

GEC Steering Group, Wednesday, 13th September 2023– MINUTES



Attendees: Tom Mitchell, Tibor Sztaricskai, Carla Vidussi, Oliver Greenfield, Steve Bass

+ from GEC secretariat – Sofia Martinez, Global policy director, based in GEC’s new Europe hub.

To be introduced and for the global policy architecture debate.

+ from GEC secretariat – Zaiza Khan - minutes

Apologies: Asad Naqvi (PAGE), Peter Poschen, Elina Scheja and Kamal (ILO), Mike Wilson, Zeenat Niazi, Juha Siikamaki

Agenda 13th September 2023:

1. May minutes for approval.
2. Influencing, Tracker, other policy areas
3. SG evolution
4. SG annual progress reporting – For information
5. AOB:

Next meeting date - **Wednesday, 29th November 2023, 12.30pm-2pm, UK**

There was a round of introductions. Sofia Martinez, Global policy director of the GEC has joined the steering group due to Policy discussion. Zaiza Khan, project manager in GEC, has joined and will be taking minutes.

1. Draft – May Minutes – attached For SG sign-off

- OG summarised the last meeting: Shared Global Green Deal (SDDG) and social contracts are main objectives to promote transformative policy. It should be driven by citizen demand.
- There was mention of discussing how many people should be in attendance to reach quorum. **Action: we should come back to the quorum discussion at some point.** The refresh should bring more energy and participation to the group.
- For future minutes, discussions of this meeting and preparatory text should be clearly separated. (This was previously done by including SG conversation in red. However, colour blindness made this ineffective. Suggestion SG conversation will be in **bold, red, and italic.**
- SG Decision: **Accuracy of May minutes were accepted. ACTION: OG to post on GEC site**

2. GEC’s Influencing – Policy (topic defined from the forward calendar)

2023-2027, is a new GEC Phase with an updated strategy “Renegotiating new social contracts for a shared global green deal” that was signed off by **Steering Group March 2023.**

GEC is resetting some of our policy framing, to seize the moment and secure partnerships in line with our strategy. We have always sold an economic opportunity narrative on GE – combining **social demand and policy supply.** To this end, we have recast our 2 main policy objectives:

1. Establish ‘Eco-social contract processes’ (citizen dialogues) as a prerequisite to green economy transition planning
2. Establish a new global green economy policy architecture debate and action

On the first, 'promoting eco-social contract', we note the increased use of the term of social contract in our policy circles, e.g.:

- UN Sec Gen – [first used social contract in 2020](#) and continues to use it – [SDG achievement](#) “The first calls for all UN Member States to **recommit to achieve the goals**, at the national and international levels, by strengthening the social contract and steering their economies to the green transition.”
- The outcome document from the recent SIDS inter-regional meeting in preparation for the new SIDS sustainable development agenda explicitly mentions a new social contract.
- [Club of Madrid](#) have commissioned UNRISD (supported by GEC) to create a research programme – ‘eco-social contract for economic transformation’. This will be discussed in Brazil in November and played by them into the G20 processes.
- Our own excellently attended global policy seminar with UNRISD and [new global study](#)
- GEC is launching ‘eco-social contract in the polycrisis’ – 14th of September 2023. (our new big thought-leadership document)

On Establishing a new global green economy policy architecture debate and action we are exploring **3 main strands**:

1. Global

- Shared Global green deal
- International Financial architecture. ‘Beyond Bretton Woods’. We have reached out and connected to those players.

