

GEC Steering Group, Wednesday 1st March 2023– MINUTES

Attendees: Mike Wilson, Zeenat Niazi, Peter Poschen, Holger Schmid, Steve Bass, Ade Odegbile, Carla Vidussi, Laura Kelly, Oliver Greenfield



+ from GEC secretariat – Jean McLean and Chris Hopkins due to the strategic importance of this discussion to our new phase of work

Apologies: Tom Mitchell

Agenda 1st March 2023:

1. Thanks to Holger and MAVA
2. December minutes for approval.
3. New GEC Phase - Strategy, five-year plan 2023-27, 2023 Plan and Priorities
4. AOB:
 - a. **Recruitment of new Policy Director**
 - b. **Outstanding SG action** – to schedule discussion on SG evolution
 - c. Next meeting date - **Wednesday, 24th May 2023, 12.30pm-2pm, UK**

1. Massive thanks to Holger Schmid and to MAVA

- MAVA foundation is closing (8th March). [OG MAVA closing blog.](#)
- MAVA foundation has been our loyal partner since the beginning of the GEC, and Holger has been the leader from MAVA who has personally pioneered Sustainable Economy work for MAVA and championed and funded the GEC's work.
- This support has included GEC's Measure what matters project, our work in Senegal, our work of Economics 4 Nature, including helping build our Green Economy Tracker, our green recovery work, our Amazon Bio-economy hub, and of course Holger's contributions over the years on the GEC's Steering Group.
- It is fair to say without Holger and MAVA GEC would not be anywhere near as strong, (or possibly not even here).
- It is also fair to conclude MAVA's leadership in sustainable economy investment has helped catalyse other foundations to move into the sustainable economy space.
- MAVA and Holger also pioneered adaptive long-term partnerships (six-year programmes), including systemic partnership approaches that funded our key partners to collaborate with GEC:– WWF, GGKP, CapsCo, SWT, Amazon BioEconomy Hub.
- A very sincere thanks to Holger Schmid, Lynda Mansson, the MAVA board and the Hoffmann Family.
- OG will be at the celebratory event in Gland, March 9th to pass on GEC's and Steering Group's thanks.
- **SG - thanking Holger for such a wonderful contribution over the years!**
- **SG gave their sincere thanks also to MAVA.**
- **SG wished Holger well in his next adventure.**
- **Holger and MAVA now leave the GEC steering group.**
- **SG to join the final celebratory event virtually click on the [link](#)**

2. Draft – December Minutes – attached

- **SG signed-off. ACTION: OG to post on GEC site**

3. GEC's new phase 2023-2027 – strategy, five-year outline and 2023 priorities

2022 was a year of completion and transition: completion of MAVA Economics for Nature programme and EC Phase 2 – financing small green enterprises and **transition** - starting to define a new work programme “Renegotiating a new social contract for a shared global green deal”.

2023-2027 is a new GEC Phase – a phase is distinct in that its dominant focus is on the **how of transition** rather than the what of green economy. To support that thinking, clarity and prioritisation, attached is a rather long but comprehensive PowerPoint in pdf, which does three things:

1. Restate our 10-year strategy, theory of change and assumptions - summary
2. Gives an overview of a five-year plan 2023-2027– ‘renegotiation the social contract for a shared global green deal’
3. 2023 priorities – a workplan for 2023, y1 of the new phase

SG Overall reactions– the revised strategy is inspiring, bold, confident. IT IS APPROVED.

SG Specific notes and areas for improvement:

It is brave in getting to grips with social movements not normally in the GE ‘comfort zone’. It builds on GEC success. But doesn’t show how will use some GEC’s proven USPs e.g. Hubs, research and dialogue. And without useful early products in 2023 may still seem a bit unclear to people, who may think we’ve dropped IGE goal in favour of vague ‘social contract’.

Going forward our work needs to clarify:

- IGE is the goal (or circular, blue... – precise ‘green deal’ or policy suite will depend on context)
- Social contract is a means to get to IGE – voice, agreement, ownership, accountability
- GEC is the inclusive platform for all interested in the IGE goal – needs supporting in its own right

Social contract – We need to take to PIGE, PAGE, GGGI for support and comments. We went through GG > GE > IGE with them. Do we need to look at SC as a means with them and explore where would social contract sit on their IGE transition diagram (steps/curve)?

ACTION – OG to take to PIGE group for comment/collaboration

More clarity is needed on what do **Hubs** think?

ACTION OG to set up Hub’s meetings on this

SC is a way to get to IGE is an idea, but not proven. So we need to tighten the proposed SC mechanism. What are the practical preconditions for social contract that we can identify and build on? The barriers are cultural as much as technical and legal.

ACTION OG to push forward with SC mechanisms work – clarifying what this is

‘Catalysing social movements’ and ‘giving ordinary citizens a say’ are very new for GEC p5.

- Need new GEC members in social movements – great we have new partners like Kumi
- This could become very diffuse unless we keep the vision of IGE clear and always in sight
- New approaches to generate ‘societal demand’ will not all work – need leaders, fora, leverage... How to make ‘demand’ effective must also be GEC role – so needs a MEL focus

People's contribution to reform – Kumi's diagram p15. People contribute as voters, consumers, etc. Maybe we should add people's contributions as producers too – smallholders, micro-enterprises, women's care work, etc (smaller scale but much more extensive than 'owners of capital')

'Cultivators' – Yes, we need to get 'critical mass' p12 and it seems the cultivators idea is one way. Are they leaders/champions from all walks? It's getting leaders like Kumi on board that has helped with SC so far. So maybe we should have more of an overt focus on leaders

ACTION: OG to develop cultivators/leader roles and ideas

It is very 'campaigny' - and different from GEC's 'bottom-up dialogue, exploration plus research' to date. But these GEC USPs are prerequisites to a social contract process and GEC does them well, helping early, informed discourse. GEC assets for SC include research, diagnostic, dialogue, benchmarking, Hubs... – only comms, Barometer and Tracker methods seem to be highlighted in the plan.

