

GEC Steering Group, Wednesday 5th October 2022– MINUTES

Attendees: Oliver Greenfield, Mike Wilson, Tom Mitchell, Peter Poschen, Juha Siikamaki, Tibor Stari, Steve Bass, John Maughan



Additional attendees: Paul Steele (IIED Chief Economist), Jean Mclean (GEC Director of Engagement) to ensure we can move quickly on the G20 work.

Apologies: Zeenat Niazi, Clara Axblad, Steven Stone, Holger Schmid, Kamal Gueye

Agenda 5th October 2022:

1. July minutes for approval.
2. Introductions – Tom Mitchell – IIED, Executive Director
3. The new narrative and policy intervention – **G20**
4. GEC annual workplan reporting
5. AOB – next meeting date - **Wednesday, 14th December 2022, 12.30pm-2pm, UK**

1. Draft – July Minutes – attached

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

2. Introductions – Tom Mitchell, Executive Director, IIED

- A very warm welcome to Tom Mitchell, new Executive Director, IIED
- Tom Mitchell is the Executive Director of IIED, steering the overall direction and leadership of IIED's staff, work programmes and partnerships. He leads on public communications, strategy development and implementation. He engages in public debate in key international events. He has a passion for finding innovative ways to unlock climate justice and is the author of the climate action strategy – *Transformation, in Time*. Until September 2022 was the Chief Strategy Officer of climate-KIC and Director of Climate-KIC International Foundation. He is a former co-ordinating lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and UN Special Representative senior advisor.
- With reference to GEC Steering Group [TOR](#), IIED's hosting GEC, gives IIED a permanent seat on GEC Steering Group.
- Tom – introduced his work on whole-economy systems approaches and drew attention to Slovenia circular, Ireland bioeconomy and Saxony-Anhalt coal transformation

3. The new narrative and policy intervention – G20

In July 2022, Steering Group had a conversation about GEC's growing ambitions to be 'relevant'. The summary of what we mean by relevant is that GEC can move beyond our project focus to make timely system interventions – such as responding to energy crisis, or events such as G20.

- We concluded GEC needs to move on from the current COVID recovery narrative and develop a narrative which emphasises we are an interdependent world, exposed to system vulnerabilities – energy, food, weather, debt etc. And that this system vulnerability demands serious government transition actions, including structural policy interventions
- These structural policies are drawn from [the work](#) we co-developed with the Partners for Inclusive Green Economies group.

- GEC secretariat has developed the **first draft** of the –‘**omni-crisis – get serious – get structural**’. – which builds from our green recovery work. It is currently in long form – **attached**.
- To further develop our ‘relevance skills’ we propose to use this long form **to create a G20 intervention**.
- **Note.** We recognise effectively influencing the G20 agenda, would require significant advanced attention, i.e. working with Sherpas and preferably more than one convening governments. We also acknowledge to do a decent coalition job we should offer a consultation process to our Coalition on the communique. However, we still propose it is valuable to continue with the ambition, in order that we are some steps closer to stronger global influence. And we would offer a cut down coalition consultation process, based on SG agreement.
- G20 Heads of state is hosted by Indonesia **15-16 November 2022**. The economy leader’s meeting is held on **27-28th October**. So, the intention would be to initially target the economy stream and then the leader’s stream. Overall, the G20 work stream on Energy transition including environment and sustainability, appears most relevant to us.
 - OECD-led G20 Enhanced Structural Reform Agenda (ESRA) process embed green structural measures and conditionality across all policy reform areas.

SG guiding questions:

1. **Are SG happy for GEC to make a G20 intervention? Advice on tactics?**
2. **What would be the key messages (top 3 policies?) for the communique?**
3. **What are policies/messages are we currently missing?**

SG Conversation:

OG intro:

- GEC has become project focussed with work on nature integration and citizen engagement. There is a risk of missing relevant interventions due to this focus.
- GEC strategy and coalition agree – GEC want to intervene in contemporary events and debates, but needs more confidence and capacity in political economy influence and advocacy
- G20 is totemic of what we want to do. It is the lender of last resort. We aware should have started early – but this intervention is primarily about building GEC political economy skills.
- What are the skills capacities needed to do it? Macro narrative - GR->Omni crisis. Interventions (PIGE doc). Need: Spokespeople (SG, others).
- Other interventions follow such as GGSD forum in late Nov, similar framing.