2. National policy

- how we update tracker and get more use and profile

3. Movement / moments

- High ambition coalition
- G20 processes - Brazil

- **OG talked through the PowerPoint presentation and posed these questions to the Steering Group:**
 - *we’ve started to look at the SGGD architecture that stimulates transformation. Where is the policy process for this work? How do we garner attention to this, key moments? How do we build momentum and create a shared idea and process of SGGD?*
 - *Change is emerging in the financial architecture space.*
 - *Movement and process is driven from Northern organisations and influence and engagement from Southern spaces are not as strong. It’s a Northern agenda. Is there overlap with policy on global movements of systemic reform with national policy and movements? How do we bring coherence and a stronger Southern voice?*
 - *PAGE/GGGI have been warmed up and signed up to the process – we want to bring middle-low income countries to join these groups – could we help to catalyse this?*
 - *How we bring a SGGD type global architecture into existence. A framework that underpins and catalyses transformation. What do we call it and how do we deploy it?*
 - *The GEC’s USP is often creating landscape that orientates our coalition and members rather than deep dives.*

SG Discussion and suggestions on how to move forward

- *The added value of coalition is unique – bringing Southern and Northern together – reemphasising the distinction and bridging gap. A mapping diagram could be useful – mapping the importance of topics delving in certain areas. We are not experts in the country contexts. We talk in sphere of global but need a framework to talk about the right narrative and social contracts in the right context – *tapestry* – we provide the framework and landscape and countries fill in details for their own social contracts.*

- *What does SGGD mean? How are things linked? We need a sense of the wider picture of transition and how things are interlinked and how we partner with people.*
- *Support for 'map' – maybe a 'roadmap' – there should be a clear purpose of the map e.g. mapping where we are in relation to where we need to go and setting out the global architecture. We don't want to constantly be changing the map of what's going on and it shouldn't be too prescriptive. It should help the hubs. We need something visually engaging, can we organise a collective set of web pages? The architecture could be the roadmap.*
- *bottom up conversations with hubs has begun. But it might well be that national governments feel they want to sign up to aspects of the global architecture at national level. The idea is to inspire hubs to look at the geo-political sphere and see if there is anything they can engage with. The SIDS group is already thinking like this and they could be forerunner for the high ambition collation.*
- *we might want to tweak language away from 'high ambition collation'. **Action: think about tweaking language.***
- *Government can provide spaces where leads from businesses and civil society come together to discuss eco-social contracts. We need multiple stakeholders involved.*
- *we need transformation for countries to adopt eco-social processes. The SIDS declaration has social contracts in it (Nicole from CANARI). A good place to start is through IIED, GGGI and CANARI.*
- *IIED has been involved in the SIDS process. There will be an [international SIDS summit](#) in Antigua next year.*
- *Partnership with GGGI and thinking from this group is a good avenue as well as tapping into the energy from the [V20 following the African Climate Summit](#).*
- *It is good to draw on support of V20 and SIDS.*
- *Is there a UK role linked to Ed Miliband? Could there be a link to commonwealth events? GEC has done some in the past.*
- *There seems to be a movement of partners we would collaborate with and expand regional conversations. How do bring this work alive with partnerships?*
- *focus on actions with impact that could be measured. It is important we to stick to the objectives for the EC project and work within the new contract.*
- *we have 4 years of funding to explore this with. We are trying to set the agenda and act as a catalyst for transformation.*

SG overview of discussion points, decisions and actions:

- **There is broad approval for this work.**
- **The GEC team should work on a roadmap for the global architecture.**
- **Think about how to connect to national policy conversations and how do we define policy conversations that can be supported for national and regional interactions.**
- **Strengthen partnership with PAGE – keep focus on transformative agenda and social contracts.**
- **Look at language. Should we be using 'high ambition coalition'?**
- **The geo-political architecture demands more support from countries and we frame the 'polycrisis' as facilitating this ambition.**
- **Increase engagement with SIDS and CANARI.**
- **Keep relationship with Club of Madrid warm and developing**

3. Steering Group Evolution – Overdue action for SG update

In 2022 SG debated the 'evolution of the Steering Group'. We concluded:

- Diversity of the group needs to be improved.
- 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.
- 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?

- Having funders on the SG has been positive. Replace departing funder
- Encourage more Bilateral engagement with Steering Group members outside of the meeting.

