

## GEC Steering Group, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022– MINUTES

Attendees: Oliver Greenfield, Zeenat Niazi, Peter Poschen, Holger Schmid, Steve Bass, Adebisi (Ade) Odegbile (UNEP and UN PAGE), Carla Vidussi



Apologies: Tom Mitchell, Clara Axblad (now on Maternity leave), Juha Siikamaki, Kamal Gueye, Tibor Stari, Mike Wilson

### **Agenda 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022:**

1. Introductions – welcome to Carla Vidussi (EC), Ade Odegbile, (UNEP and PAGE)
2. October minutes for approval.
3. Review of 2022 – a report for SG comment
4. **Provisional priorities for 2023 – A steering group brainstorm – the substantive agenda item - 1 hour**
5. The People's Accord towards a new social contract
6. AOB:
  - a. MOUs agreed for continued IIED hosting of GEC, now also including in IIED Europe
  - b. Next meeting date - **Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 12.30pm-2pm, UK**

### **1. Introductions – Carla Vidussi, EC, and Adebisi (Ade) Odegbile, UNEP and PAGE**

1. A very warm welcome to Carla Vidussi, EC. Tibor and Carla will share responsibility for EC SG representation
2. A very warm welcome to Ade Odegbile.
3. With Clara Axblad on maternity leave, we are delighted to welcome Ade as the UNEP and PAGE representative to GEC steering group.

### **2. Draft – October Minutes – attached**

1. **SG request to summarise bullets into more understandable narrative. ACTION OG**
2. **SIGNED OFF**

### **3. Review of GEC's 2022 work**

**Steering group reviewed 2022 report (below), and made 4 substantive points:**

1. **Successful completion of current work plan – Economic for Nature and EC phase 2**
2. **Successful transition to new social contract and green deal work including developing new funding pipeline**
3. **Concern over no new funding yet for hubs. Needs priority action in 2023**
4. **Concern over lack of structured impact reporting. Needs action in 2023**

**2022 Report Summary: 2022 has been a year of completion and transition: completion** of MAVA Economics for Nature programme and EC Phase 2 – financing small green enterprises and **transition** to new EC green deal and Social contract work. Our impact was most clearly evidenced in our **green recovery**, natural capital promotion, and early development of social contract thinking. Our strategy is still rooted in the same four themes but has evolved slightly with new frames (social contract for shared green deals). Our operations have seen us successfully transition from long term funders to new partners and programmes. GEC global hub is now fully funded for the next 2 years with a strong pipeline for expansion. **However, hub funding is not yet secured and is a notable concern necessitating accelerated action in 2023.** Hub expansion has continued in 2022, we now have a fledgling European base, and new East African regional hub to add to our other 9 other hubs.

**More detail is provided in the paragraphs below and the annual plan reporting framework.**

### **Impact:**

- We refocused advocacy and policy attention in 2021/2 on [Green Recovery](#). With and through the PIGE group we promoted [green structural recovery policy from COVID](#), launched at OECD SD week and also showcased at Stockholm+50. We held national green recovery dialogues with our hubs and national stakeholders.
- The six-year [Economics for Nature](#) partnership promoted the adoption of natural capital-based green economies (economies that understand their dependency on nature) and manage that dependency in decision-making with policies, tools, evidence and advocacy. The partnership can now confidently claim that this approach to nature has become an emerging best practice around the world – at global, regional and national level where partners have engaged with approximately 70 countries. The programme learnings continue to shape the work of all partners operated at the frontier of policy transformations to protect and restore nature and build prosperity for all people within one planet limits. The final Economics for Nature [lesson learned](#) and [summary](#) reports are available for download;
- With the initial support of the Oak Foundation learning grant the [social contract project](#) has been able to advance thinking and build new partnerships to develop a policy, advocacy and action programme around a new social contract for economic reform. We have built thought leadership and understanding through engagement and advocacy in key global processes; as well as the expansion of the [Global Research Action Network for a New Eco-Social Contract](#) and the podcast series, [Power, People and Planet](#). We engaged with civil society, social movements (notably youth and women) and funders to socialise the concept and actions that define a new social contract; and are developing a proposal for a multi-year programme of work that will include national action. The new social contract also forms part of GEC's submission to the European Commission supporting global policy and advocacy of the GEC Secretariat (2023-2026).

**Strategy** has evolved slightly but stayed true to four themes – telling the story, creating critical mass, influencing policies and building the coalition.

