



Attendees: Clara Axblad, Aline Brandstatter, Oliver Greenfield, Laura Kelly, Peter Poschen, Juha Siikamaki, Zeenat Niazi, Holger Schmid, Mike Wilson
 Also – Najma Mohamed, GEC Policy director

Apologies: Kamal Gueye, Steve Bass, Andy Norton, Steven Stone

Agenda 26th May 2021:

1. March minutes for approval.
2. Big (new) programmes – Green recovery and Social contract – SG review and advice
3. Horizon scanning – discussion if time permits
4. Reporting – for information
5. AOB

1. **Draft – March Minutes – SG signed-off. ACTION – Post on GEC site**

2. **Big programme review and advice.** Our two rapidly evolving big new programmes are on green recovery and social contract. They also respond to the GEC 2021 strategic the priorities – Capitalise on a green recovery and build a GEC Inequality approach. Social contract is also increasingly likely to contribute to our funding pipeline.

- **SG are asked to review the evolving approaches, offer advice, and ongoing help.**

2.1 Green recovery. Thanks to MAVA, GEC has additional resources to lead a green recovery intervention. This has helped us do several things already: create an 18 month funded plan which is an additional collaboration with the Economics for Nature partners (GGKP, Capitals Coalition, and WWF France), start the roll-out of the plan which includes [update the Green economy tracker with a COVID policy tracker](#), a new green recovery collaboration with the Institutional collaboration group ([PIGE](#)) which builds on the [2020 position](#), respond to a commission from UNEP to create green recovery landscape for UNEA, develop an in country research and dialogue approach with GEC country hubs, and [build a broader coalition response](#).

GEC green recovery approach:

Green recovery – from stimulus to structural



- **SG advice on what specific changes we should be targeting and how to achieve them?**

- Money, debt, fiscal space:
 - Most analysis assumes underwhelming developing country activity on green recovery. This may be due to Developing country access to finance and therefore their constraints to choose Green recovery policy and investment
 - Debt – nature – debt swaps is a key transformative development but should also be interrogated from the angle of social inclusion – GEC to engage
- Policy and focus
 - GEC is right to focus on the structural reforms that accelerate the GE transition.
 - We need to ensure attention to Green recovery GAPS defined by our agenda – for example on nature and gender
 - Some of the seemingly positive policy development can have significant consequences – for example EC border carbon tax adjustments and its implications to developing countries and supply chains, including small business. We need to be sensitive to impact of policy changes on our key stakeholders.
 - Build from local perspectives from our hubs – the reality on ground.
 - Find what is doable – it is a big agenda – focus on 3 things such as – Jobs, nature, just transition (consider the work of PERI – Political Economy Research Institute.
 - This is a spur for industrial policy – make the sector work clear
 - Demonstrate how to leverage private capital
 - Focus on Trade and investment conditionality
 - Focus on Nature and indigenous communities, and building of an evidence base with practical examples indicating that investing in nature can contribute to economic recovery
- Implementation and process
 - Societal engagement is our niche in green recovery process
 - This is a societal moment – how to engage people in the recovery decisions
 - We need to find examples of practice that can inspire
 - Not just policy but implementation of policy
 - Strive to be the voice of excluded – champion action on inequality
 - Be clear on the routes to influence – how to influence on structural reform

ACTIONS – OG to ensure GEC Green recovery work reflects on and develops our work with this advice central

2.2 Inequality approach - Social contract. In taking forward discussions on how the GEC could deepen engagement on inequality and work closer with social movements, we have identified opportunities to convene a progressive alliance between climate, environment and inequality champions under the rapidly evolving frame of [a new social contract](#). This would help both communities create a critical mass and alliance sufficient not just to accelerate the green transition but ensure it is just, inclusive and fair. We have started to outline a multi-year programme of work (2021-2026) to explore and highlight the narratives and actions that define a new social contract. This work will explore, through civil society- and citizen movement-led actions, how social contracts are being re-defined and the policy, regulatory and institutional processes and mechanisms that enable citizens to participate in negotiating and setting the terms to shape transition (and recovery) pathways. Attached is an outline of the programme.

- **SG advice on social contract thinking, approach, partners and funders.**

- German landmark case, both in addressing intergenerational equality and Germany's contribution and responsibility to the global carbon budget in example of citizens holding their governments to account
- An intersectionality approach forging links between environment and inequality movements such as social movements focusing on various dimensions of justice e.g. gender, youth, indigenous, Farmers, and racial justice

- Need national advocacy and global clarity – which the programme will seek to achieve
- Needs southern based partners but solidarity between social movements also a ‘bridge’ and interconnection between movements and geographies
- Launch at Rio+30
- Make a culture moment that aims for both framework-level change and tangible demands on the redefinition of the social contract

ACTIONS – NM and OG to develop Social contract work based on this advice

3. **‘Horizon scanning’ – to identify big strategic issues.** If we do have time, a running agenda item – big things we should be aware off – events, agendas, changes, blind spots. **Limited time – green recovery dominates – and must remain a GEC focus.**

4. GEC reporting - SUMMARY – STATUS OF FIVE STRATEGIC 2021 PRIORITIES

The reporting framework has been updated to reflect the agreed 2021 priorities (agreed at SG Jan 2021)

	Strategic Theme	Status Update	Status	Planned activities
1	Capitalise on Green recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green recovery landscape analysis • Country analysis of green recovery nature spending • Green recovery resources secured • Core team in place (E4N plus, country hubs) • <i>Green recovery campaign in development</i> • <i>COVID recovery debates and themes</i> • Tracker updated with recovery policy • Nature-based recovery analysis underway, with 4 national partners participating 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of COVID Tracker in country with EU delegations and GEC hubs • <i>PIGE thinking</i> • <i>Campaign targets</i>
2	Build a GEC inequality approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social contract plan evolving. Kumi Naidoo advising and supporting partnership and networking with social movements • Building the partnership – GEC-UNRISD partnership on eco-social contract and reaching out to CESR, Transparency international, Oxfam, Climate Action Network. • Researching legal and deliberative governance approaches, such as citizen’s assemblies and climate litigation – all of which is starting to define mechanisms to redefine a social contract 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Podcast series on social contract • Developing funding relationships for social contract • UNRISD-GEC partnership on knowledge-action platform on eco-social contract
3	Develop SME approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New GEC SME policy network established. • EC finance for SME, Network SME, • Funding pitch in place and in discussion with foundations • GEC SEED partnership to highlight role of SMEs in green recovery 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting global policy work with national hub work
4	New funding pipeline strong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 81.5% of funding secured for April 2021 – March 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Tracker expansion in development under E4N collaboration • 43% of funding secured for April 2022 – March 2023 • GEC funding strategy (2023 onward) and team in place • New pitches for SME, Inequality and Dialogues, and Brazil Hub 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

	Strategic Theme	Status Update	Status	Planned activities
5	GEC Building the coalition: network function co-defined with hubs and being implemented. Partnership growth enabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New TOR for this work signed off with GEC Steering group in March 2021 • East African regional hub TOR agreed – based in Uganda and serving Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda • Brazil hub piloting the new approach • Future hub work funding will most likely need their leadership from country – this necessitates a more balance approach to shared UK and hub funding. 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a shared funding approach • To deliver the EC funded hub process

5. AOB

NEXT GEC Steering group MEETING: Wednesday, 4th August 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

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