

GEC Steering Group, Wednesday, 27th July 2022– MINUTES



Attendees: Aline Brandstatter, Oliver Greenfield, Zeenat Niazi, Mike Wilson, Andy Norton, Peter Poschen, Steve Bass.

Jean McLean – GEC Engagement Director – specifically for Horizon scanning and generally supporting OG.

Apologies: Juha Siikamaki, Tibor Stari, Holger Schmid, Clara Axblad, Kamal Gueye, Steven Stone

Agenda 27th July 2022:

1. May minutes for approval.
2. Farewell and thanks to Andy Norton, IIED.
3. GEC Steering Group refresh (40 mins approx.)
4. Horizon scanning and GEC growing ambitions to be 'relevant' (30 mins approx.)
5. GEC annual workplan reporting
6. AOB:
 - IIED hosting of GEC – status and next steps
 - Next meeting date - **Wednesday, 5th October 2022, 12.30pm-2pm, UK**

1. Draft – May Minutes – attached

- **Approved. ACTION post on GEC site.**

2. Farewell and Thanks to Andy Norton, stepping down as IIED Director

After 7 years at the helm of IIED as Director, Andy is stepping down. Over his IIED tenure, GEC has benefitted from 2 new phases of continued IIED hosting, and specifically on the steering group, his very insightful counsel. We thank him for his support, and his outstanding advice. We wish him continued success in his next adventure.

Aline also informed us that she will be moving to a new role the EC. We thank her for her contribution and wish her well. She advised that Tibor would represent the EC on our group.

3. GEC Steering Group refresh – attached paper by Steve Bass, accompanied by Steering Group TOR.

Brief introduction to the discussion and paper Steve Bass, followed by three main questions and SG discussions:

1. **SG's evolution - reflections from members**
 2. **Future demands on SG - collecting main points from members**
 3. **Tightening the options - what and how to change re SG composition, roles and procedures**
- **Steering group main conclusions:**
 1. **Diversity of the group needs to be improved. It is a necessity. Define the criteria required for the steering group and create a matrix of desired representation to ensure the gaps are filled. Some criteria for consideration, greater representation, subject matter expertise, geographic (regional as well as national). It was noted that Hubs can add value to these questions. Given the size the Steering group can be enlarged without asking current members to step down.**
 2. **If it ain't broke don't fix it. Continuity has been important and steering group size has made this manageable. The Steering group works well. So build on it, evolve it, rather than dramatically change it.**

3. Be clear on the job it performs. Largely this is strategy, relationship maintenance, subject expertise. Also, we should explore the ambassadorial and external nature of steering group members - are they promoting GEC's work back to their institutions?
 4. Having funders on the SG has been positive. Replace departing funder.
 5. Question about rotating the chair. Main chair role is to setup strategic discussions. Largely conclude SG happy with OG chairing and preparing the agenda.
 6. Encourage more Bilateral engagement with Steering Group members outside of the meeting.
 7. Note insight lessons <https://mcconnellfoundation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/EDIA-in-Climate-Action-in-Canada.pdf>
- **ACTION: OG** to develop Steering Group evolution proposal based on the above
4. **Horizon scanning and GEC growing ambitions to be 'relevant'**

We agreed in our GEC Forward calendarⁱ thinking that we would try to include an agenda space for Horizon scanning. We make determined space for it in this month's Steering Group for these reasons:

- Covid recovery as our 2021/22 main narrative and policy frame is less relevant. We need to agree replacement framing to COVID.
- Ukraine war, cost of living, food crisis, heat waves, stagflation are the new dominant narratives
- We need to ensure our big emergent programmes – shared global green deal, and social contract – address both the structural causes and, also, are relevant to these 'current affairs' crises.
- GEC secretariat has created a new two weekly meeting 'horizon scanning' – run by our new engagement director, Jean McLean, to ensure we are aware, becoming more confident and capable to engage with current events. It is very useful. We wish to replicate its discussions with SG.
- Initially GEC's evolving top-level framing is: Systemic risk escalating, lurching from crisis to crisis, investment into resilience critical. While it is still possible - get serious about transition – towards - **shared global green deal** (brown divestment, green investment, structural transition policies) and the how – citizen engagement for a **social contract** for transition.

In this **steering group discussion**, we would like to do 3 things:

1. **SG to share their take on the main horizon issues/stories and clarify their change opportunity to GEC**
2. **Determine elements of a shared top-level narrative for the next 12 months**
3. Recognise that GEC is currently project funded and tightly resourced to deliver project tasks. Ability to research, respond and speak authoritatively to mainstream events and media requires prioritisation and resources. Secretariat would like **SG advice on how to improve our mainstream relevance.**

In support of the agenda item – I would like to bring your attention to our social contract partner, UNRISD's new flagship report 'Crisis of Inequality – Shifting power for a new eco-social contract.' I recommend reading the chapters in the [Global Consultation: UNRISD 2022 Flagship Report](#) version. It is a very thorough job of analysis and case for action. It sets a frame of connected system failures and why social contract. We are keen to know **do SG agree with this analysis and should we replicate?**

SG horizon scanning main insights

- **Canada and rich countries: wellbeing, mental health, leverage private capital more for increased climate and investing in nature.**
- **India and South Asia: Sri Lanka failing, which is a lesson for other nations. in India - Urbanisation and circularity are key. Other issues - Nature regeneration – land acquisition – clearances – mining despite a**

narrative of renewing nature. India currently has a demographic dividend for the next decade and then ageing India. India's relations with Africa increasingly as a market, one of selling and buying resources not as a holistic partnership between emerging economies.