- We have started to put our weight **behind 'Social contracts – Movements, Mandate and Mechanisms'** as an approach to scale up our work on building critical mass societal demand, inclusion and inequality in transitions.
- And we are increasingly using the frame of **Green Deals** interchangeably to mean systemic economic reforms.
- Our story telling is becoming stronger in political economy advocacy
- Our coalition building is developing new regional hubs with the creation of both the East Africa and Europe hubs

### **Operations**

- GEC has successfully concluded its 6-year MAVA funded Economics for Nature programme. And largely concluded its phase 2 EC funded programme on funding small green enterprises.
- GEC is fully funded for the next 2 years, with partial funding secured for years 3 and 4.
  - It has seen the end of EC phase 2 funding round and with the imminent closure of MAVA, the end of 8 years of MAVA support. We have secured programme funding for a phase 3 from the EC, and secured funding from OAK and from Wilsdorf foundations. We have strong partnership conversations in process with 3 other foundations to secure funding for both expansion and for years 3 and 4. This is a healthy and successful funding transition.
- It also saw the departure of Emily Benson, director of Engagement for a decade, and the successful recruitment of Jean McLean. Najma Mohamed, GEC director of policy will be departing in 2023. We

intend to recruit her replacement into GEC Europe office, strengthening our policy, network and funding relationships there.

- We have agreed with IIED a revised hosting arrangement which includes being hosted in IIED Europe as well as IIED in the UK. This gives allows us to meet the location operating requirements for a phase 3 EC support programme “Social contract for a shared global green deal”, and establish a **GEC Europe Regional** hub. This will assist in maintaining EC funding relations and also EU focused network and policy expansion.

**In support of this agenda item –more detail is provided in the GEC Steering Group reporting - SUMMARY – Annual work plan - 2022 PRIORITIES**

The reporting framework has been updated to reflect the agreed 2022 work plans priorities (agreed at SG Feb 2022)

	Strategic Theme	Status Update	Status	Planned activities
1	Delivering on existing and closing contracts: E4N, and EC Finance dialogues and Green recovery advocacy,	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Landed a successful last 6 months of E4N</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup> October – event to launch green <a href="#">next frontiers paper</a> (Steve Bass chaired)</li> <li>• Team delivered programme milestones and spend</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> November E4N team wrap up and learning event – final programme report</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Secure the successful conclusion of EC Phase 2 –</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Small is powerful - Financial policy report available now</a></li> <li>• Held 26-27th October ‘Small is powerful’ Brussels policy event with Finance watch.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Transition Green recovery work</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deployment of COVID Tracker in country with EU delegations and GEC hubs</li> <li>• Perspectives – green recovery publication</li> <li>• Changed the framing narrative from recovery to resilience to omni-shambles - get serious, get structural.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	GREEN	
2	Set up Shared Global Green Deal (Influencing policies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing Shared Global Green Deal campaign and funding with plans on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Evolve and improve in country Tracker deployment, use and ownership</li> <li>○ Global Structural sectoral policy work – build from Green recovery structural priorities to Global transition priorities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Co-create Phase 3 EC programme that aspires to lift EGD towards shared global green deal, around regional collaboration areas</li> </ul>	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan to host <b>learning roundtable</b> to leverage EC, proposal support to hub funding (SB in support)</li> </ul>
3	Expanding Social Contract work (inequality and inclusion approaches to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COP27 partnership and funding roundtable held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, Sharm El Sheikh</li> <li>• 29<sup>th</sup> November webinar and Eco-social network event with UNRISD</li> <li>• Develop innovative convening approaches “strand of work” within EC Phase 3, to include citizen assemblies and juries, digital</li> </ul>	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 – ramp up plans</li> <li>• Evolve relationship with funder to land long term funding (3ys +)</li> <li>• Further developing the Partnership approach –</li> </ul>

