and asks what this means for the GEC. To stimulate this discussion Emily will take us through a 2 page summary that details 5 headline points:

1. **Economies have been even harder hit than all expectations**
2. **The Green Economy has emerged as one of the top solutions to the global crisis.**
3. **Government is back in favour but the social contract is under considerable pressure from all directions**
4. **How is the business and finance world faring?**
5. **The call for “system reform” is coming from both usual and usual suspects**

- SG contributions before the meeting :

- From UNEP Ed Barbier piece- [Building a Greener Recovery](#)
- From Mike W – Ed Barbier [blog](#), high [profile Canadian task force](#) and a research paper on [skills](#).
- Peter P recommended IMF 2020 World Economic Outlook. Chapter 3 on climate. [Exec summary](#).

- **SG debate on 2020 - Our rapidly evolving context**

There was unanimous appreciation of the 2 page paper prepared by Emily. The following synthesises the wide-ranging conversation (but excludes information SG members shared on their work).

Strategic themes for attention by GEC:

Inequality – crosscuts all 5 messages of the 2-pager. Inequality within nations (e.g. recovery packages’ asset price support helps the wealthy; yet SMEs can’t access green bonds; joblessness hitting the poor most). Inequality between nations (e.g. N-S, debt, env risks)

Agency – much GE talk and incipient commitments. But lack of power and capacity to act, especially:

- Local government and MSMEs – key actors making GE progress, with needs and potentials that need supporting. Huge ‘missing’ informal sector can often be highly inclusive and green
- The public – many changes in people’s aspirations. COVID/lockdown experiences have meant everyone reappraising ‘what matters most’ – nature, family, government services... Emerging discussion on needs vs wants

- Green solutions inc NBSs – are still marginal, except for renewables. Need to help their agency: demonstrate and catalogue the range; mainstream them in recovery plans (the new ‘NDPs’ or NDCs’); enable their availability to local government, MSMEs, the public (above)

Brown vs green turning points – our strategy is too one-dimensional if we think only about catalysing and accelerating the ‘turning point’ for green. Brown operates in a different context and is not simply the converse of green. Key entry points – likely fossil fuel subsidies or brown accountability.

Building back/forward better is more than mainstream ‘economic’ decisions – reforming the decision-making infrastructure is as important. Institutional and ethical principles are what will make the difference – holistic, inclusive, long-term, internalising wellbeing and nature, etc, as per our 5 Principles. Building ‘forward’ focus suggests showing how short-term moves could help long-term aims (‘steps to IGE reform’).

Finance – there has been good progress in international green finance but not yet bringing together the whole ‘finance ecosystem’: big and small business, banks, and ministries of finance. This will be critical for the energy transition, the central pillar for economic reform.

Action by GEC:

Leadership on addressing inequalities – A rallying cry for GEC action. The Coalition is well-positioned to deal with asymmetries (inequality, lack of agency, lack of penetration of information...) In contrast, GEC’s members’ hands are often tied.

Reaching to higher levels in government – Government matters. Trust in government matters. But the GEC has not engaged much except through hubs. Need to complement attention on tackling COVID crisis with preventing all future crises. Many green recovery proposals are now coming in from LMIC governments to e.g. PAGE. Connect the GNDs and share their lessons?

Better homework on political economy – inequality and other asymmetries imply the need to think more about political economy. We have 10 years’ experience of GEC but are still not clear about:

- The powers and relations of the GEC and its members that confer influence: how can GEC (soft) power complement those of members?
- The power of the many multilaterals who need to promote green or dismantle brown, and to link it to ‘fair’ – or their weaknesses and lack of connection. We cannot remain unsure of what 2021 targets to make with multilateral initiatives apart from ‘nature superyear’ conventions.
- The PE of the finance ecosystem: need to explore before working out how GEC should engage
- The PE of green and brown economy at country level: there are many prevailing constraints to US and even EC green action. A challenge is that inequality and nature degradation are rooted in corruption and kleptocracy which we have not addressed... [Cover PE in national Barometers?]

MSME green action a major theme – already a focus of the Hubs who have the links, and is liked by many international GEC members and funders. Now scale it up by also addressing the local government, national policy and market enabling context?

Next steps: There’s a 1-2 year window for effective GEC intervention framed around COVID/post-COVID.

ACTION: Global Hub and SG to prepare focused action plan responding to above – covering GEC, its membership and its work streams: dialogues, comms/advocacy, policy work, hubs, capacity

4. GEC reporting - SUMMARY – STATUS OF FOUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

| | Strategic Theme | Status Update | Status | Planned activities |
|---|--|---|--------|---|
| 1 | Achieve mainstreaming economic reform | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID recovery debates and themes Tracker update China – ecocivilisation paper in draft – to guide our China influencing work COP and CBD 2021 <p>NOTE: this remains Amber because the COVID recovery creates a unique opportunity to ensure GE reforms are taken more seriously. How to influence this, particularly at the global level, is still unclear – for SG advice</p> | AMBER | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deployment of COVID Tracker Campaign development – political economy thinking – China, EU, US, ROW |
| 2 | New Social movement plan in place | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researching legal approaches, citizen’s assemblies and social contract – all of which is starting to define an social movement approaches Engaging with social movements is an action learning activity. Past engagement focused on youth movements. | GREEN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidating lessons learned from this year of action learning into a SG paper ‘GEC and social movements’ for early 2021 |
| 3 | GEC Building the coalition: network function co-defined with hubs and being implemented. Partnership growth enabled | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EC dialogue contract signed and in it there is a explicit activity to develop the distributed hubs structure and processes Future hub work funding will most likely need their leadership from country – this necessitates a more balance approach to shared UK and hub funding. Brazil hub piloting the new approach | GREEN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a shared funding approach To deliver the EC funded hub process |
| 4 | New funding pipeline strong with Tracker funded | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of funding secured for April 2020- March 2021 80% of funding secured for April 2021 – March 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Into final round of a UK allocation which will take us close to 100%. Note – if successful we will also have given over 4/5 of this money to GEC Hubs (India and Peru) demonstrating our commitment to our hub structure. Tracker expansion in development under E4N collaboration 43% of funding secured for April 2022 – March 2023 GEC long funding strategy (2023 onward) and team in place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New pitch for COVID campaign submitted New pitches for Social contract and Brazil Hub being developed | GREEN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of ‘inclusion paper’ on the value of dialogues to Government development funders Expansion to US foundations being scoped 2021 – Friends of GEC strategy and funders day planned - SG |

5. AOB

NEXT GEC Steering group MEETING: Wednesday, 27th January 2021, 12.30pm-2pm, UK.

Appendix: GEC Forward calendarⁱ that maps above agenda items to a year of SG activity:

December: Annual review of strategy and partnership. - Global meeting agenda

February: Annual plan – calendar of events – priorities and targets for the year

April: Building the coalition – including funding

June: Big programme reviews and sign-off

August: Influencing, Tracker, E4N review, other policy areas

October: Telling the story and Barometer - context

December: global meeting strategy, partnership, annual plan review

Each meeting could have 5-minute standing agenda item on ‘horizon scanning’ – to identify big strategic issues

Individual SG members could volunteer to take the lead for particular items in the calendar. The advantage of a forward calendar is this should enable members’ forward planning.

ⁱ Forward calendar for SG meetings approved in December 2019