

Green Growth Working Group (GGWG)

Minutes of Teleconference, 23rd March 2017

02nd May 2017

Participants

- Naeeda Crishna Morgado (OECD), Co-Chair
- Alexandra Oppermann (GIZ), Co-Chair
- Alexandra Lamont (Global Affairs Canada)
- Markus Johannesson (Sida)
- Karin Isaksson (ILO)
- Siobhan Kelly (FAO)
- Omer van Renterghem (NL MFA)
- Christian Braendli (SECO)
- Tim Scott (UNDP)
- Matthias Ploeg (Technopolis), Michal Miedzinski (UCL), Consultants
- Jim Tanburn, Nicholas Wilson (DCED Secretariat)

1. Updates from each organisation

Markus Johannesson talked about Sida's work on the mainstreaming and integration of environmental concerns into the core portfolio. This has been accomplished with education sessions at headquarters level and embassies. The aim is to increase the attention paid to the environment in all interventions. Sida continues to build capacity internally, through seminars and workshops.

Alexandra Lamont spoke about Global Affairs Canada's experience of its ongoing International Assistance Review. It is anticipated that this review will have a clear focus on WEE, as well as inclusive and green economic growth. Another strong focus will be on fragile and conflict-affected environments.

Christian Braendli gave an overview of SECO's work on resource-efficient private sector. He explained that SECO is increasingly aiming to leverage private sector investments in its work, particularly with green growth interventions.

Tim Scott explained that UNDP is currently transitioning to its next four-year plan. Within Green Growth, UNDP priorities are on mitigating the effects of climate change, and leveraging private sector funds. The organisation is also attempting to mainstream green growth concerns – particularly in extractives and agriculture. A revised results framework takes a greater account of the environmental effects of programmes.

Karin Isaksson spoke about a new commitment to the environment that the ILO's Governing Body has recently passed, having accepted the Programme and Budget 2018-19 proposal to

include environmental sustainability as a new cross-cutting policy driver. The Green Jobs Unit has recently published a paper called: “A just transition to climate-resilient economies and societies: Issues and perspectives for the world of work”

This technical paper addresses the negative impacts of climate change on employment and livelihoods and explores how climate-related policy, investment and consumption responses to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change can affect labour markets in their entirety with overall job gains. It stresses the need of accompanying social and economic policies to achieve a just transition for all, which leaves no one behind and promotes decent work.

Siobhan Kelly explained that the FAO is also planning for the next four years. The sustainability of food systems will continue as a major focus, with an emphasis on climate-resilient food systems. Within agribusiness, there is a greater focus on presenting the business case for sustainability – explaining to private sector actors that Green Growth is not just about costs, but about being more cost-efficient.

Alexandra Oppermann spoke about the focus that GIZ currently has on finding synergies between the environmental and the social aspect within private sector development programmes. She also introduced a toolbox - the Green Business Model Navigator - that GIZ is currently implementing in various countries.

Omer van Renterghem explained that the Inclusive Green Growth Department of the Netherlands MoFA focuses mainly on climate change resilience, and on greening value chains. He also spoke about the growing focus on a landscape approach – including the business case for such an approach.

Naeeda Crishna Morgado explained how the OECD has been focused on examining different approaches to mobilising private sector investments in Green Growth. She also explained how the OECD has been supporting the German government during its G20 presidency, particularly in relation to the role of DFIs in mobilising climate investments.

2. Green Growth and Business Environment Reform: Review of the reference guide

This work item considers the synergies and trade-offs between Green Growth and Business Environment Reform. The current focus is on defining practical policy guidance for practitioners, based on six extended case studies. Matthias presented the draft guide, explaining its key findings and asking for feedback from Working Group members.

Markus Johannesson considered the guide will be very useful; he will explore the possibility of engaging with Matthias to present it to his colleagues in Sida. The guide should have a clearer background section that answers the question of why is it interesting to separate or

combine the two approaches. He also suggested that the guide needs to be more explicit about how we weigh different policy areas.

Alexandra Lamont stated the audience that she envisages for this work item is project team leads. As such, she suggested distilling the overall messages of the guide into one page. Tim Scott and several other Working Group members agreed with this proposal. Matthias agreed that it would be helpful and relatively easy to accomplish. He suggested that this summary could be an infographic, for simplicity and engagement.

Action point: Members agreed that they would share further comments for case studies shortly after the call.

A final draft of the guide will be completed and circulated to members for their approval within the next month. It will also be circulated to members of the Business Environment Working Group, who have not yet seen it. Working Group members agreed that it would be useful to present and discuss final report in the Working Groups day of the DCED Annual Meeting (Tuesday 13 June). This event would preferably include representatives from both the Business Environment Working Group and Green Growth Working Group, to further foster understanding between the two approaches.

3. Stocktaking on current Work Plan and planning for 2017-18

Naeeda Crishna Morgado gave an overview of the current Work Plan, and its outstanding work items: on mainstreaming Green Growth and on green value chain development.

Marcus Johannesson expressed interest in the mainstreaming work item. This could be a stocktaking exercise for mainstreaming climate sustainability, comparing recent member agency experiences and assess the effectiveness of policies pursued. He will consult with his colleagues about Sida's interest.

Alexandra Lamont also agreed that mainstreaming green growth work item would be interesting. She was also interested in exploring the importance of context in Green Growth interventions: for instance whether these interventions are taking place in the context of fragility or migration. Tim Scott noted that UNDP would be interested in a work item that focussed on fragile states.

Omer van Renterghem agreed that the context and mainstreaming work items both were of interest.

Alexandra Oppermann expressed interest in a potential work item on the context for Green Growth, and would be interested in exchanging more information between agencies on this subject. She also suggested having a webinar series, instead of a report, where working group members could discuss mainstreaming initiatives in their agencies.

Action point: the Co-chairs will draft a Work Plan, and share it with the Working Group for their inputs.

4. Next meeting

Working group members agreed to respond via email to the suggestion of a GGWG meeting on the Tuesday 13th June, before the Annual Meeting in Rome.