	Strategic Theme	Status Update	Status	Planned activities
	deliver societal demand for green economy transitions)	engagement, and wider deliberation approaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provisional programme outline and pitch in place. Now sharing with hubs and partners to develop further.</li> </ul>		national partners, and global partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a definition and scope research piece which defines different social contract approaches</li> <li>Defining the global campaign</li> </ul>
4	Refresh Telling the Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertaking GEC communications and engagement audit to determine areas of strength and improvement prioritisation</li> <li>Continuing GEC's innovative and unexpected convening approaches</li> <li>Stories For Life work has established a vibrant community. <a href="#">Video on the project</a></li> </ul>	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing campaign approaches for social contract and shared global green deal</li> <li>Social contract on trial concept and event being developed</li> <li>Decide how to take forward stories for life</li> </ul>
5	GEC Building the coalition: network function co-defined with hubs and being implemented. Partnership growth enabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is amber because although GEC global hub is funded, we have so far not funded our hubs.</li> <li>28<sup>th</sup> October – Network development day</li> <li>HUB leadership:</li> <li>Launched East Africa hub with 3 new regional partners based around Acode Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania.</li> <li>Setting up a GEC Europe office (hosted by IIED Europe)</li> <li>GEC global hub evolution: Developing our global hub and its ability to support a coherent, decentralised, impactful, learning and action network (starfish). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work underway to better define global international policy convening role and for members</li> <li>Developing a shared pitch for hubs to land financing for national green economy work (min €100k per hub per year)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Deliver hub funding</b></li> <li>Developing a shared funding approach with HUBS</li> <li>Define TOR for hubs</li> <li>Look to find US hub</li> <li>Exploring a GEC youth network</li> <li>Improve global communications role with members</li> <li>Link cross national movements and foster national/regional IGE policy networks</li> <li>Define and start to become, through new funding, actions and partnerships, the 'coherence builder' across the economic reform movement</li> </ul>

#### 4. Provisional priorities for 2023 – a Steering Group brainstorm

This was the substantive Steering Group agenda item. The brainstorm captured key areas of attention for GEC going forward that are to be included in 2023 action plan.

##### Notes of the SG brainstorm:

- GEC needs external impact focus on key moments such as: COP28 – UAE – Green economy to break to climate deadlock or G20 India. G20 in India gives opportunity to partner with DA.
- Social contract is vague – what does it mean? GEC to work on clarity as well as programme parameters and partners. Funding to be sought.
- EC Phase 3 contracted and started. EC's main interest is in developing regional dialogues and ensuring circularity and GE are harmonised. Continue to develop PAGE collaboration.
- Evolve tracker for more use, interactivity and visibility. Tracker could also connect to German watch – climate tracker. We need to explore new spaces that showcase tracker – could be GGKP.

- Hub funding is a top priority for 2023.
- GEC Europe hub established, and GEC Europe staff recruited and in post. European hub needs to connect with national governments. social change (i.e. gov Spanish) and for funding to connect to German foundation.
- Political economy approaches need to evolve in sophistication. We could use G20 intervention as a next step in this ambition.
- GEC needs much better Impact measurement in systemic change work
  - What is success - what we aiming for. Put the results on the table. i.e. GEC built bridges between Green Economy and Green Growth by convening.
  - Develop **stories for change** from coalition and hubs – **defining attribution and contribution**
  - GEC to learn from PAGE results framework. PAGE uses Video stories and results
- Investing in institutions should be a new GEC research frontier–
  - who should be responsible, how are they accountable? And interact with social contracts. How to institutionalise? Transformative institutions. Reach out to Tim Scott, UNDP.
  - Institutionalising – should be a question for PIGE
  - Discuss this theme with GEC members
- Loss and damage fund – is strong lever inequality lever between nations. Other mechanism to address inter-nation inequality could be a fund for biodiversity. GEC needs to investigate these mechanisms.
- GEC connect to Land gap report – climate pledges include negative emissions from land use 4 times the size of 1.2 bn hectares of land.

### **ACTION OG to add SG thinking into 2023 GEC work plan**

#### **5. The People’s Accord towards a new social contract**

Inspired by our 2022 social contract partner events, our external webinars, our UNRISD Action learning network and our [diagnosis of COP27 impasse](#), we are increasingly confident that our social contract work is an important intervention, building on our strategy and connecting movements through new inclusion mechanisms (social contracts) to achieve a people’s economic change mandate. We are now starting to bring this work out into the world with confidence. We have created our first mobilising call – [The People’s Accord towards a new social contract](#). The intention of this work is three-fold: owning, building, influencing:

1. Owning - GEC to claim social contract space
  2. Building - to start building our partnership and starting to build the movement.
  3. Influencing - to open advocacy routes and messages from this call into specific places and networks – such as WEF in 2023 and beyond
- **Steering group reviewed and asked question on signatures – they can’t see who has already signed.**
  - **SG ACTION to sign and promote through their networks.**

#### **6. AOB**

1. MOUs agreed for continued IIED hosting of GEC, now also including in IIED Europe
2. Next meeting date - **Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023, 12.30pm-2pm, UK**

**Appendix: GEC Forward calendar<sup>i</sup> that maps above agenda items to a year of SG activity:**

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

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

March/April: Building the coalition – including funding

May/June: Big programme reviews

August/Sept: Influencing, Tracker, 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.

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<sup>i</sup> Forward calendar for SG meetings approved in December 2019