- EC – moving to flagship – [Global Gateway | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#) read - connectivity – hard and soft infrastructure – Russia – climate – global challenge.
- Intercountry convergence – growing economy of poorer countries– [Guterres interview](#) on increasing challenges of coordination in the multilateral system and a shifting sense that the countries at the bottom of the financial system won't eventually be lifted up.
- IEA consensus that the world cannot afford new investment in fossil fuels has been ripped up. Impact of Ukraine and Russia - developed and developing countries are rushing to invest in fossil fuels. ... Energy Security is the main frame. Leaves 1.5 very much in peril.
- Symptoms and causes – symptoms where things are going wrong – we have a systemic analysis but must be careful about how we say I told you so – when these crises emerge social cohesion will be tested as will political leaders and parties.
- Covid put a spotlight on a thing that was already broken, i.e. the failure of the food system has been further exposed.
- Positive things?
 - Wellbeing and sustainable consumption agendas have emerged more. Africa increasingly open to green infrastructure.
 - New debates about **restoration** and reparations.

Overall SG summary conclusions:

- Post COVID narratives – currently dominated by Ukraine, which emphasises we are an interdependent world, exposed to system vulnerabilities – energy, food, weather. National Security emerging as a response.
- Wellbeing and circular are increasingly important frames for GEC to connect to, including their movements.
- See how shared green deal can contribute.
- ACTION- GEC secretariat to define how to be more reactive to external narratives and opportunities – particularly in the definitions of its 2 new flagship programmes. (green deal and social contract).

5. GEC 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). **In red – SG note key dates**

	Strategic Theme	Status Update	Status	Planned activities
1	Delivering on existing and closing contracts: Green recovery advocacy, E4N, and EC Finance dialogues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Expand Green recovery work through to Stockholm +50 – through consultation and key policy advocacy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National deliberations with EUDEL support. Successful multi-stakeholder event and document launch at UNEA Completed a priority structural policy paper (with PIGE group). Launched at PAGE event at Stockholm Land a successful last 6 months of E4N <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team delivery on track for programme milestones and spend Developing key collaborative product on '10 key steps to a nature positive green-economy' Secure the successful conclusion of EC Phase 2 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small is beautiful - Financial policy recommendations – draft report in creation. 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post Stockholm plan – systemic resilience and get serious on transition Summarising our work for UNEP “Perspective issue” based on the <i>Building Back Greener Report</i>. Deployment of COVID Tracker in country with EU delegations and GEC hubs Next frontiers of nature positive green economies, and a final symposium for our stakeholders – 6th October Policy Event scheduled Wednesday 26th October with EC and FW in Brussels
2	Set up Shared Global Green Deal (Influencing policies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing Shared Global Green Deal campaign and funding with plans on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evolve and improve in country Tracker deployment, use and ownership Global Structural sectoral policy work – build from Green recovery structural priorities to Global transition priorities Co-create Phase 3 EC programme that aspires to lift EGD towards shared global green deal, around regional collaboration areas 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan to host learning roundtable to leverage EC, proposal support to hub funding (SB in support)
3	Expanding Social Contract work (inequality and inclusion approaches to deliver societal demand for green economy transitions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop innovative convening approaches “strand of work” within EC Phase 3, to include citizen assemblies and juries, digital engagement, and wider deliberation approaches Develop engagement of marginal voices, especially women and youth – through linkages and partnerships with national and global movements. Evolve relationship with funder to land long term funding (3ys +) Developing a global campaign and Partnership approach – national partners, and global partners 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social contract funding roundtable with UNRISD – September 22nd UNGA funding roundtable – 19th Sept - NY Need to work out how to Connect social contract work with national hub work
4	Refresh Telling the Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertaking GEC communications and engagement audit to determine areas of strength and improvement prioritisation Continuing GEC’s innovative and unexpected convening approaches 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing campaign approaches for social contract and shared global green deal Social contract on trial concept and event being developed Decide how to take forward stories for life

	Strategic Theme	Status Update	Status	Planned activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stories For Life work has established a vibrant community. Video on the project 		
5	GEC Building the coalition: network function co-defined with hubs and being implemented. Partnership growth enabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEC has landed new funding from a foundation – thanks to MAVA. GEC secretariat pipeline is strong and most likely fully funded and positioning for European growth. Note however, GEC needs to assist its hubs in finding new funding. GEC East Africa hub launched 28th June as part of the very successful, week-long, African Green economy conference (co-hosted by E4N partners) 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"> Work underway to better define global international policy convening role and for members Developing a shared pitch for hubs to land financing for national green economy work (min €100k per hub per year) 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up a GEC Europe office (hosted by IIED Europe) – draft MOU in development Look to find US hub Exploring a GEC youth network Developing a shared funding approach with HUBS Improve global communications role with members Link cross national movements and foster national/regional IGE policy networks Define and start to become, through new funding, actions and partnerships, the ‘coherence builder’ across the economic reform movement

6. AOB

- IIED Hosting of GEC. GEC is to be hosted both by IIED UK and the new entity IIED Europe. The updated hosting MOUs will be provided for SG in Oct meeting. The delay is technical, not anything for concern
- NEXT GEC Steering group MEETING: Wednesday, 5th October, 12.30pm-2pm, UK**

Appendix: GEC Forward calendarⁱⁱ 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.

ⁱ Forward calendar for SG meetings approved in December 2019

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