Economic 'ideology' is evoked p7 – as opposed to economic theory (hence no economists in GEC's work) But need to work with theory, too. Putting 'social and environmental goals *above* financial' p4, p6 might seem naïve – or get us into the paralysis we find with ESG. Maybe '*alongside* financial'?

ACTION OG – Change to alongside

Objectives are very broad and the **levels** for action cover global to local:

- Global institutions and multilateral governance framework are noted as targets re SC. Which and how? Show how SC fits with accepted multilateral goals such as SDGs, LNOB, zero-carbon, 30x30, loss and damage, too. Target our UN members?
- Regions come out as a focus. Why? Target UN regional economic commissions? Trade blocs?
- National does not seem as big a focus, although real-life SCs tend to be national. Extending Tracker to 50 countries would imply national traction and engagement. Target Hubs
- Local government level is where most 'ordinary citizens' have voice and depend for services and decisions that balance local social, cultural, economic and environmental needs. Target ICLEI?

ACTION OG – to improve the objectives

Institutional expertise? The need to reform 'the social contract' arises because of broken rules or perverse rules. The GEC plan evokes 'structural policy', 'structural reform', 'institutional transformation', and 'institutional renewal'. But what does this mean for organisations, norms, procedures? SDG16 is a very thin picture of the reform that's what's needed. Can we create a GEC institutional vision and change agenda to inspire action on SDG16? 'Institutional reform and strengthening' may be a truer (and more palatable) picture of what is needed than social contract.

Legal expertise? Consult IIED friends James Cameron and Philippe Sands (who set up IIED-FIELD).

ACTION OG To consider legal approaches

Other Specific Steering group comments on key slides:

- Slide 13 – what do we mean by social contract – more detail – needs to be illustrated
- Slide 14 – what do we mean by shared global green deal – more detail – needs to be explained and illustrated
- Slide 16 – what does success look like by 2027 - OK
- Slides 31 to 37 – 2023 priorities – strong – more focus on hub money is needed.
- Change pursuit of profit to be alongside

The GEC Steering Group reporting - SUMMARY – Annual work plan - 2023 PRIORITIES

The reporting framework has been updated to reflect the SG 2023 work plans priorities

NB – the reporting framework is mostly amber as the activities and targets are largely reset for the new work.

	Strategic Theme	Status Update	Status	Planned activities
1	Telling new narratives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New narratives around social contract and green deal in development with some materials already up – including an explainer video Commissioned Culture Hack for a social contract social movement analysis Cultivator approach being pioneered through Kumi Naidoo partnership – Power, People, Planet podcasts. 	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positioning as bridge-building for transformative policy Develop social contract campaign messaging and partnership Strengthen and expand our cultivator network Develop green deal campaign – including tracker
2.	Building societal demand: -Social contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amber – because some work possible under EC contract, but bigger ambitions need new funding UNRISD and GEC research and Action network for Eco-social contract now has 250+members, and five active working groups We have funded a youth economic reform network assessment – report and new work imminent People’s Accord for a New Social Contract up and being promoted Published though piece on Dismantling the Ecological Divide: Toward a a new eco-social contract 	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund social contract programme – advanced foundation conversations with four foundations Champion a youth economic reform network – launch report Initiate/connect to women and SME economic reform communities Develop social contract thought and practice
3.	Influencing policies: Shared global green deal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amber – green deal plus EU circularity focus creates new changes to policy framing Shared Global green deal defined with EC Understanding and collaboration with UNEP and GGKP agreed Workshop with hubs held and consultation. 	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T20 Structural green economy intervention Further Consult with hubs and members to develop ‘Shared Global green deal’ work Harmonise understanding between policy frameworks Catalyse policy exchange across regions and stakeholders Revitalise PIGE group
4	Building the coalition: Reenergise the coalition around new phase of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red - because EC phase 3 does not provide for HUB funding. New hub funding needed urgently – notably for Amazon hub HUB Funding underway Membership assessment GEC Europe negotiated with EC and IIED Europe GEC global developments underway 	RED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver hub funding – submissions in development GEC Europe office to be launched soon Exploring a GEC youth network Membership consultation MEL and operations improvement TOR and plan

4. **AOB**

- **Recruitment GEC Policy director.**

After 3 and half years Najma Mohamed is leaving GEC for a career break. Najma has made a profound contribution to GEC, authoring [Inclusion Matters](#), Programme managing the final 3 years of our [Economics for Nature Programme](#) and its multiple products, and helping to create the new GEC frontier negotiating [social contract](#) for a shared global green deal, including [dismantling the ecological divide: towards a new eco-social contract](#). We thank Najma for her outstanding contribution and wish her well in her next adventure.

GEC has now **opened the recruitment for her successor**. We will take the opportunity to recruit the new Policy Director to our new GEC Europe Office, which will help achieve the conditions of the new EC funding, and help GEC build for the future with strengthen European presence.

SG ACTION – please forward the [advert link](#) to your networks.

- **Outstanding Action-** Steering Group evolution discussion – to be scheduled
- **Next meeting date - [Wednesday, 24th May 2023, 12.30pm-2pm, UK](#)**

Appendix: GEC [Forward calendar](#)ⁱ 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