MINUTES: GEC Steering Group, Wednesday 26th Feb 2020

Attendees: Steve Bass, Oliver Greenfield, Andy Norton, Zeenat Niazi

Apologies: Holger Schmid, Aban Marker Kabraji, Kamal Gueye, Holger Schmid
Peter Poschen-Eiche, Steven Stone, Mike Wilson, Juha Siikamaki, Jakob Haushofer*

*Note: Jakob Haushofer now moved on. OG to organise new EC rep.

### Agenda 26th Feb 2020:

1. December minutes for approval.
2. GEC updates and Quick horizon scan
3. GEC global meeting update
4. GEC Annual plan – calendar of events – priorities and targets for the year
5. AOB - Partnership growth

#### 1. Draft – December Minutes – attached

- SG approval. The minutes are posted on our GEC website.

#### 2. GEC updates on Davos/trilogy launch update, EC funding and Quick horizon scan

- Davos dinner a success in convening a useful debate about stakeholder capitalism and the mutually re-enforcing space of policy leadership and societal shift. Tracker achieved good outreach and media coverage.
- EC funding for next phase of dialogues secured and will now revert to being managed through IIED. This is welcome by GEC secretariat. Thanks to IIED for this continued hosting.
- Horizon scan - main policy development – European Green Deal. Overall, very positive policy development which has most of the GEC policy areas covered – including just transition. OG to share blog and policy timetable.
- Forward calendar of SG includes Cop26 (led by IIED) and IUCN Congress (led by IUCN). SG request these be scheduled to ensure preparations by those organisations.

#### 3. GEC Global meeting update – presented by Zeenat Niazi (attachment)

- Hosted by Development Alternatives in Delhi, 4-7th Feb 2020.
- Summary document shared that will form outline publication – 7 highlights and lessons.
- It was a well-structured and attended event: 180+ participants over the three days, including 40+ Local Green Entrepreneurs, 50+ Technical Experts, 40+ NGOs, 20+ Financiers and Business Groups, 10+ Government officers and 20+ UN officials.
- Achieved outcome that DA now on PAGE India steering group.
- Created insights into ‘scaling out’ not scaling up. i.e. success is from 1 to 20 smaller community businesses/initiatives rather than growth to 1 big one. Key is aggregation and money where it matters.
- Social movements at all geographical scale and how to connect them – was a key unanswered question – to be answered by GEC, with IIED input.
- Tracker very well received and could be part of the answer to connecting social movements.
- Tracker to be launched by hubs independently in 2020.
- Small green enterprise policy statement created and presented to policy stakeholders.
- Hubs now agreed to own GEC strategy pathway 4 – Building the coalition.
- SG thanked Development Alternatives for their hosting of GEC global meeting

#### 4. GEC Annual plan 2020– priorities for the year (attachment)

- Note December 2019 we signed off an annual SG agenda (in this document appendix). February meeting should focus on the GEC workplan for the year.
Top 2020 plan reflect the GEC 10 year strategy. The priorities were revised based on SG input:

1. Achieve mainstreaming economic reform impact via:
   - Tracker established and used – globally and nationally
   - EC new finance programme established
   - Economics for Nature – building country action
   - Impact on CBD, COP, EU GD

2. New Social movement plan in place

3. GEC coalition network function co-defined with hubs and being implemented. Partnership growth enabled.

4. New funding pipeline strong with Tracker funded
   - SG request – subsequent SG meetings should have a report against these priorities
   - SG signed-off GEC 2020 action plan

AOB: Partnership growth.

Over the last three years, the Green Economy Coalition’s membership has plateaued, at 51 members. Only 2 new members have joined since May 2017 (the Organisation of American States) and (FAS Brazil) compared to 13 new members in the 12 months before then. However, we have had a large number of organisations express an interest.

This slowing of growth has been caused by several factors: Organisational bottlenecks in responding to and approving new members. Direction from the Steering Group to develop a coherent partnership strategy.

However, we are receiving interest and finding space on Steering group agenda to discuss them remains very difficult.

GEC global hub request: Whilst we build the new organisational strategy that includes a detailed partnership strategy where hub partners manage their own partners, the GEC Global hub are empowered to admit new partners, bringing only potentially contentious partners to SG.

- SG debate and decisions:
  - SG acknowledges that as the new hub led ‘coalition building’ structure emerges, hubs will recruit their own partners – so SG will not be able to admit all partners. Some sort of hub empowerment of admitting new partners will become inevitable.
  - In the broader building coalition strategy SG want a more detailed partnership approach:
    - Geographic expansion should be clearer.
    - Whatever the final approach is - Due-diligence will need to continue in this process but run by hubs.
    - Working together to demonstrate partnership commitment
  - In the meantime, GEC global hub should more clearly define the portfolio criteria for partners – so that SG are comfortable to empower the global hub to admit new partners.
  - SG should retain global partner overview and contentious partners escalated to SG
  - OG to create one pager on portfolio criteria and answering the above questions,

NEXT GEC Steering group MEETING: Wednesday, 29th April, 12.30pm-2pm, UK.
Appendix: GEC Forward calendar\(^1\) that maps above agenda items to a year of SG activity:

December: Annual review of strategy and partnership. - Global meeting agenda

February: Annual plan – calendar of events – priorities and targets for the year

April: Building the coalition – including funding

June: Big reviews and sign-off

August: Influencing, Tracker, E4N review, 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.

\(^1\) Forward calendar for SG meetings approved in December 2019