SG comments: **Note – comments were received on this item via email from Steven Stone and Asad Naqvi (UNEP) – captured in the below notes.*

- **Approve of GEC developing global policy interventions to contemporary debates**
 - Recognise funding vs project tension. Need for green growth broader thinking and more policy interventions beyond project messaging.
 - Support development political economy analysis.
 - GEC has a history of previous G20 interventions.
 - G20 policy intervention is a positive binding mechanism for GEC.
 - We need a crisp ToC, will help us target interventions
 - From GEC research, we know what barriers are. We need to bring into eye of policy community. And then the quick wins, and shifts that can move things forward

- Reactive quality comment to contemporary agendas is hard – (Sri Lanka work showed this). We need to commit to this direction and resource it properly.
- We need to recognise that the (finance ministers) barriers to create innovative structural policy include: time to prepare is massive, time and public administration, and hard to actually spend and shift (procurement). The reality for change is that is old desk draw projects, decade old some, are given environment impact assessments and repacked as green infrastructure, and stuck together as spending plan. This is not ideal. So we need to be clear how to help and make our work step by step.
- **G20 is a group that matters.**
 - Where 14tn was earmarked. All comes from group, whether spent. Also, source of debt and any relief. Have to have G20 one way or another. Target the finance ministers too...
 - G20 is thinking about international finance and debt most key for them
 - G20 – is in a bit of political crisis: with various big challenges – position this as help
- **Routes to influence**
 - G20 is important to be part of – but really about continued presence, and in multi forum
 - Key is discussing with min finance – g20 key for that. Suggested target T20, think tank 20.
 - Think how to leverage our country leadership
 - India next G20 presidency – lifestyles focus - civil engagement area, angle and niche for added value.
 - And work comes to national level via hubs. Air cover from global, and national delivery via partners.
 - From G20 to cop27, cop15. Map how this product helps messaging for all.
 - Our intention seems like it's a media product.
 - OECD-led G20 Enhanced Structural Reform Agenda (ESRA) process embed green structural measures and conditionality across all policy reform areas.]
- **Policy messaging**
 - Structural meets urgency issues
 - Building national and international crisis resilience and also laying ground work for future prosperity
 - This is on message, really appreciated structural frame, reinvention
 - Agree on background and motivation of paper, but need to be even more explicit motivation up front. Why issues socially and macro risk importance.
 - Debt is key and urgent, relevance for countries in crisis. Lack of fiscal space clear barrier for change (relevance of IIED's nature debt swaps work.)
 - Need to substantiate message of staying the course. Put out the fire and deal with the long term.
Find this work on economic modelling in the context of complexity and omni-crisis interesting, particularly the way in which you can challenge traditional government economic assessment tools through non-equilibrium economics: <https://eeist.co.uk/>
 - GE tracker is key policy intervention
 - German structural intervention on energy is 2 billion keeping prices wrong.
 - Key messages are debt, energy, food, anSME, nature and societal engagement, social protection.
 - Missing is the opportunity lens – existential threat + **opportunity**. Opportunity: 1. Finance sec is on net zero and esg (can be greenwash or be massive flow). Private finance, PPP, lift up in paper, + jobs opportunities, match with skills agenda.
 - Want to get prices right in sustainable way, planned way. It's been unintentional and messy.
 - Encourage more from reactive policies to pro-active plans
 - Building national resilience to crisis, and new prosperity for the longer term.
 - Worth reviewing Climate-KIC examples from Slovenia and Ireland. The portfolios cover multiple different initiatives including skills, infrastructure, governance etc: <https://www.climate-kic.org/programmes/deep-demonstrations/>

SG DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

- SG recognise and support the need to build GEC’s political economy skills and resources
- ACTION: GEC secretariat to define and develop political economy skills and to ensure new programmes help build this capacity
- SG recognise and support a GEC G20 intervention as both a process to define and improve pol eco skills but also as a useful ‘first intervention’
- ACTION: GEC to build this clear G20 intervention based on above comments. It is too late for a formal G20 intervention – so this time we will produce a media product.

4. 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)

	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"> Land a successful last 6 months of E4N <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing key collaborative product on ‘10 key steps to a nature based green-economy’ Team delivery on track for programme milestones and spend Secure the successful conclusion of EC Phase 2 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small is powerful - Financial policy report available now Transition Green recovery work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deployment of COVID Tracker in country with EU delegations and GEC hubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing the framing narrative from recovery to resilience to omni-shambles - get serious, get structural. 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th October - Next frontiers of nature based green economies’, and document 1st – 3rd November E4N team wrap up and learning 26-27th Small is powerful October Brussels policy days Perspectives – green recovery publication October
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	<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. 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COP27 funding roundtable, 13th November 29th November Eco-social network event

	Strategic Theme	Status Update	Status	Planned activities
	economy transitions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evolve relationship with funder to land long term funding (3ys +) Partnership approach – national partners, and global partners A global campaign 		
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 Stories For Life work has established a vibrant community. Video on the project 	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
5	GEC Building the coalition: network function co-defined with hubs and being implemented. Partnership growth enabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HUB leadership: Progress made on regional E, Africa hub 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"> 28th October – Network development day Setting up a GEC Europe office (hosted by IIED Europe) Look to find US hub Exploring a GEC youth network Developing a shared funding approach with HUBS Improve global communications role with members Define and start to become, through new funding, actions and partnerships, the ‘coherence builder’ across the economic reform movement

5. AOB

NEXT GEC Steering group MEETING: Wednesday, 14th December 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