

GEC Steering Group, Wednesday 20th October 2021– MINUTES

Attendees: Aline Brandstatter, Oliver Greenfield, Zeenat Niazi, Mike Wilson, Andy Norton, Clara Axblad, Peter Poschen, Juha Siikamaki, Steven Stone, Emily Benson, Tibor Stari



Apologies: Holger Schmid, Steve Bass, Kamal Gueye

Agenda 20th October 2021:

1. August minutes for approval.
2. EB announcement
3. Global meeting - SG input, days 1-4
4. Global meeting – Day 5 Coalition day – SG input and roles
5. AOB – next meeting date - **Wednesday, 23rd February 2022, 12.30pm-2pm, UK**

1. Draft – August Minutes – signed off

- **ACTION – OG post on site.**

2. EB announcement – Emily Benson joined to share her departure news (and assist with global meeting planning).

After almost a decade of outstanding service, Emily Benson, GEC’s director of engagement, is leaving the GEC. In February 2022, she is taking her family for an extended stay and trip round South America.

Our communications work: positioning, tone, accessibility, key products – websites, barometers are all under Emily’s leadership and have been a critical USP of the coalition’s success. The Steering Group shared their thanks and that of the broader coalition, directly with Emily and wished her well in her new adventure.

SG thanked Emily for her outstanding contributions and wished her well in her next adventure. They hope she will keep in touch.

3. Global meeting and context, days 1-4– SG input

SG discussion: SG went through the framing, the objectives and then each day

Global meeting summary – framing, invitation and structure

“CODE RED for nature & people: Is the COVID-19 recovery agenda up to the task?

Through the pain and suffering of COVID-19, we have seen glimpses of a better future. A world in which governments can be agile, innovative and science-led; where businesses big and small can transform themselves at short notice; where communities can be resilient, proactive and collaborative.

We all –citizens, communities, government, business, workers–shared the same realisation. This could be a turning point. From the ashes of this crisis, a fairer and greener economic system could be created.

The GEC Global Meeting 2021 is focused on one question: “How can work together to focus the COVID-19 recovery agenda to deliver the system wide changes needed to tackle the loss of nature and rising inequality gap?”

Structure:

- **Day 1: Code Red for nature & people** (Nov. 29) we will ask - What are the top ten priority interventions to transform a collapsing system?
- **Day 2: Inequality Day** (Nov. 30) We will ask - How a new social contract can drive the green transition? [Focus on small enterprise and inclusion]
- **Day 3: Nature Day** (Dec. 1) we will ask How can the green transition restore nature in time?
- **Day 4: Media debate: The Green Recovery On Trial** (Dec.2) High level media dialogue asking if the Green Recovery agenda is up to the challenge facing humanity?

- **Day 5: Coalition Day** (Dec. 3) **Members only** - Strategy and shared interventions.

SG feedback and input

- SG Overall happy with framing and structure.
- Keen on COVID focus across the week
- Need to be clear we are asking for member decision support for the GEC work.
- Be clearer on specific opportunities for GEC members to contribute
- Day 1 – be sensitive to the very different stages of COVID across our partners and geographies – i.e. recovery is not happening yet in some places
- Day 2 – need to explain why social contract is our proposed response to Inequality. Need to be aware/sensitive that many members have sophisticated inequality interventions (e.g. OXFAM) i.e. be clear how this builds on their work
- Day 3 – Nature - Can be a very technical discussion – need to find a central shared question relevant to all stakeholders. SB chairing.
- Day 4 – like the on trial format. Keen to expand the intergenerational dialogue approach – youth etc.
- Day 5 below

OG ACTION: Proceed with event planning as described and building on SG advice

SG ACTIONS – save the dates and attend where possible – visible roles.

4. Global meeting - day 5, Member's day, SG input and roles – SG deep dive into Day 5 thinking and planning

OG gave the planned overview of Day 5 (Friday 3rd) the a Coalition Member's Day, where we try to answer the overarching question – **How to get more impact from our collaboration? Proposed aim of core session (12-2pm) - To improve our collaboration impact. Intended outcomes:** 1. To confirm and agree our GEC strategy 2. To orientate and update the GEC members and new potential partners with the breadth of the GEC work, its theory of change and how it all fits together 3. To deepen and agree opportunities for collaboration. 4. To build trusting working relationships between our coalition members **12-2pm core session components: Break outs? Parallel sessions? Sequential?**

Proposed agenda:

- Debrief - GEC Global event – What we have heard. What went well. Less well. What does this mean for our work going forward?
- Strategy refresh – fine tuning.
- **Bigger and more connected discussions:**
 - Expansion to new geographies
 - Collective funding
 - Collective policy making
 - Collective advocacy and messaging
 - Hubs and membership
 - Global hub role
 - Governance
- **Growth in impact conclusions**

SG thinking and input for day 5

- **Dilemma – create detailed proposal on the above or have more open space discussions? SG decisions – more open space format – co-creation on key questions**
- **SG roles for developing day 5 – Clara volunteered top represent SG, and will help open and close**
- **SG want to consider how to get more collective impact and collaboration from the coalition members**

OG ACTION – to develop the day as above.

SG ACTION – save the date and attend if possible.

5. 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"> • Tracker updated with recovery and launched with new countries • Green recovery structural reform paper in draft with PIGE – first outing in OECD Nov 2021 • Country analysis of green recovery nature spending complete and to be published • <i>UNEA report in draft</i> • <i>Green recovery campaign in development</i> • <i>COVID recovery debates and themes</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>UNDP event</i> 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of COVID Tracker in country with EU delegations and GEC hubs • <i>PIGE thinking expands</i> • <i>Campaign targets</i> • <i>Stockholm+50</i>
2	Build a GEC inequality approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching learning platform for social contract with UNRISD 10 November • Social contract plan evolving. Kumi Naidoo advising • Building the partnership - UNRISD partnership, CESR, Transparency international, Oxfam, Climate Action Network. • Podcast series on Power, People and Planet exploring a new social contract with Kumi Naidoo launched • Researching legal approaches, citizen's assemblies and social contract 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing funding relationships for Social contract • Awaiting decision on Oak learning grant • Social contract funding roundtable
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 	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"> • 100% of funding secured for April 2021 – March 2022 • 51% of funding secured for April 2022 – March 2023 • GEC funding strategy (2023 onward) and team in place • Potential for new EC grant • New pitches for SME, Inequality and Dialogues, and Brazil Hub developed 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Europe office • Dialogue funding roundtable • Expansion to US foundations being scoped
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 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

6. AOB

NEXT GEC Steering group MEETING: Wednesday, 23rd February 2022, 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