With a new strategy signed off, it now seems a good time to act on the above and evolve the Steering Group

- *SB wrote a paper on refresh. We will be engaging with members of SG and bring a proposal*
- *OG has set up a secretariat team to support this work.*
- *Immediate improvements – minutes and file sharing. (Welcome Zaiza)*
- *OG to organise 1- 1 calls with SG to discuss how the SG could work better for you, and your recommendations for new members.*
- *OG to bring back plan including suggestions for new members.*

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

Note :in highlight major updates since last SG

	Strategic Theme	Status Update	Status	Planned activities
1	Telling new narratives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New narratives around eco-social contract and green deal in development with some materials already up – including an explainer video • Cultivator approach being pioneered through Kumi Naidoo partnership – Power, People, Planet podcasts. 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-social contracts for the polycrisis’ to be launched 14th Sept 2023 • Strengthen and expand our cultivator network • Develop eco-social and green deal campaign
2.	Building societal demand: -Eco-Social contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNRISD and GEC research and Action network for Eco-social contract now has 350+members, and eight active working groups • Global study on eco-social contracts launched with UNRISD at our well attended global policy seminar in Bonn • Study on participatory mechanisms launched • GEC Supporting an emergent youth movement – new study commissioned and published • People’s Accord for a New Social Contract up and being promoted • Published thought piece on Dismantling the Ecological Divide: Toward a a new eco-social contract • GEC Hubs engaged and creating national plans 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our new thought leadership piece jointly authored by Andy Norton – ‘Eco-social contracts for the polycrisis’ to be launched 14th Sept 2023. Promotional blogs requested from SG • Fund eco-social contract programme – advanced foundation conversations with four foundations • Initiate/connect to women and SME economic reform communities
3.	Influencing policies: Shared global green deal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T20 Structural green economy intervention delivered and launched – mind the gap • Green deal plus EU circularity focus creates new changes to policy framing 	GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIGE meeting in autumn • Harmonise understanding between policy frameworks

	Strategic Theme	Status Update	Status	Planned activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared Global green deal defined with EC Understanding and collaboration with UNEP and GGKP agreed Workshop with hubs held and consultation. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catalyse policy exchange across regions and stakeholders
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 meeting and plans underway Membership survey completed and new engagement plan developed GEC Europe up and successfully negotiated with EC and IIED Europe. New global policy director recruited and in post – welcome Sofia Martinez GEC global developments underway 	RED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver hub funding – submissions in development MEL and operations improvement TOR and plan GEC Global meeting to be planned – consider Brazil G20

Steering group annual plan discussion:

- Most of work in the last 6-8 months has been evaluating and closing down the EC project and finances for year 2 and working with the hubs in their approach to green economy.
- GEC has moved into the eco-social contract space with UNRISD, the network has over 350 members, a lot of whom are Southern based.
- A global study report was launched in Bonn last week. Groups put together evidence of eco-social contracts in practice around the world. We've also done a study on participatory mechanisms in a paper written by Najma. Tomorrow will see the launch of a paper with Andy Norton on eco-social contracts in the era of polycrisis.
- The drive is to secure funding to hubs and increase membership. We are funding the secretariat and team through EC phase 3.
- Eco-social contract for polycriss paper is heavy. How do we take it forward and maximise value?
- OG: there is a growing inequality epidemic. We are asking the UN what they want from social contracts and how. The aim is to establish a citizens engagement process with the UN. Club of Madrid have commissioned UNRISD (supported by GEC) to create a research programme – 'eco-social contract for economic transformation'. This will be discussed in Brazil in November and played by them into the G20 processes..
- We need for country governments to commission eco-social mechanisms.
- We are working with GIZ on informing and shaping the global economic architecture.
- Funding from foundations is being considered. We need to make sure it is aligned to IIED's foundation outreach. Foundations have asked 'eco-social contracts for what?' GEC's response: for driving transformation.

ACTION:

- Create follow up plans for Eco-social contract discussions building on the paper

5. AOB

Next meeting date - **Wednesday, 29th November 2023, 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